



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, September 26, 2022

5:30 PM

City Hall

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Councilman Crater)

Councilman Dr. Crater gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Holly Smith, Vice Mayor Richard Johnson, Councilman Scott Crater, Councilman John Henshaw, and Councilman Mike Miller

4. A CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO HURRICANE IAN; DECLARING A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION; POSTPONING CERTAIN PUBLIC MEETINGS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney John Agnew read into record the entirety of Resolution 22-054.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose for the meeting and the resolution, a key proponent in requesting FEMA reimbursement following the emergency event, this resolution working in concert with Lee County actions, and the County having certain powers, but the City could tighten the restrictions or call for a mandatory evacuation.

There were no public comments from the audience.

Councilman Miller moved, seconded by Councilman Henshaw to adopt Resolution 22-054. The motion carried.

Mayor Smith spoke to listening to the meeting recordings from 2017 during Hurricane Irma, noting that the Resolution that was just passed calls for a voluntary evacuation, attending the Lee County meeting this afternoon, working closely with the County, and shelter information will be provided if the County calls a mandatory evacuation.

City Manager Dana Souza gave a brief update regarding the storm, concerns held by City Staff and Council, and actions already taken or in process. Mayor Smith encouraged all to listen to the County meetings tomorrow morning for additional information.

Discussion ensued regarding the causeway and if/when it would be closed. Sanibel Police Chief William Dalton spoke to the causeway not being safe to traverse with wind more than 41 miles per hour, the bridge not necessarily being accessible immediately following the storm depending on storm surge, and having crews to inspect before residents will be allowed to return to the island. Discussion ensued regarding how much time may be allowed for evacuation, to which Mr. Souza spoke to estimates of 12-14 hours as high winds are not expected until 8 pm tomorrow evening. Further discussion ensued regarding the emergency services available during voluntary and mandatory evacuations and how they are limited with wind above 40 miles per hour.

Council inquired as to boat traffic after the storm event, to which Chief Dalton noted the waters are still rough for a couple days following a storm and limitations to getting back on the island due to the severity of the storm and any storm surge. Council inquired if there were further actions required by Council, to which Attorney Agnew noted that Lee County would be self-effectuating, and no actions would be required by Council. Discussion ensued regarding the Mayor having the availability to call for a mandatory evacuation if desired for the island. Attorney Agnew spoke to the statutes and regulations allowing for the powers of the Mayor during the emergency.

Discussion ensued regarding setting up City Hall at a remote location which is Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower in Fort Myers, trash receptacles located as people are leaving the island so perishables can be discarded on the way off island, and any recommendations for curfews. Mr. Souza noted that he, Attorney Agnew, and Chief Dalton are in communication and would advise if a curfew were recommended. Chief Dalton spoke to the purpose for curfews and suggested any curfews be the same County wide.

Mr. Souza spoke to Mayoral Proclamations that may be issued and for everyone to be patient as information is being disseminated as quickly as possible. City Manager Souza and Council spoke appreciation for the communication between and with Lee County.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments from the audience.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.