

MINUTES

CITY OF COCOA EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 7, 2017

An Emergency City Council meeting was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017, in the EOC Conference Room, located in Cocoa City Hall, 2nd Floor, 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, Florida, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

Mayor Parrish called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

PRESENT:	Henry U. Parrish III	Mayor
	Don Boisvert	Deputy Mayor
	Jeri Blanco	Councilwoman
	Brenda Warner	Councilwoman
	Clarence Whipple, Jr.	Councilman
	John Titkanich, Jr.	City Manager
	Carie Shealy	City Clerk
ABSENT:	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney
	Matt Fuhrer	Assistant City Manager

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gene Prince, Fire Chief; Michael Cantaloupe, Chief of Police; Jonathan Lamm, Deputy Fire Chief; and Samantha Senger, Public Relations Specialist.

II. City Business

1. Discussion of Hurricane Irma Preparations

City Manager Titkanich thanked Council members and staff for attending this emergency meeting on such short notice. He provided an update to Council as to preparations thus far and noted that both Ms. Senger and Ms. Martinez would be on 12 hour shifts so information would constantly be updated.

Chief Prince further thanked Council for attending. He assured them that city staff and departments have been working hard to ensure that the city is prepared. Tanks are filled up, Public Works has been checking drains, and all ponds have been lowered.

Discussion was held in detail regarding the specific ponds that have been lowered. The water system was also discussed in detail.

Chief Prince noted that the eye of the storm should cover Cocoa around 2 a.m. on Monday, and that shelters would be opening at 3 p.m. on Saturday. There would be a mandatory evacuation from the islands beginning on Friday.

He further noted that there would be a briefing from the County at 8 pm and the Cocoa EOC would start at 8 p.m. on Saturday. They will be open at 4 p.m. This is because winds will start to increase after 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Councilwoman Warner asked when Alpha and Bravo would start at the Police Department. In response, Chief Cantaloupe advised they would begin those shifts at 8 p.m. on Saturday night.

Further discussion was held on construction sites (making sure they are secured), the homeless, and Asbury Arms.

Chief Cantaloupe spoke with the Homeless Coalition and they will make sure that the homeless are in shelters.

City Manager Titkanich further noted that Waste Management was suspending services at this time. He advised that City offices were closed on Friday.

City Manager Titkanich stressed the importance to Council of letting him or Assistant City Manager Fuhrer know of anything they hear or might need. They will be logging all requests.

Mayor Parrish asked if he could ride with the Chief. City Manager Titkanich reiterated the importance of contacting him or the Assistant City Manager in regards to requests such as this.

City Manager Titkanich promised that they would keep everyone informed and they can be prepared but there are always unknowns.

In depth discussion was held on the phone systems and social media. Councilman Whipple asked that no one respond on social media. Let the Public Relations Specialist do their job and let them respond.

Ms. Senger asked that they feed everyone back to the website on social media, if questions are being asked.

In closing, Chief Prince advised it could be a long recovery, and people get frustrated. He asked that everyone continue to be reassuring. There are assessments that have to be done before people can get back.

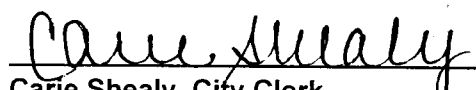
It was decided that an update/briefing would be done at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2017 in the EOC.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

- * The Emergency City Council meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Henry U. Parrish III, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carrie Shealy, City Clerk

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