

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FIRE STATION, 16501 JERSEY DRIVE, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Russell Hamley  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Ernie English  
Council Member, Joyce Berube  
Council Member, Greg Holden  
Council Member, Frances Wubbenhorst  
Council Member, Jill Klein

City Manager, Mike Castro  
City Secretary, Lorri Coody

City Attorney, Ken Wall was not present at this meeting.

Staff in attendance: Mark Bitz, Fire Chief; Charles Wedemeyer, Chief of Police; Danny Segundo, Director of Public Works; Isabel Kato, Director of Finance; and Michael Brown, Director of Parks.

#### EMERGENCY AGENDA

##### **1. Update with discussion on staff activities and City status regarding Hurricane Ike.**

City Manager, Mike Castro updated the Council about the emergency preparations being taken by City staff in order to prepare for issues that have come about as a result of Hurricane Ike. He gave thanks to all the volunteers and to staff for the hard work put into the activities thus far and informed Council that while much had been accomplished there had been no injuries to any staff member or volunteer while participating in a storm related activity. The activities being performed were explained as follows:

- a. Storm Debris – Flyers have been prepared informing citizens that debris pick-up will begin on September 18 and September 25. Mr. Castro gave details on the “How To’s” of debris pick-up and told Council that the Flyers stated that Residents were not to put debris in bags because the Contractor would not pick-up the bags. He mentioned that Resident feedback was such that plans have been changed and arrangements would be made for bag pick-up either by staff or by another method.
- b. Boil Water Notice – A Boil Water Notice has been issued because the pressure in the City’s water system went below 20 psi and the State requires that water be boiled once this happens. Residents were notified of this requirement by a door-to-door notice and must continue to Boil Water until further notice.
- c. City Hall was closed today, September 15 and will re-open on September 16, 2008 with offices being moved to the Fire Station and the Police Department temporarily until the damage at City Hall can be assessed and repaired for re-entry and when electricity is restored.

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- d. Points of Distribution (POD's) - There are 8 in Harris County with a possibility of 5 more. In order to get a POD it requires a huge community commitment. Mr. Castro told Council that he has requested a POD but it will require a commitment of a minimum of 40 volunteers that are willing to work 12 hour days packing and moving supplies. It is not easy work. It is an open ended requirement and the POD will supply all of Harris County, not just Jersey Village (JV) residents. Mr. Castro asked for volunteers from the meeting participants and only received one (1) volunteer willing to commit. With this type of response, JV will not be getting a POD, but a request will be made for ice and water. Mr. Castro told residents that the nearest POD is at 1023 Pinemont.
- e. Citizens were told that arrangements can be made with Mark Bitz to store refrigerated medications.
- f. Electricity – Crews are coming from all over the State to address the electricity problems. The outages are worked by priority starting with hospitals first, then governmental facilities second and then on to residential. Please be patient.

Mr. Castro told Council that today alone, the following items have been accomplished:

- a. Relocated City Offices from City Hall to Police and Fire Departments
- b. Removed boards from City facilities
- c. Distributed flyers to City residents (Boil Water Notice and Debris Pick-up Notice)
- d. Started the damage assessment of the City's Golf Course
- e. Sent the paperwork to the State on the City's Water and Sewer System
- f. Started work on the assessment of the damages/repairs at City Hall
- g. Maintained a Police, Fire, and EMS presence
- h. Maintained a 24 hour presence of decision makers at City Hall

Mayor Hamley added that he spoke to Bob Roy, the Jersey Village CenterPoint Representative about the electricity problem in our City. Mr. Roy told the Mayor that crews have arrived to work the problems and that the City has top priority. With that statement, the Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

Bruce Bowden, 16325 Lewis, Jersey Village, Texas 713-410-9766 – Mr. Bowden wanted to know why the Center Point Energy guy was not present at the meeting to explain why the lights were not on. He stated that he should have been invited. He was upset about the water and ice situation and believed that City government had not handled things well.

Butch Exley, 16122 Tahoe Drive, Jersey Village, Texas 713-899-0986 – Mr. Exley wanted to understand why he had to pull the nails out of the debris. (*It was explained that while this was first thought necessary, it is no longer a requirement.*) He also asked about the work that is scheduled to be done on Tahoe drive. He stated his concern about the flooding issues on this street. Council discussed this situation and the improvement schedule – what has been done and what is to come.

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Michael Brown, 16025 Wall Street, Jersey Village, Texas 713-937-3123 – Mr. Brown wants better communication. He stated that the City did a poor job in informing citizens that the bayou was close to coming out of its banks. He lives on Wall Street and his home has flooded three times. He believes the police while they went down his street did not do a good job in informing the public.

Mark Maloy, 7803 Hamilton, Jersey Village, Texas 713-937-0403 – Mr. Maloy stated that there were quite a few people in attendance at this emergency meeting. He mentioned that he had been coming to the meetings for at least 18 months and that typically there are just a handful of people in attendance. He stated that he would like to see this many in attendance more often as it is by attending and participating that people get their voice heard.

**2. Discussion and possible action on continuing the state of disaster declared by the Mayor for the City of Jersey Village as a result of the wide spread damage and property loss experienced by Hurricane Ike.**

City Manager Castro explained that Mayor Pro tem Ernie English signed a Disaster Declaration which puts the State on notice that the City of Jersey Village has suffered widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from Hurricane Ike and that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property. Since this order only lasts for 7 days, it is necessary to extend it for an additional 14 days and this takes a vote of Council. Mr. Castro explained that the additional 14 days will be necessary to obtain FEMA funding, reimbursement and assistance.

Council Member Berube moved to continue the state of disaster declared by the Mayor Pro tem for the City of Jersey Village as a result of the wide spread damage and property loss experienced by Hurricane Ike. Council Member English seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Holden, English, Wubbenhorst, Berube and Klein

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**3. Ordinance No. 2008-30, temporarily eliminating Permit Fees for damage repairs and providing for Waiver of Deposits.**

City Manager Castro explained that it has been the practice of the City to temporarily eliminate permit fees for damage repairs and provide for the waiver of deposits in certain instances during times of floods and/or storm related instances.

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Council engaged in discussion about the length of time for the elimination of fees/waiver period.

Council Member English moved to approved Ordinance 2008-30 to be in effect for a period of 90 days. Council Member Wubbenhorst seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Holden, English, Wubbenhorst, Berube and Klein

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, TEMPORARILY ELIMINATING PERMIT FEES FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS; PROVIDING FOR WAIVER OF DEPOSITS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ADJOURN

There being no further business on the Emergency Agenda the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Lorri Coody, City Secretary