

**SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2005**

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:05 a. m.

Council excused Vice Mayor Denham from the meeting.

Members present: Mayor Johnston, Councilman Brown, Councilman Jennings and Councilman Rothman. Vice Mayor Denham was excused from the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Update on the Status of Tropical Storm Katrina:

Ms. Zimomra asked Chief Tomlinson for the most recent update on Tropical Storm Katrina.

Chief Tomlinson gave the following report:

- Thursday evening, August 25, 2005 there would be squalls and a chance of tornadoes
- Friday morning, August 26, 2005 would be windy and there is a chance of 10" of rain
- Friday evening the storm would weaken
- Sanibel Police Department had contacted its partners and would continue to update the weather report
- LCEC would have crews stationed on Sanibel

Chief Tomlinson made the following recommendations:

- Secure exterior furniture
- Put hurricane shutters in place
- Have supplies for at least two days
- Stay tuned to a battery-operated radio to keep updated on the storm
- Stay off the roads on Friday morning
- Take the storm very seriously and be prepared

Gates Castle, Public Works Director, reported the following:

- All plant sites were being secured
- Vehicles and generators were fueled
- Stationery generators were fueled at City Hall
- Fuel tanks were filled

Mr. Castle stated that the main concern was the amount of rain the island could receive, beach weirs were opened on Wednesday, August 24th, and the Tarpon Bay weir would be opened Thursday, August 25th.

Ms. Zimomra asked Mr. Castle to explain how the weir system works.

Mr. Castle explained that the City had a policy for operating weirs, and the weirs were opened and closed according to tides; and the weirs were closed during high tides and storm surges.

Jim Isom, Administrative Services Director, gave a report regarding the Causeway.

- Per Paul Wingard – the County was monitoring the storm
- The barges may be moved away from the bridges if the County deems this is necessary
- If necessary barges would be moved Friday morning
- Other equipment would be secured
- Road-marker cones would be crushed and weighted with sandbags.

Ms. Zimomra gave the following report:

- Nonessential City personnel would be allowed to work from home on Friday, August 16, 2005
- All sporting events for Lee County Schools had been cancelled for Friday
- The Recreation Center would be open to care for children
- She also stressed the importance of monitoring the storm

Discussion ensued regarding garbage picked up on Friday, and the answer was yes, should residents evacuate and Chief Tomlinson answered that evacuation should not be necessary, Chief Tomlinson also stated that if a storm comes from the Gulf no evacuation order would be given unless the storm exceeds a Category 2, slow moving storm could cause increased problems, Lake Okeechobee release of water if rain and tides were high, staff concern of water releases from Lake Okeechobee, FISH should be made aware of the storm updates, include the Lee County Special Needs telephone number on the City's website, and schools open/closed.

Public Comment:

Lisa Truman asked if she should advise her clients not to bring their dogs in on Friday.

Steve Greenstein, Director of the Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce, stated that the most important role was communication. He advised that the Chamber would only open on Friday until 2 p. m.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of barging, staff would handle long-term barging, the Causeway would be closed when winds reached 40 MPH sustained and Lee County DOT would make that determination.

There being no further business, Councilman Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Rothman seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Beck
Recording Secretary