

City of Lambertville
SPECIAL SESSION OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, 7 P.M., SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
JUSTICE CENTER, 25 SOUTH UNION STREET, LAMBERTVILLE
MINUTES

Mayor DelVecchio called the meeting to order with a statement of compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, notice was sent to the Beacon, the Times and the Democrat on Friday, August 26, 2011, posted on the City's bulletin board and website, and sent to assorted individuals through the list serve of the website.

ROLL CALL.

Mrs. Ege called the Roll as follows:

Present: Councilwoman Asaro, Councilman Sanders, Council President Stegman, Mayor DelVecchio.

Absent: Councilwoman Warner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor DelVecchio led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

Mrs. Ege led the public moment of silence in recognition of the Lambertville citizens and all others serve with the United States Armed Services.

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Mayor DelVecchio informed the members of the public that the City had some house keeping issues to resolve prior to United Water's presentation. He said that everyone would have an opportunity to speak, to agree or to disagree, but it was going to be done civilly.

Canal – David Burd

Mayor DelVecchio asked Dave Burd to report on the status of the canal. Mr. Burd, OEM Coordinator, reported the river was running high and the berm located in Stockton was beginning to erode. A tree whose roots grew into the berm fell into the canal causing concern for the stability of the berm. The OEM was concerned for how that would impact the Alexauken Creek and Swan Creek and issued warnings to those with businesses and residents in the North and South end of Union Street. The issue with the canal in Stockton was stabilized early Saturday morning. Communications was sent out to all of those on the list serve and posted to the home page of the website.

JCP&L – Mayor DelVecchio reported that the BPU was addressing the issues with power provided by JCP&L.

Roads – Mayor DelVecchio reported that the City sustained damage to the following road ways during Hurricane Irene, which were exacerbated in Tropical Storm Lee: South Franklin Street, York Street – Ely Creek, Studdiford Street –(Douglas & in front of Little Haven), Washington Road, Weeden Street, Rock Road, Grants Alley. There are short term fixes in process for all of these road ways. He asked the members of the public if there were

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additional roads to be added. Mr. Rosso mentioned Curley Lane was in bad shape. Mayor DelVecchio directed the City Clerk to add Curley Lane to the list.

Mayor DelVecchio asked the Acting Public Works Director, Lester Myers, to report on Franklin Street. Mr. Myers reported that the contractor was working on removing debris, including dead trees from Ely Creek to remove blockages created by the flash flood caused by Hurricane Irene and further created by Tropical Storm Lee.

Mayor DelVecchio spoke of the long term solutions in process for the following roadways: South Franklin Street & Weeden Street – Grants, NJDOT, DRJTBC, and Federal DOT; TO DO: York Street Extension, Washington Street.

Mayor DelVecchio recognized members of the Office of Emergency Management, Coordinator Dave Burd, Jeff Schermerhorn, Mark Hilton and Alex Palilonis and stated they did an excellent job.

He announced the meeting for the Fire Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2011 and is held at the Justice Center; and the meeting for the LMUA is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 6:30 pm and is held at the Sewerage Authority at Lambert Lane extension behind the Sewer Plant. He asked Mr. Horn if they could hold the meeting at the Justice Center. Mr. Horn said he would look into it.

Mayor DelVecchio also recognized the Acting Public Work Director, Lester Myers and his crew; the Construction Official Ken Rogers and his crew; the Fire Department and Lambertville New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad who all worked throughout Hurricane Irene starting 3 pm on Saturday, August 27 until 10 pm Tuesday, August 30th.

Mayor DelVecchio also publicly thanked Bob Martin, DEP Commissioner for his assistance with expediting DEP's response to Stockton.

Mayor DelVecchio announced the formation of a Communications Committee to review and discuss the way the Office of Emergency Management communications during a storm with a focus on how to do it when the City is without power/electric and access to the internet.

