

Minutes of the Special Emergency Joint Meeting of the City of Franklin Common Council and the Board of Works and Safety

City Hall
55 W. Madison St.
Franklin, Indiana 46131

Held Thursday, June 12, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

Presiding Officer: Mayor Fred Paris

Members Present: Dr. William T. Murphy, President
Mr. Joe Abban
Mr. Joe Ault
Mr. Kenneth W. Austin
Mrs. Ann Gordon
Mr. Steve Hougland
Mr. Craig Wells

Also present: Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander

The Special Emergency Joint Meeting of the City of Franklin Common Council and the Board of Works and Safety began at 6:30 p.m. Thursday June 12th to allow the Mayor and Common Council and Members of the Board of Works to discuss the status of the City's response and recovery from the June 7, 2008 flood. Notice of the public meeting was posted in accordance with Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5(d).

Mayor Paris stated that many records stored in City Hall and the Planning Department were saved, and taken to the old Bendix building to dry out. Some were also frozen for preservation. Mayor Paris would like the Council to tour the damaged city buildings.

Mayor Paris mentioned the following:

- The Clerk Treasurer has received information from FEMA and the State of Indiana indicating that the City could receive reimbursements for flood recovery. In some instances we could receive up to 90%. This is expected to be a slow process.
- Each department is working to prepare damage estimates.
- Several computers were saved from the damaged buildings, but a lot of furniture was destroyed.
- Most of the ammunition owned by the Police Department can be saved.
- Mayor Paris stated that six new police vehicles have been delivered to the department. He said that insurance will pick up 100% per vehicle.

Mr. Austin asked about replacing some vehicles with flex fuel vehicles, Mayor Paris stated that this could be looked at in the future.

The Mayor reported that every city department is up and running as of today and that the "Emergency Period" is over. The City is now in the "Response" phase according to Emergency Management.

The Mayor explained that the City has entered into an agreement with the current owners of the former Arvin Meritor plant to allow the City to dump flood debris on that lot. He also reported that the City had obtained an IDEM permit for this purpose. The debris will be hauled away from this location. Also there will be a person guarding the gate throughout the day when the gate is unlocked.

Dr. Murphy said that he was very appreciative of all city workers and Mayor Paris for getting so much work done quickly and efficiently. Several other Council Members also thanked the Mayor.

The Council members commended the Fire Department employees and others for providing the comfort station to victims and volunteer workers. They also commended the Mayor for his efforts in getting Port-O-Lets set out in different neighborhoods; stating that this was greatly appreciated by the residents who were working on their homes.

Mayor Paris stated that mosquito spraying would begin as soon as possible due to standing water.

Mr. Wells asked about FEMA information and wanted to know where citizens could go to get information or sign up for FEMA distributions. Mayor Paris stated that FEMA is looking for office space in Franklin to begin working with our citizens. Until FEMA arrives victims and volunteers will be directed to the United Way.

Mr. Abban asked about how city department heads are keeping track of overtime due to the flood. Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander stated that departments are supposed to identify all hours worked during the flood. She also said that she will need a list of all property that was damaged or destroyed due to the flood.

The Mayor stated that churches are helping with supplying meals for people, water and ice has been donated from Nestle and Penguin Ice Companies. The Clerk Treasurer also stated that the Latter Day Saints / the Mormon Church is sending in at least a hundred volunteers to help with the cleanup effort this Saturday.

Mayor Paris stated that the cemetery will reopen tomorrow. Janet Alexander said that former City Council Member Jerry McGuire has been volunteering at the cemetery and has been pressure washing the fences which are filled with flood debris.

Mayor Paris stated that to empty and dry out the police department will cost about \$60,000.00.

Mr. Hougland asked if the Planning Department would inspect vacant homes and buildings. Mayor Paris stated that Joanna Myers would give a report to the Council at their next regular meeting.

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Mr. Abban asked about what the city should do about people who are scamming residents. Mr. Hougland stated that there had been different articles in the paper about what to be looking out for, and how to make sure people are legitimate contractors.

Mrs. Gordon asked about people who want to donate money, but would like for it to be used for Franklin residents. Mr. Hougland stated that he had heard of some local banks, and churches that would accept donations. It was stated that the Food Pantry will also take cash donations that will go into food provided to local residents.

Mayor Paris stated that the Franklin Boys Club has a great success story. On the day of the flood they took in over five inches of water inside their building. By Sunday afternoon June 8, 2008 the staff and volunteers had cleaned the entire building.

Mr. Ault stated that Park's Department employee Terry Moss arrived at work early Saturday morning and started to build a makeshift dam to stop water from getting into the Community Center. His efforts saved the building from great damage.

The Council members stated that they thought that once things are back to normal that all city employees should be recognized for their individual and collective efforts in response to the flood.

Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander stated that her office has the forms required to request a new tax assessment of their homes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be June 16, 2008 and will be held at the new Franklin Community High School in the LGI Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled: 7/3/08 Approved by Common Council: 7-7-08