



City Commission Work Session Minutes

September 30, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Virtual

Present

Mayor Phil Anderson; Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Sheila DeCiccio, Kris Cruzada and Todd Weaver; City Manager Randy Knight; Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle; City Clerk Rene Cranis.

Also Present

Director of Electric Utility Dan D'Alessandro; Director of Communications Clarissa Howard; Fire Chief Dan Hagedorn; Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Seeley; Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby; Director of Building and Permitting Gary Hiatt; Asst. Director of Water & Wastewater Jason Riegler; Asst. Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; and Parks Services Manager Josh Nye.

1) Call to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2) Discussion Item(s)

a. Storm Status

Mayor Anderson stated that staff will report on the impact of Hurricane Ian and discuss responsibilities and options to assist residents with storm damage. He and Mr. Knight thanked city staff for their hard work and efforts through and after the storm.

Ms. del Valle advised that the Emergency Operations Center will end at 5:00 today when an additional call taker in emergency communications will answer calls directed to EOC. She provided details on wind, gusts and rainfall and thanked members of the EOC team and staff working on clean-up and restoration efforts.

Fire Chief Dan Hagedorn summarized the operations through the storm, types of calls and assistance provided to assisted living and nursing homes.

Police Chief Tim Volkerson reviewed staffing levels and reassignments for the storm and reported on road closures, traffic light outages, relocation of residents and homeless population, and calls for service. He advised that FDOT will have to evaluate Lee Road before opening it for traffic.

Mrs. Eby reported that lake levels have reached flood level and have impacted many homes. Staff continues to monitor levels with the expectation that the chain of lakes will crest before receding. Lakes are closed and lake sampling will resume on Monday.

Mr. Nye reported on the status of tree incidents and on staff's and tree contractor clean-up efforts and in preparation for the Autumn Arts Festival.

Mr. D'Alessandro reported residential outages have been reduced to approximately 1,500. Resources from Michigan are working and crews from Nebraska will arrive tomorrow. Mayor Anderson expressed an interest in knowing where outages occurred.

Mr. Riegler stated water treatment plants were fully functional during the storm but two are now on generator power but there have been no water supply issues. He spoke about lift station functions, two of which are still flooded, and issues encountered in pumping. He stated that most of what is being pumped from the lift station is stormwater and staff recommends that residents limit/reduce water usage.

Mr. Hiatt stated that staff conducted drive-by inspections today and so far, have found limited structural damage with the largest issue being the WP Apartments where a large tree fell and required the relocation of some residents.

Mr. Marcotte stated stormwater systems are functional but the large amount of rainfall has created capacity problems in the lakes. He explained lake levels and water flow that created flooding of streets, residential areas, and the Winter Pines Golf Course. Crews are working to clear drains to improve flow.

Mr. Seeley advised that the Farmers Market will be held on Saturday and reported on the status of park conditions and plans to fully open WP9 and partially open Winter Pines GC. Mead Garden will remain closed to assess tree conditions. The community center will open to the public tomorrow.

Mrs. Howard reviewed communication efforts which resulted in increased followers and sharing of posts. Opening for the Central Park stage has been rescheduled for October 8th at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Weaver suggested an advisory about contamination of water and urging people to avoid standing water.

Mr. Knight said debris removal will begin next Wednesday after certification of trucks and equipment which is required to receive FEMA reimbursement. Mrs. Howard encouraged the commission to share the information on debris removal posted on the city's website on their social media and to e-mail contacts. Mr. Knight said staff is looking at options for a drop-off location for residents which can be helpful but would have to be monitored.

Additional information was provided by staff in response to questions. Mr. Knight explained that staff has discussed how to provide aid to residents. A team led by Peter Moore will be assembled to assist residents and Congresswoman Murphy has offered the services of her staff to assist residents as well. Resources will be made available at the Community Center and information will also be shared on the website and social media.

Mayor Anderson said as he and staff toured the city on Wednesday and he believes there are more than 40 homes city-wide with water damage. Although residents may be eligible for FEMA assistance, reimbursement is not immediate and he questioned if there was a way for the city to bridge the gap for residents without flood insurance.

Mr. Knight said he has emergency spending power if there is commission consensus to provide assistance but staff would have to develop ways to identify needs and funding.

Mayor Anderson said ARPA funds could be used and CRA funds as well, but would require approval by the CRA.

Commissioner Weaver suggested distributing fans to homeowners to mitigate some long-term damage.

Mr. Moore noted that homeowners are being directed to the FEMA website and the process could take 30 days. Reimbursement covers what insurance will not and homeowners are not precluded from getting other assistance.

Mayor Anderson suggested posting nationally known contractors, perhaps who have worked with the city, on the website with a disclaimer that the city is not responsible for the work of the contractor. He suggested using a grant funding model previously used for CRA and ARPA funds.

There was agreement among the commission that the city identify funding for short-term needs and determine eligibility for FEMA reimbursement.

Mayor Anderson expressed his gratitude for staff's continued work after the storm and urged residents to send comments and questions to Mayor and Commissioners and City Manager.

3) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3: 16 p.m.

Mayor Phillip M. Anderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis