

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 08, 2005**

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Councilman Jennings made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Denham, to find extenuating circumstances and allow Councilman Brown to participate by phone.

Members present: Mayor Johnston, Vice Mayor Denham, Councilman Jennings and Councilman Rothman. Councilman Brown participated by phone

Councilman Jennings gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Tomlinson gave the following report:

- Hurricane Dennis approximately 350 miles South of Sanibel
- Category 4
- Heading in a direction that would take the storm 100 to 150 miles from Sanibel at it's closest point on Saturday
- Expected approximately 5 inches of rain
- Higher than normal tides
- No mandatory evacuation

Ms Zimomra spoke to the following:

- Local or County emergency not predicting the need for evacuation
- Top off City fuel
- Put in place emergency employees for Saturday (Utilities/Public Works)
- Equipment tested and functioning
- City Hall phone would be open 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Cancelled Saturday recreation programs
- Removing and storage the Donax Plant noise blankets

Mr. Jim Isom, Director of Administrative Services gave the following report:

- Will Wing, Jacobs Engineering have 7 day plan for a pending storm and implementing
- Large cranes would be remove and tied off in to Tarpon Bay
- Other cranes/barges would be moved away from the Causeway bridges and secured
- Construction materials on island would be secured
- Saw horse barriers on Island A would be rremoved and stored
- Lee County policy was to close the Causeway with sustained winds of 45 m.p.

Chief Tomlinson advised City Council and the audience of the following advisories:

- Implement emergency plan and access if one should evacuate voluntarily
- Access necessary supplies
- Concern of last year's damage
- Winds up to tropical force could occur (35 m.p.h. to 73 m.p.h.)
- Remove all outside items
- Remove all boats from water bodies
- Between 12:00Noon and 7:00 p. m. (storm would at it's closest) stay inside

Ms. Zimomra advised the following:

- The City sewer construction project on the west end of the island was being halted and the contractor securing debris and machinery
- Building Inspectors visiting all construction sites
- Code enforcement reminding the commercial district to secure outside items
- Designated Chief Tomlinson as the City's media spokesman

Discussion ensued regarding ongoing trash collection, look in on the elderly, and a meeting to be held with all partners and private utilities.

Public Comment:

Rob Jess, Director of J. N. "Ding Darling" stated that the barges should be relocated to Tarpon Point. He also stated the refuge would be closed on Saturday and if necessary there would be the "Special Operations Team" available after the storm.

Steve Greenstein, Executive Director stated that if there were sustained winds of 35 m.p.h. the bridge tender was removed, but the bridge could be crossed.

Chief Tomlinson stated that based on the current forecast and high tide there could be water on the Causeway.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's ability to have the barge available if necessary, and no evacuation being noticed.

Judy Workman asked what the best way was to keep informed.

Ms. Zimomra answered that the City's website would have the most up-to-date information, as well as the 1-800 hurricane hotline. She stated that the officers would be passing out the latest advisory as the audience leaves.

Councilman Rothman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jennings, to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a. m.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan Beck,
Recording Secretary.