

The Washington City Council met in a special session on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilman; Ed Moultrie, Councilman; Gil Davis, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; and Josh Kay, City Manager.

Mayor Jennings arrived at 5:45 pm and was made a part of the minutes.

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Chief Financial Officer; Robbie Rose, Fire Chief; Mick Reed, Police Chief; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; John Rodman, Planning & Development Director; Philip Mobley, Parks and Recreation Director; Susan Hodges, Human Resource Director; Mike Voss, of the Washington Daily News and Delma Blinson, of the Beaufort Observer.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson called the meeting to order and Councilman Moultrie delivered the invocation.

UPDATE – HURRICANE IRENE RECOVERY PROCESS

City Manager, Josh Kay presented an overview of the recovery process, noting that City staff was very prepared and performed well but realize we have areas that can be improved upon. Mr. Kay stated we will continually evaluate in the coming week from a staff perspective. An update was provided for Council on the recovery process of Hurricane Irene in the following categories:

➤ **Preparations of the storm**

- Monday, August 22, 2011
 - Initial notification of Hurricane Irene to permanent boaters
- Tuesday, August 23, 2011
 - Initial Emergency Operations Plan Review
 - Initial contact with contractors about recovery operations
- Wednesday, August 24, 2011
 - 72-hours pre-event meeting
 - Restaurants contacted about feeding personnel during and after event
 - Hotels contacted regarding housing of contractors
 - All employees notified to prepare their homes & family for Hurricane
 - Began securing outdoor equipment & materials
 - All equipment filled with fuel
 - Emergency supplies and provisions for departmental operations secured
 - Begin inspecting and cleaning drainage pipes and ditches
 - Inspect portable pumps and generators
- Thursday, August 25, 2011
 - 48-hour pre-event meeting held with City-emergency management team
 - All equipment and vehicles filled with fuel
 - Truck 2 of Fire-Rescue-EMS is determined to be out of service
 - All batteries and portable radios charged
 - Continue to secure outdoor equipment & materials
 - Water storage tanks filled to minimum of 2/3rd capacity
 - 3 electric-line crews and 2 tree-trimming crews contracted to be in Washington on Friday, August 26th by 6 pm
 - Scheduled personnel to staff call center for Saturday & Sunday
 - Beaufort County declares State of Emergency at 2 pm
 - City of Washington declares State of Emergency at 5 pm
- Friday, August 26, 2011
 - 24-hour prior to event meeting held with City's Emergency Management Team
 - Final call to permanent boaters
 - Flood-prone lift stations and buildings sealed as allowable
 - 3rd Street closed at 3 pm to pump Jack's Creek for additional storage capacity
 - Acquired 10" pump from NCDOT to increase storage capacity
 - Beaufort County opens shelters at 4 pm

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- City of Washington Police provide security 24/7
 - Additional employees for Fire/EMS, Police, and Electric departments activated and housed at various locations
 - City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opens at 10 pm
 - Call center begins receiving calls about power outages at approximately 10 pm due to wind damage

➤ **Impact of the storm**

- Hurricane Irene
 - Landfall at Cape Lookout, NC at approximately 7:30 am, Saturday, August 27
 - Category 1: Sustained winds of 85 mph with gusts over 90 mph
 - Hurricane force winds extend out 90 miles from eye
 - Tropical Storm winds extend out 250 miles from eye
 - 13.11 inches of rainfall in Washington, NC
 - Source: NOAA Hurricane Center

➤ **Initial Assessment**

- Saturday, August 27, 2011
 - 6 am Police communications relocate to EOC (Station 2)
 - All city operations cease at 6:16 am due to high winds
 - All city operations resume operations at 5 pm
 - City-wide curfew extended from 5 pm to noon Sunday, August 28, 2011
 - 98% of all electric customers without power at 5 pm
 - 6 of 7 distribution substations out of service
 - 28 of 29 transmission and distribution electric circuits out of service
 - 13,700 of 14,000 customers without electric service
 - Extreme wind damage to electric system transportation network, businesses and homes

➤ **Recovery by department**

- **Police**
 - 216 calls (8/27 – 8/28)
 - Sole security to Emergency Shelters – PS Jones & Washington High School
 - DMV officers assisted with security at gas stations, Social Security Administration buildings, etc
 - Stationed at major intersections to inform the public about the extension of the curfew on Saturday, August 27, 2011
- **Fire**
 - 47 calls (8/27 – 8/28)
 - Sole security to Emergency Shelters – PS Jones & Washington High School
 - DMV officers assisted with security at gas stations, Social Security Administration buildings, etc
 - Stationed at major intersections to inform the public about the extension of the curfew on Saturday, August 27, 2011
- **Planning & Inspections**
 - **Substantially Damaged**
 - Commercial – 12 (Estimated amount: \$1.2 mil)
 - Residential – 30 (Estimated amount: \$1.8 mil)
 - **Minor Damage**
 - Commercial – 30 (Estimated amount: \$450K)
 - Residential – 65 (Estimated amount: \$970K)
 - **Flood Damage**
 - Commercial – 5 (Estimated amount: \$10,000)
 - Residential – 25 (Estimated amount: \$60,000)

