



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
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## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Friday, September 8, 2017

1:30 PM

Council Chambers

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#### SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Public Notice - - THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND SOUND ACTIVATED PAGERS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS DURING MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**

Items on this agenda are for Council's information only. Council may give direction to the City Manager, but no other action will be taken and no public comment will be solicited.

**A. Mayor Joe McComb to call the meeting to order.**

Mayor McComb called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

**B. City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta to call the roll of the required Charter Officers.**

City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta called the roll and verified that a quorum of the City Council and the required Charter Officers were present to conduct the meeting.

(Note: Council Member Smith arrived at 1:40 p.m.)

Charter Officers:

City Manager Margie C. Rose, City Attorney Miles K. Risley and City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta.

**C. BRIEFINGS:**

**1. Update on Hurricane Harvey**

Mayor McComb referred to Item 1, an update on Hurricane Harvey. Mayor McComb thanked the citizens of the Corpus Christi for their outstanding response to the hurricane event. Mayor McComb stated that Corpus Christi was extremely fortunate to avoid any fatalities as a result of the hurricane and that the City's number one goal was public safety. Mayor McComb commended the work of City staff involved in the preparation and response during this event. Mayor McComb discussed the devastation and impact Hurricane Harvey had on surrounding communities and the City's efforts to assist those communities.

City Manager Margie C. Rose stated that the purpose of this item is to provide

information on the activities that occurred before, during, and after Hurricane Harvey. City Manager Rose addressed the communications that occurred between the City Manager and City Council and the City's reporting on the event through social media.

Fire Chief Robert Rocha provided a brief overview of the presentation including: pre-storm preparations; actions taken during the hurricane; post-storm strategies; damage assessment; preliminary estimated costs associated with the storm; important timelines; and next steps in the recovery process.

John Metz, National Weather Service (NWS) Corpus Christi, provided the following information: facts on Hurricane Harvey; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) post storm aerial surveys of impacted areas; first weather briefing on August 18, 2017; NWS weather briefing on August 21, 2017; the genesis of the Hurricane Harvey; a radar depiction of the landfall; the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale; photos of wind and surge damage in Corpus Christi; peak storm surge analysis; photos of the impact of wind and storm surge in hard impact areas of Rockport, Aransas County, Port Lavaca, Port Aransas, Aransas, Lamar; estimated impacts of Harvey; and a history of floods. Mr. Metz stated that the hurricane season is now at its peak point and reminded the public to continue to remain prepared.

Emergency Manager Billy Delgado highlighted pre-storm preparations at each Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation level and preparations outside of the EOC. Deputy Fire Chief Richie Quintero discussed the assisted evacuation efforts for relocating residents to shelters in San Antonio; the activation of the refuge team; and post-storm damage assessment activities. Interim Executive Director of Utilities Dan Grimsbo reported on water and wastewater operations affected during the storm

Fire Chief Rocha stated that the next section of the presentation was related to significant issues post-storm including: debris removal; restoration of services; emergency repair of buildings and lift stations; and emergency mutual aid to neighboring communities.

Interim Executive Director of Utilities Dan Grimsbo reported on the following: wastewater operations; maintenance of lines operations; and gas operations. Director of Solid Waste Operations Lawrence Mikolajczyk provided an update on Solid Waste Services including: the debris recovery; post event assistance for debris pick-up; the debris management sites; current storm debris collections; and the impact of Hurricane Harvey to the Cefe Valenzuela Landfill. Director of Street Operations Andy Leal addressed the following street operations: the maintenance of traffic signals and signs; pavement clearing; support to the Police Department, Fire Department, and Solid Waste Department; and reporting of damaged residential street lights to AEP. Interim Director of Development Services Bill Green discussed the following topics: the damage assessment impact to private community and public facilities; windshield damage assessment to private property; and the initial damage assessment to City facilities. Director of Engineering Services Jeff Edmonds provided the following information regarding damages to Packery Channel: satellite images and photos of erosion damage; the transmission water line break; and structural damage. Mr. Edmonds discussed the FEMA repair completion schedule and preliminary cost estimates for personnel, facilities

and equipment.

Deputy Chief Quintero provided the timeline of the repatriation of evacuees. Emergency Manager Billy Delgado provided an overview of post storm assistance calls and volunteer coordination.

Fire Chief Rocha stated that the next steps include: finalizing the city's damage assessment; completion of disaster summary outline for FEMA reimbursement; FEMA's establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center; FEMA's outreach to affected areas; door-to-door damage assessments conducted by the Red Cross; Ben Garza Gym provided for a Red Cross Shelter; continuing debris collection; review of procedures and protocols related to the storm; continuing to provide mutual aid to neighboring communities; review of contract management; and undergoing facility review.

City Manager Rose stated that residents can continue to expect that the City of Corpus Christi will continue to remove debris and repair damages to signage and traffic signals. City Manager Rose discussed the issues with utilities during the storm and reported that all utilities are operational.

Council members and staff discussed the following topics: appreciation to first responders, emergency operations and city staff; the FEMA maximum reimbursement; FEMA eligible expenses for recovery; how decisions are made to open a shelter; the reason for evacuating residents to San Antonio; the difference between a shelter and a refuge of last resort; the activation of refuge teams at the domes; registration through 2-1-1 for individuals needing assistance during a disaster event and how this information is communicated to the public; the efforts by AEP to address power outages; the damages to Port Aransas and Mustang Island and the City's assistance to help those communities; damages to maintenance barn on Mustang Island; improving communications with the various EOC operations being conducted in the City; the issues resulting in the overflow of the lift station at the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant; the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) waiving regulatory issues on wastewater actions during a declaration of emergency; Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant being the only plant with an overflow; previous council discussions regarding the decision to renovate the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant instead of closing it down; safety concerns regarding the EOC building and a future assessment of the building; whether City Hall is a safer location for EOC operations; Red Cross operations at the Ben Garza Gym; better identification of debris pickup zones; fact checking related to comments made by citizens regarding the FEMA domes and conditions at Ben Garza Gym; review of generators at O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant; the need for additional locations for citizens to receive sand bags; the radio stations dedicated to emergency notifications; providing the City Council with an update on the projects identified in the damage assessment; predictions on the storm by the NWS; addressing construction zones where materials were not removed by contractors; coordination with other entities; emphasizing to the public personal responsibility to take care of self and family members during a hurricane; collecting debris as soon as possible to limit fire hazards and additional damage; a missed opportunity to have emergency management provide an update on the impending storm at the August 22, 2017 Council meeting; neglecting to inform the community of a previous decision made by FEMA to no longer provide shelters in the City of Corpus Christi; effective

communication with council members; having Human Resources generate a report of employees in danger zones; providing a list to City Council of employees impacted by the storm; the ability to have elected officials more engaged in the emergency management process, especially post-storm; a detailed timeline of EOC actions to include what happened, what went well, and improvements are needed; and contributions to the the Mayor's Hurricane Harvey fund.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.