



**City Commission Special Meeting
Friday, August 30, 2019 at 3:30 PM
Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, the special emergency meeting of the City Commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Friday, August 30, 2019 at the City Hall Commission Chamber, 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168.

Present: Mayor Russ Owen, Vice Mayor Randy Hartman, Commissioner Michael Kolody, Commissioner Jason McGuirk and Commissioner Jake Sachs.

Also present were City Attorney Carrie Avallone, Acting City Manager Khalid Resheidat, Police Chief Mike Coffin, CRA/Economic Development Director Tony Otte, Director of Development Services and Coastal Environmental Resiliency Brian Fields, Leisure Services Director Nancy Maddox, maintenance Operations Director Faith Miller, Finance Director John McKinney, Community Resource Coordinator Irma Terry, Assistant to the City Manager and Public Information Office Phil Veski and Acting City Clerk Kelly McQuillen.

Mayor Russ Owen called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shelly Pestine, 1300 North Atlantic Avenue, thanked City Staff for their hurricane preparation work. He was the owner of the Shoppes at Flagler. He asked if he needed to update his Emergency Pass.

Police Chief Mike Coffin stated they were not issuing passes due to the possibility of counterfeiting. He stated they would be requiring a copy of the owner's property record card. He stated they would not be permitted in without the card.

Commissioner McGuirk asked about the bridge policy and asked about passing along information to citizens on beachside.

Chief Coffin stated they would be posting information to social media. He commented that they were instructed to wait until FDOT conducted an inspection regarding the South Causeway Bridge. He stated there was no hard-set rule and that it was very likely that they would not open either bridge prior to inspections.

Lisa Martin, 618 South Pine Street, commented on bridge closures and asked for clarification.

Fire Chief Shawn Vandemark clarified that they would always keep the westbound lane open and no residents would be trapped; however, when the winds reach a certain speed, they must close bridges.

A resident on Sea Mist Drive commented on leaving procedures.

Commissioner McGuirk responded that no one would physically force residents to leave. He encouraged residents to leave as soon as possible and not wait because it would be chaos.

Commissioner Sachs echoed Commissioner McGurk's statements. He asked for clarification on the wind speed. He asked if a wind speed of 39 mph would initiate a bridge closure.

Police Chief Coffin clarified that westbound lanes on both bridges would remain open and stated that they were open for beachside residents to evacuate. He stated that when it reached a dangerous point, if there were drivers using the westbound lanes to travel towards the beachside, they would be ticketed.

Fire Chief Vandemark stated the north causeway bridge would be a better choice than the south causeway bridge.

III. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Emergency Adoption of Declaration 01-19: The forecast by NOAA of the probability of this City being within the path of Hurricane Dorian necessitates consideration of this declaration, in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City in accordance with Section 166.041(3)(b), Florida Statutes, by enactment of a two-thirds vote of the City Commission.

City Attorney Avallone read Declaration No. 01-19: State of Emergency - Hurricane Dorian, by title only.

Motion:

Commissioner McGuirk moved to adopt Declaration No. 01-19: State of Emergency - Hurricane Dorian, as submitted. Commissioner Sachs seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a. Conduct Emergency Adoption of Ordinance 62-19, which if adopted, would amend the FY2018-2019 Budget in total pursuant to itemizations attached.

City Attorney Avallone read Ordinance No. 62-19: Budget Amendment by title only.

Motion:

Vice Mayor Hartman moved to adopt Ordinance No. 62-19: Budget Amendment, as submitted. Commissioner McGuirk seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

V. CITY COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Hartman commented that this would be the first storm he would be home for. He commended Maintenance Operations Director Faith Miller and her staff for doing a great job on the sand hills. He reemphasized to residents, if they were going to leave, leave now.

Commissioner McGuirk communicated to citizens that he hoped they stayed safe.

Commissioner Sachs wished everyone good luck. He stated that each hurricane had a different personality. He encouraged citizens not to travel outside until Utilities Commission and Police and Fire Department cleared the area.

Commissioner Kolody commented on a tip he received from Chip Weston. He shared that placing duct tape over locks helped keep sand from traveling inside locks. He wished everyone luck during the storm.

Mayor Owen emphasized that there was nothing they know that the public did not know. He remarked that Public Information Officer Phil Veski was doing a great job posting hurricane information on social media. He also suggested that residents needed to make sure trimmed debris was hauled away and discouraged trimming now.

Acting City Manager Khalid Resheidat commended City Staff for an excellent job at coordinating. He stated they reached out to the Utilities Commission and they confirmed they would have an employee staffing a position at the Emergency Operations Center. He anticipated flooding if the storm shifted south.

Mayor Owen asked about trash pickup.

Ms. Miller stated that she spoke with Mr. Ken Deforest from Waste Pro and mentioned that an update would be provided soon.

Acting City Manager Resheidat provided a quick update. He stated that there would be two additional Votran pick up sites at City Hall and the Alonzo Babe James Community Center.

Ms. Miller stated that the County was closing the landfill on Tuesday and trash pickup would be on Monday.

Commissioner Kolody added that he would be present for the First Budget Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, Mayor Owen adjourned the special emergency meeting at 4:00 PM.