Mayor DelVecchio introduced Matthew Hall, the representative from Congressman Holt's Office who encouraged members of the public to register with FEMA. He gave the phone number to call which is 1-800-621-FEMA. Mr. Hall gave out the phone number for Congressman Holt's office for all of those who needed help with their applications. The number is: 609-750-9365. He said the regional office is due to open soon in Flemington. The date, time and place will be on the City's website.

Susan Klein of 9 Brunswick Avenue stated the wall on her property washed away. She felt the wall was the City's property. Mr. Hall gave her his contact information and will follow up with her.

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Mr. Phillip Russo of Curley Lane stated that he has 4 feet left before the soil erodes to his foundation.

Dana Kurtbeck of South Union Street asked if this was going to be considered as one event because if it was it would hurt those who have had to replace their heating systems twice – once for Hurricane Irene and once for Tropical Storm Lee. At this time it was undetermined.

Matt Hall stated that a request was made to the President to consider them as one event.

Mike Callahan asked what the City was going to do to make sure this doesn't happen again. Mayor DelVecchio said that was the purpose of this meeting.

Mickey Worthington asked about the installation of the flood gates on Swan Creek. Mayor DelVecchio informed the members of the public that the City applied to FEMA for funding.

Debbie Weidel stated she had sewerage in her basement.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 146-2011: A Resolution to approve the Emergency Appropriation due to Hurricane Irene.

Mayor DelVecchio stated that this resolution was to assist with funding the expenses incurred due to Hurricane Irene.

City of Lambertville
Resolution Number 146-2011
Emergency Appropriations Less than 3 Percent

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to Hurricane Irene, and no adequate provision was made in the 2011 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and NJSA 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of emergency appropriations created including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$17,000 and three percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2011 is \$135,457.61, and

WHEREAS, the foregoing emergency appropriation, together with prior emergency appropriations, does not exceed three percent of the total current operating appropriations in the budget for 2011;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Lambertville of the County of Hunterdon (by not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the governing body affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the following expenses incurred by the City in connection with its response to Hurricane Irene:

Expense	Amount
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Construction Office	\$ 5,322
Police Salary/Wages	\$ 8,816
Court Office Expense	\$ 1,304
Clerk Office Expense	\$ 124
Misc.	\$ 1,434
TOTAL	\$17,000

2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in either the City's calendar year 2012 budget or provided for in full through a refunding bond ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq.
3. The City requests that the amount of the emergency appropriation be excluded from CAPS pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-45.3.c (1).
4. An emergency note not in excess of \$16,000 is hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-51.
5. The emergency note authorized herein, if issued, shall be executed by the Mayor and the Acting Chief Financial Officer of the City and attested by the Town Clerk.
6. The Chief Financial Officer of the City is hereby delegated the authority to sell and award the note, if any, and such notes, if issued, may be renewed from time to time by the Chief Financial Officer provided that any such renewals shall be payable on or before December 31, 2012.
7. Two certified copies of this resolution shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.
8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED: September 12, 2011

Mayor DelVecchio asked if there were any questions regarding resolution 146-2011. There being no further questions from the public he asked for a motion. Council President Stegman made a motion to approve Resolution 146-2011. Councilman Sanders seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote in favor of the motion was taken by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

UNITED WATER WILL BE PRESENT TO DISCUSS THEIR OPERATIONS.

Mayor DelVecchio stated that he asked representatives to attend to address the time table for action taken, possibility of human error, the spill way, and is there a notification system in place. Jim Mastrokalos was present from United Water. He introduced Ronald von Autenried, PE., BCEE of Buck Seifert & Jost, Inc., the Engineer specializing in Water & Wastewater for United Water. Mr. Mastrokalos informed the members of the public that United Water balanced efforts to limit risk and maintain adequate water supply, which included water for the fire hydrants.

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Mr. Mastrokalos provided a hand out to the members of the public. They also had a chart and a board with talking points on them that the public asked for copies to be posted to the City's website.

