

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HURRICANE CHARLEY UPDATE
AUGUST 23, 2004

A Special Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on August 23, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Fazzone, Whitlock, Heine, Johnson and Goodman. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Attorney Holloman, Assistant City Fire Chief Wells, City Marshal Lee, Assistant Marshal Anderson, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Public Works Supervisor Reed, Systems Supervisor Lewis, Waste Water Plant Supervisor Underwood, Water Plant Supervisor Erickson, Parks & Recreation Coordinator Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator Steve Weeks, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have all department heads bring the Council up to date since Hurricane Charley went through town on August 13, 2004.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Johnson.

Marshal Lee addressed Council and gave his report. He stated that on the day of the hurricane the Police Department was prepared and had already gone to ten (10) officers on each shift. During the first three days they did search and rescue operations in conjunction with the City Fire Department and the County Sheriff Department. They provided a presence at damaged property, established a curfew from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM and arrested looters and price gougers. The Police Department and the County Sheriff are currently coordinating services from the Arcadia Municipal Airport. Johnson reported that several stop signs are now facing the wrong direction. Marshal Lee stated that he did get with Administrator Strube and that FEMA and the Street Department are working on repairing the signs. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has provided a coordinator to help with street signs, traffic signals and keeping the roadways clear. It was noted that DOT and the prisoners are doing a great job on cleanup efforts. Goodman reported that someone is collecting loose metal on Lee and Pine. Johnson stated that debris are blocking most intersections. Goodman appreciates what the Police Department is doing and their working with the Sheriff's Department.

Steve Underwood, Supervisor of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) stated that the plant did not have any power the first day due to problems with the generators. Power has now been restored to 10 of the 13 lift stations. The system suffered sever damage and the plant is now running at capacity. Most of the sewer backups are occurring on the homeowners end. Administrator Strube reported that the flow at the plant is highly deluded caused by the great demand. He then noted that if necessary the City has the authority to by pass the system, the water would be highly treated with chlorine before that would be done. Administrator Strube stated that the rotting vegetation is contributing to the overall odor. Steve said that he has received wonderful support from the water departments of Sarasota and Manatee County. They have walked the entire system in order to locate breaks and assist with fixing them. Steve also noted that he is responsible for the City's traffic lights and he is working with DOT to get them all up and working again.

Mayor Fazzone requested that all department heads submit a list of anyone who helped their department so that a thank you can be sent.

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Fred Lewis, Supervisor of the Water and Sewer Systems gave his report to Council. He reported that leaks from the day of the hurricane have been repaired and the water pressure is back up to normal. There were 4-5 major leaks and numerous small leaks some of which were caused by Grubbs when picking up debris on the right of ways. Fred also thanked the water departments of Sarasota and Manatee County for their assistance.

John Reed, Supervisor of the Public Works Department gave his report to Council. His department has been picking up household garbage working 8-10 hours per day. The dumpster trucks are staying late in order to be available when called by the Division of Forestry. He has one employee who is putting up and straightening street signs. John reported that he has lost several employees who terminated employment with the City in order to work for Grubbs. There are drainage problems everywhere due to excessive debris. Mr. Robert Wynn asked for permission to dump the porta-lets into the City manholes. John did not have a problem with the request, however Steve stated that chemicals in the porta-lets could cause a problem with the system. Administrator Strube will check with the City's Engineer from Boyle Engineering to see if this can be done. It was noted that only potholes that can cause damage are being repaired at this time. Heine stated that 12th Street by the Clock Restaurant could use some fill. Administrator Strube noted that several years ago the City checked with the property owner to see if they wanted to participate with the City to correct the problem of large pot holes caused by semi trucks parking at the restaurant, they did not. No action will be taken. John then reported that Johnson Canal at Baker Street is full of debris, the water is still moving; however it seems to be causing some erosion. Work is to begin at Mills then move on to Cypress, 15th Street and then Baker. Volunteers from the City of Palmetto have been helping clean up the canals. Administrator Strube stated that when the landfill opened up the City was collecting garbage which is a testament to the amount of work that was done Saturday and Sunday to get the roads cleared.