- **Public Works**
 - **Roadway clearing**
 - Priority 1: Major access routes to hospital, PD, Fire Stations, & Utility infrastructure areas (well, substations, sewer pump stations, etc...)
 - Priority 2: Major thoroughfares & Subdivisions
 - **Storm debris removal**
 - Priority 1: Vegetative debris (trees, limbs, leaves that are being placed on the streets) – it is taking 2-3 days for every route so we are looking at approximately 2-3 weeks before we can get the streets cleaned.
 - Constructed temporary access road on airport property (old dog pound site) for debris yard
 - Contractor with shredder to utilize site
 - Priority 2: Construction debris
 - **Drainage**
 - Opened floodgates at Jack's Creek once wind shifted and water level in river dropped below creek level
 - Continued pumping Jack's Creek to lower water level in creek to pre-storm level

- **Electric**
 - **Outage Response**
 - Priority 1: 7 Substations
 - Priority 2: 29 Transmission & Distribution Circuits (unfortunately circuits are not in a straight line and it is possible they will loop around) – we are not being selective but it is how those circuits were built
 - Priority 3: Critical Infrastructure – Hospital, WWTP, RWTP, wells, & sewer lift stations (assets we have that requires electricity so we can be able to operate – by providing basic service to our citizens)
 - Priority 4: High Density feeders (line serving an estimated 100 accounts)
 - Priority 5: Low Density feeders (line only serving 5 houses)
 - Priority 6: Individual services (line taking down by a tree will take time)
 - **Outages - % without power**
 - 98% - 5 pm, Saturday, August 27, 2011
 - 61% - 11 pm, Saturday, August 27, 2011
 - 25% - Noon, Monday, August 29, 2011
 - 14% - 8 am, Tuesday, August 30, 2011
 - 7% - 8 am, Wednesday, August 31, 2011
 - 3% - 2 pm, Thursday, September 1, 2011
 - 0% - 3 am, Friday, September 2, 2011
 - *Note: these %'s do NOT reflect customers that were without power due to property damage or individual service damage
 - **Call Center**
 - Utilized non-electric staff from 6 am, Saturday, August 27, 2011 to Midnight, Friday, September 2, 2011
 - Residential – 25 (Estimated amount: \$60,000)
 - **Labor & Equipment**
 - City of Washington: 36 Employees & 25 Assets
 - Contract Lineman: 62 Individuals & 52 Assets
 - Contract Tree Crews: 11 Individuals & 4 Assets
 - Contract Engineers: 2 Individuals & 2 Vehicles

Mr. Kay offered thanks to the City of Washington team, (all employees that manned the call center, Police & Fire personnel, Recreation, Inspection, contractors, and various Washington businesses). Restaurants' stayed opened beyond hours to feed our crews and contractors. Mr. Kay stated at the call center we were using the majority of non-electric staff from 6 am Saturday August, 27 until midnight Friday, September 2, 2011. If you had to call in to the outage number most likely you were speaking with someone from within the organization. Again, thanks to all employees that volunteered their time to assist in answering calls, this is sometimes a thankless job but they did an outstanding job.

Mr. Kay stated kudos to our employees and other folks that help restore the power back to our customers in a safe and effective manner; there were no major injuries related to our employees. A couple assets were damaged in which Mr. Kay noted they will be coming to Council with a recommendation for repairs and also shared we are still in the recovery mode.

Again, Beaufort County opened up the shelters and the Police Department was the sole security for P.S. Jones and Washington High School 24 hours a day.

Mayor Jennings offered thanks to Mr. Kay for a great overview and to everybody (staff and citizens) as well. His desire was for Council to hear the full body of the efforts provided by staff and the citizens of Washington. We know that no two storms are alike and the one thing learned in this type of event is if you are without power it is very hard to communicate.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Q - Creek pumped down as far down as it could be pumped

A - Yes

Q - Submersible pump been placed in service

A - No

Observation - Submersible pump at Jack's Creek should have placed in first

A - Mr. Kay noted he would have an answer at the September meeting

Q - How many distribution lines we have

A - 400 miles (roughly 289 sq. miles of territory) Counties: Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, and Washington

Q - Collection of anything FEMA may require before the closing date (move the process along)

A - Mr. Kay noted the window has been opened and from what he understands there will not be such a short turnaround this time (there is a phone number available which is posted on our website and cable 9.) Mayor Jennings requested the City be able to facilitate the process by having the contact information provided in location our citizens will reach out to.

Councilman Moultrie commended staff on the hard work that was displayed during the storm for the community. When touring the area you could see crews hard at work. Mayor Jennings added his sentiments to this statement as well and stated during the storm and aftermath we worked wonderfully as a team (nothing short of heroic in his opinion). Mayor Jennings commended the excellent job the City Manager, Josh Kay performed during his first month as City Manager.

Recommendation for communications & the media outlets utilized by the City

Ms. Lynn Lewis served as the intermediate public information officer for her media contacts (outstanding job)

Channel 9

Facebook

Reverse 911

Cell services

ADJOURN

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Moultrie, Council adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm until September 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal.

Cynthia S. Bennett, CMC
City Clerk