The time line was reviewed with the members of the public. United Water opened an emergency operations center in New Jersey as well as monitored the situation from Boise, Idaho to ensure the local team had access to a full array of corporate resources if needed. They monitored the weather and began to incrementally release water from the reservoir beginning at 6 am on August 25 to allow for 25% release of water. At 6 am on August 26, they removed an additional stop plank which allowed the spillway to be open to 50%. At 7:30 am on August 27, they removed all remaining stop planks and the spillway was fully open. By 4 pm on August 27, the reservoir had been lowered two feet, which is the maximum possible amount to protect the dam integrity and source of supply. The graph reflected an increase in water between the hours of 11 pm on August 27 and 1 am on August 28th. During this time, the reservoir level rose two feet. Mr. Mastrokalos informed the members of the public that he called the City's OEM and Hunterdon OEM at 1:30 am to inform them of the dam warning. He also stated that the State of New Jersey's Department of Environment Protection participated in their decision making process. United Water is required to have every step approved by DEP. Mr. Mastrokalos stated that this was an event much like Floyd, only in Floyd, we were in a drought situation and Hurricane Irene produced 2 more inches of rain than Floyd.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

The Meeting Room of the Justice Center was packed with members of the public who wanted to express their concerns.

Members of the public expressed the following:

- concern for a release of water,
- procedure of United Water in preparation of the storm,
- concern for the way the community was notified,
- concern for elderly persons and handicapped personnel,
- where the run off water came from,
- personal losses, concern for property damage was discussed.

Discussion ensued. The following people spoke regarding concerns for the way United Water handled the planning of and notification of the warning for Hurricane Irene: Elisa of Route 518, Pat Barnett of Ferry Street, Donna Murphy of South Union Street – questioned if the release of water was smart and referenced Lake Wallenpaupack's decision to not release water during the storm, Sara Scully of Jean Street, Lee Angevine owner of a property on Curley Lane, Wendy Robert of North Franklin Street, John and Caren Franzini of North Union Street – who mentioned they saw a wall of water rush down Swan Street, Michael

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Levitis – North Franklin Street, Ryan Spreen of Clinton Street, David Morgan of Lamberts Hill, Steve Robbins of South Franklin Street, John of 80 York Street, Georgene Young of Village Apartments, Shanice Bushnell of Village Apartments, Mark Donlon of 1 Washington Street, Jerry Steever of York Street, Bob Dahl of Wilson Street, Dan Connelly of Grants Alley, Doug Gravier of South Union Street and Dorothy Hartel of York Street.

Helen Pettit of 6 Buttonwood Street, an engineer, stated that the storm intensity created a flash flooding event. The retention and detention facilities established in areas aggravated the flow of water down stream.

Dave Burd – OEM Coordinator, reviewed the procedure for evacuations. Once it is determined that residents are in danger of flooding, the police and/or volunteers knock on doors and distribute a flyer containing information specific to the event. This is also posted on the home page of the website and sent out through the list serve. Members of the public were encouraged to sign up for the list serve by signing onto the City's website at www.lambertvillenj.org and going to the Email Notices tab on the mast head.

Mayor and Council decided to do the following:

1. Form a Communications Committee to review and determine ways to communicate when the City does not have power. The Mayor announced the following people will be on the committee: John Livingston and Sara Scully.
2. Write a letter to BPU asking for a review of the policy and procedure followed and an investigation to determine if it could have been handled better or differently by United Water.
3. Ask United Water for assistance with:
 - a. Clean Up of Swan Creek
 - b. Notifications during a storm prior to the issuance of a warning
 - c. Modeling
 - d. Works with a sub committee/early planning
4. Ask the City's Engineer to
 - a. Look into where the water flowing into Ely Creek is coming from,
 - b. Review the inadequacy of the storm drains with the City Engineer.

Members of the public expressed interest in the continuance of a dialogue with United Water and the City regarding the recent storms. Mayor DelVecchio invited people to attend the regular sessions of Mayor and Council and to sign up for the list serve through the City's website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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FREE RABIES CLINIC is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 1-3 pm at the Union Fire House.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. with a motion made by Council President Stegman, and seconded by Councilman Sanders. An affirmative roll call vote was taken by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Ege

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk

Approved at the regularly scheduled session of September 19, 2011.