Vern Erickson, Supervisor of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) gave his report to Council. He noted that one water tower did collapse and a generator went off line. Saturday he got a crane to get the generator re-wired and running. The plant did not have any pressure and on Monday with the help from Manatee and Sarasota County they were able to get the pressure up. Vern notified the State about the loss of the water tower and the system being down. On Saturday FPL was able to get the plant online. By Thursday the plant was operating with normal pressure and able to hold it steady. Water samples were taken on Thursday which showed chlorine, Friday samples were taken from the entire system and a second set was done on Saturday. Both sets of samples passed as of Sunday and the water was safe for consumption. The plant is running about 700,000.00 gallons above normal, using 1.6 million gallons per day. Plant operators are currently working 24 hour shifts. The wells and telemetry information come over the phone lines; however the phones have been sporadic. The plant can not be run automatically at this time which is why it must be fully staffed 24/7. Attorney Holloman recommends that an Emergency Ordinance be issued stating that the City's water system is stressed and regulating the use of water. Goodman moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 913

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and that it become an Ordinance of the City of Arcadia; seconded by Johnson. Mayor Fazzino called for comments from the public, there were none. The motion carried on roll call vote. Ayes: Goodman, Heine, Johnson, Whitlock and Fazzino. Nays: None. This ordinance will remain in effect until no longer needed.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 913

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE FINDING THAT THE WATER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA IS STRESSED DUE TO EXCESSIVE USE CAUSED BY HURRICANE CHARLEY; PROHIBITING THE USE OF CITY WATER FOR THE WATERING OF LAWNS, WASHING OF CARS, AND WASHING OF HOUSES; SUSPENDING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a public emergency exists within the city limits of the City of Arcadia affecting life, health, and property due to Hurricane Charley which has increased the use of city water by the residents of the City of Arcadia, and by other persons temporarily in the City of Arcadia to assist in clean up, and has thereby stressed the water system; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Arcadia, Florida, that all unnecessary use be prohibited so as to provide water for more necessary uses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDNANED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA.

Section 1. That a public emergency exists affecting life, health, and property due to Hurricane Charley and that the use of city water in the City of Arcadia has increased by 750,000 gallons per day due to the increased population and usage caused by this emergency, thereby stressing the city wells to the extent that they may be unable to provide the necessary water for drinking, bathing, and other necessary uses.

Section 2. That the use of city water from the city water supply for the watering of lawns, washing of cars, washing of houses is hereby prohibited and declared unlawful.

Section 3. Violations of this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor and punished as set forth in the City Code of the City of Arcadia, Florida.

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(Ordinance 913 continued)

Section 4. All ordinances in conflict herewith are suspended so long as this ordinance is in effect.

Section 5. Commercial car washing businesses are exempt from this Ordinance.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
 ARCADIA, FLORIDA, ON THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST, 2004.

ATTEST:

CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA

By: /s/ RACHELLE M. BAUMANN
 RACHELLE M. BAUMANN
 CITY RECORDER

By: /s/ RICHARD P. FAZZONE
 RICHARD P. FAZZONE
 MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
 DAVID C. HOLLomon
 CITY ATTORNEY

Tara Anderson, Parks and Recreation Coordinator gave her report to Council.

1. The Mobile Home Park suffered extensive damage. The roof of the club house was damaged and the facility is currently operating with a generator. Tara stated that she needs help to clean up around the homes. FPL can not get their equipment behind the homes until the debris are cleaned up. The meters and inside poles are the City's responsibility. Tara believes that 50% of the homes will be considered destroyed because of condition and age.
2. There are about fifty (50) trees down at Oak Ridge Cemetery, some have knocked over headstones. The roadways in the cemetery have been cleared.
3. The Speer Center and Smith Brown Gym are both ok. The Speer Center is currently being used as a staging area for volunteers from the City of Homestead who are assisting with recovery efforts. White Sands Contractors, Inc. the contractor currently renovating City Hall has volunteered his staff to assist the City one day per week, this week they will construct showers in the dugout for the volunteers to use.

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4. The Pro Shop suffered major damage and all merchandise and equipment is being relocated. It has not been decided if the Pro Shop is going to be totaled.
5. The Golf Course suffered damage to the irrigation system and about 7-8 trees are down.

Administrator Strube thanked Tara for her hard work noting that she has been taking the insurance adjusters and FEMA staff to all City sites.

June Fisher, Interim DeSoto County Administrator was introduced on her way out to attend an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meeting. She will inform everyone there about the Emergency Ordinance regulating water usage.

Assistant Fire Chief Dan Wells addressed Council and gave his report. He noted that the effort of the Fire Department was similar to the Police Department. The Fire Department was relocated to the Margaret Way Building due to damage at Station 1 which had windows broken and Station 2 which had damage to the bay doors. The Fire Department helped to evacuate the Turner Center when the building collapsed during the hurricane. Dan noted that most of the calls being received now are heat related from people overdoing it while trying to clean up all of the debris. The Fire Department along with the Police Department did assist with tree removal during the first few days after the hurricane. Administrator Strube stated that having C.W. Blosser and Lewis Wells at the EOC has been a great help to the City.

Margaret Way, Special Advisor to the City stated that in her sixty-three (63) years with the City she has never seen the cooperation between departments that she has seen since the hurricane. She is very proud of how everyone pulled together when needed.

