

Special City Council Meeting
September 3, 2004

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

Members present: Mayor Harrity, Councilman Brown, Councilman Jennings and Councilmember Workman. Vice Mayor Walsh was absent.

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

Chief Tomlinson gave the most current forecast of Hurricane Frances.

- Projected landfall is north of West Palm Beach and exiting around the Tampa Bay area
- Considerable weather conditions to deal with
- Sustained winds of 40 mph expected
- Possibility of more trees may fall and substantial amount of debris on the road could become projectiles in high wind
- Forecast of 5-10 inches of rain
- Concern of leaning trees
- Three shelters have been opened in Lee County; Germain (Teco) Arena, Lee County Civic Center and Harborside Convention Center for special needs
- Sanibel School was not built to a standard to be acceptable for use as a Hurricane Shelter

Recommendations are:

- Residents with special medical needs, homes with structural damage voluntarily evacuate
- Lift alcohol sales ban and change the curfew language to allow the staff to implement

Discussion ensued regarding voluntary evacuation, not lifting any bans of alcohol until Monday or Tuesday, during Hurricane Charley citizens asking for the Police Department to deliver oxygen tanks, give staff the ability to institute the ban of possession, consumption, and sell of alcohol and a curfew, shelters open Civic Center, Germaine Arena, Harborside already open and open this morning, Estero High School, Riverdale High School and Lee Middle School, which would be posted on the City's website, continuation of citizens/business owners entrance to Sanibel only and no new hurricane passes issued.

Mr. Cuyler explained that Chief Tomlinson would have the ability to continue past operations. He stated that Vice Mayor Walsh had joined the discussion by phone, but in order for him to vote Council would need to take a vote to allow him to participate by phone and vote.

Ms. Zimomra explained to Council and the audience that if the track of Hurricane Frances changed the first thing staff would do would be to contact Council.

A PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION 04-111 EXTENDING THE STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE CITY OF SANIBEL FOR AN ADDITIONAL WEEK TO AND INCLUDING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Cuyler read the title of Resolution 04-111.

Councilmember Workman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jennings, to adopt Resolution 04-111.

Public Comment:

Jessie Braun heard rumor that LCEC was shutting off power to the island to protect against surges.

Ms. Zimomra stated that the City did not turn off the power. She further stated that Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) had given notice that the new poles have not set and could fall. She also stated that the electricity was turned back on by zones so that the Fire Department could be available in the correct area in case there was a fire hazard.

Rob Jess, J. N. "Ding Darling" Refuge commented on tree issues in upland vegetation had been stressed from the South to the North. He further commented that ten inches of rain would cause a tremendous uplifting of root balls. He suggested heeding Chief Tomlinson's advise and not to become complacent. He also offered help again if necessary.

Chief Dickerson, Sanibel Fire Department echoed Ding Darlings comments and offered help if necessary

Don Williams asked if visitors would allowed on the island.

Chief Tomlinson answered no visitors or new hurricane passes would be issued.

Virginia Jones spoke to the City being at Holiday Inn at Bell Tower.

Ms. Zimomra stated that the City does have rooms on hold at Holiday Inn at Bell Tower. She advised residents to use the City's Website, hurricane hotline and battery operated radio.

Mayor Harrity made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jennings, to find extraordinary circumstances and allow Vice Mayor Walsh to participate in the meeting by phone and vote.

Discussion ensued regarding Vice Mayor Walsh participating by phone.

The motion passed three to two with Councilman Brown and Councilmember Workman voting in opposition to the motion, and Mayor Harrity, Vice Mayor Walsh and Councilman Jennings voting in favor of the motion.

The motion regarding the adoption of Resolution 04-111 unanimously passed.

Ms. Zimomra explained that in order to decrease the Sanibel River level the weirs were opened to drain 10-12 inches of water to limit flooding. She further explained that the weir level was kept high if a storm surge was expected to eliminate saltwater from contaminating the fresh water estuary.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Crystal Mansell
Executive Assistant to the City Manager