

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL LUNCH AND LEARN MEETING MINUTES**

**August 1, 2016**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall – St. James Building; 117 West Duval Street,

**In attendance:** Council Members Lori Boyer (President), Danny Becton, Aaron Bowman, Anna Lopez Brosche, Doyle Carter, John Crescimbeni, Al Ferraro, Reginald Gaffney, Bill Gulliford, Jim Love, Joyce Morgan, Sam Newby, Scott Wilson

**Excused:** Council Members Greg Anderson, Matt Schellenberg

**Also**: Cheryl Brown – Council Director/Secretary; Carol Owens– Legislative Services Division; Louie Marino – Council Staff Services; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

See attached attendance sheet for additional attendees

**Meeting Convened**: 12:06 p.m.

Council President Boyer convened the meeting and turned the floor over to Steve Woodard, the City’s Emergency Preparedness Director and Todd Smith, Homeland Security Manager, to a presentation on the City’s emergency preparedness plans and procedures. Mr. Woodard gave a brief overview of the Emergency Preparedness Division of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Mr. Smith outlined the Division’s Incident Command System (ICS) which is used to organize the City’s response to any significant event, from a hurricane, tornado or flood to the Jazz Festival or Florida/Georgia football game. The ICS is active year-round as needed, utilizing a standard set of operating procedures and changing cast of participating agencies to manage events as necessary.

There are several levels of emergency declarations that may be called into play depending on the scope of the emergency being experienced. Pursuant to the City Charter, the Mayor may make a declaration of either a general emergency or a civil emergency. A general emergency applies countywide and authorizes the Mayor and administration to take immediate action (including waivers of the Ordinance Code, Procurement Code, etc.) to deal with the situation for a period not to exceed 30 days. The City Council convenes a special meeting as soon as safely possible after the declaration and may vote to terminate the declaration if it finds that conditions do not warrant. The Council does not vote to ratify the declaration of the emergency pursuant to the Charter, but may wish to do so at some point in order to qualify the City for reimbursement of a portion of its emergency expenses by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A civil emergency may be declared by the Mayor for a specific portion of the city in which an emergency situation exists for up to 72 hours

The City Council President is a member of the Emergency Executive Group, along with the Mayor, Sheriff, Fire Chief, and others, which meets in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Julia Street to manage the emergency situation. Technology has been installed in the Lynwood Roberts Room of City Hall to connect that room to the EOC on a streaming video basis so that Council Members other than the President can be connected at City Hall to all the information available at the EOC. Mr. Woodard said that the Emergency Preparedness staff is very open to input from council members on particular problems or situations in their districts that need to be brought to the EOC’s attention. There will be a designated City Hall liaison from the Mayor’s administration to the Council in the Lynwood Roberts Room. The Joint Information Center (JIC) is a centralized public information portal at the EOC with representatives from all the relevant departments. Media briefings take place in a studio on the first floor of the EOC. Web EOC offer on-line access to all emergency-related information. Council members will get passwords for remote access and are welcome to attend a training session at the EOC to use the system.

Mr. Woodard reported that the City has 29 designated emergency shelters – 28 schools and the Legends Community Center. When large scale evacuations are called for, the EOC will initially authorize the opening of seven shelters, with additional openings added as needs warrant.

In addition to the City’s two types of emergency declarations, there are also state declarations of emergency by the Governor and federal emergency declarations by the President. A federal declaration of emergency is needed in order for the City to qualify for FEMA cost reimbursements. Damages must total at least $3.57 per city resident ($3.085 million) or $26.5 million for the state of Florida before reimbursements apply. The federal government will reimburse 75% of eligible expenses, with the state and city governments each matching 12.5%. Maximum federal assistance to an individual property is $33,000 for non-insured losses. The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low-interest loans if at least 20 small businesses are affected by an emergency event, but very few businesses in the City have taken advantage of those loans after past emergency events.

Mr. Woodard reported that, while Jacksonville has a reputation for being nearly hurricane-proof, a number of substantial non-hurricane tropical storms have hit the area over the years. The last major (Category 3 or higher) hurricane to hit the Jacksonville area was in 1898 and came ashore in south Georgia near Cumberland Island. The last hurricane to impact Jacksonville directly was Hurricane Dora, a Class 1 storm, in 1964. The City is well overdue for a Category 3 storm, which statistically speaking should occur every 40 years or so. The City’s storm surge data was updated two years ago and maps show the extent to which tidal and storm surge flooding will impact low-lying areas given different storm strengths. Jacksonville should expect a great deal of tidal and surge problems when storms come directly through the city. Council members were urged to help spread the word that when an evacuation order is given, the best thing citizens can do is to leave when told and not wait, which causes traffic problems.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:55 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research

8.1.16 Posted 4:30 p.m.

Tapes: Council Lunch and Learn meeting – LSD

8.1.16

Materials: Emergency Preparedness handouts - LSD

8.1.16