Steve Weeks, Volunteer Coordinator gave his report to Council. Steve is overseeing all volunteer services and working closely with the group from Homestead and Palmetto. The crew from Homestead has been repairing roofs using materials that they brought with them. The City of Homestead promised \$40,000.00 in materials and man hours; however they may go up to \$60,000.00. The Palmetto crew has been working on drainage issues. The City of Bonita Springs sent \$19,000.00 in material from Home Depot to help out. The crew from Homestead are scheduled to leave on Sunday.

Ernie Hewett, Special Projects Coordinator as Assistant to the Administrator has been working with all department heads to relay information from the EOC to them. Ernie thanked Julie with Boyle Engineering for getting help from Sarasota and Manatee Counties to assist with our water and wastewater issues. Ernie stated that there seems to be a problem at the EOC noting that the requests for help must be very specific. He reported that the new downtown street lights weathered the hurricane with only a few broken globes. He then reported that the water tower was empty and under repair when it collapsed in the storm. The tower was originally built in 1925 or 1927. It was noted that Winn Dixie could not provide meat until the water was safe as they cut the meat on site. DeSoto Memorial Hospital was originally on their own well, they can now go back on City water. The Health Department will need to clear the Hospital as a separate unit. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and National Guard requested

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water for showers which was granted with the help of the WWTP. He reported that there were four (4) water line breaks at the meter boxes on Sunday which occurred on the City side, caused by Grubs trucks driving over the curbs to pick up debris.

County Sheriff Fugate addressed Council and thanked all city employees for their cooperation with his department during this difficult time.

Administrator Strube thanked Julie Karleskint, with Boyle Engineering Corporation stating that the assistance received by the City from Sarasota and Manatee Counties was due to Julie and David Farabee getting a request into the EOC in order to get a FEMA tracking number. Administrator Strube then recommended approval of Specific Authorization No. 43 with Boyle Engineering Corporation for engineering services related to Hurricane Charley in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. Whitlock moved to approve Specific Authorization No. 43 with Boyle Engineering Corporation for engineering services related to Hurricane Charley not to exceed \$25,000.00; seconded by Goodman and carried. Julie then addressed Council and stated that she has never seen people work as hard as the City utilities staff has done since the hurricane.

Mr. Jim Chaplin and Mr. Eddie Woodhouse with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) addressed Council stating that they have been working at the Housing Authority. They reported that the complex suffered extensive damage and needs assistance. Mr. Chaplin was the HUD manager for the State of Florida when Andrew hit and Mr. Woodhouse has done site work after two (2) hurricanes, both congratulated the City on their recovery efforts. They are very impressed with what the City has been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time of only ten (10) days.

Mr. Ron Long owner of an antique store downtown addressed Council stating that the area is not safe and requested that barricades be put back in place to keep traffic out. Mayor Fazzone reported that City crews have removed quite a bit of the debris and will come back to remove more. Administrator Strube requested that the store owners separate construction debris from household and furniture items. Martha Craven who owns several buildings in the downtown area feels that the old buildings are the heritage of the town. She is concerned about the old Mercer building which suffered extensive damage stating that it may be eligible for historic renovation assistance. There have been rumors that the building may be demolished. Mayor Fazzone asked that someone contact the state to see if funds are available, Steve Weeks will check this out. Some merchants have asked that the City remove the overhang at the Tea Room since it is not City property we can not remove it, however they will put additional barricades around the area.

A resident of the City Mobile Home Park asked if they would be able to bring a new mobile home into the park. Mayor Fazzone stated that the Council needs to review the situation before making a decision. The park was scheduled to convert to a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park only over time. As older model trailers were no longer livable only an

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RV could go in its place. Mayor Fazzone requests that discussion of the Mobile Home Park be placed on the next agenda.

Recorder Baumann reported that the City's main computer system did not suffer any damage from the hurricane and that all programs such as G/L, A/P, P/R and Utility Billing are up and running. She also noted that all department heads have been given a list of expenditure codes to use in order to track hurricane related expenditures for reimbursement.

Administrator Strube noted that staff has done an excellent job and the City would not be as far ahead with our recovery efforts without their hard work and dedication.

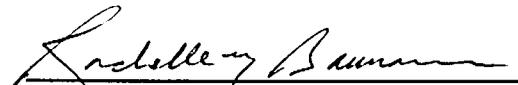
Goodman stated that she is proud to be a part of the City and thanked Administrator Strube and City staff for their hard work. She hopes to keep the spirit of cooperation alive and she also thanked Steve Weeks for his assistance during the recovery process.

Johnson believes that this has brought the people in the community closer together. He noted that he did not attend the Florida League of Cities Conference and therefore did not get elected as 2nd Vice President. He will try again next year.

Mayor Fazzone feels that this meeting was very beneficial by bring all the department heads and Council up to date on our recovery efforts.

Goodman stated that she is very proud of Mayor Fazzone and his efforts since the hurricane.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT