

M I N U T E S
City Council Emergency Meeting
September 24, 2010
12:00 noon
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Brian McAlister, Jeff Austin, Steve King, Marian Clennon. Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Members Pacholl and Martin.

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Hurm, Tom Dankert, Jeanne Howatt, Jon Erichson, Craig Hoium, David Hoversten, Brian Krueger.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald.

City Engineer Jon Erichson gave an update on the flood situation. The gauge at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is at 20.4 feet and has gone up only just a little bit from this morning. He said this is the fourth highest flood of record, falling right behind the flood of 2008. Turtle Creek is stabilized. Cedar River is stabilized. Dobbins Creek is going down a little. The work schedule has been very busy. Yesterday the crews worked around the clock, and that has not stopped. The improvements made at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is a focus point, since 2004 have paid off; there are no issues at all other than flows. Normally over two million gallons come from Hormel and four million gallons from everyone else. The flow has consistently been 15 to 20 million gallons for the last 24 hours. There are no pump issues or capacity problems. The dike height and berthing has been perfect. The collection crew has been out pumping at various locations. There have been very few sewer backups. The department crews have been sandbagging, furnishing bags, putting up barricades. The public needs have been handled very well, and we have been able to stay ahead of everything. The next steps will require crews on Saturday and Sunday as we open up roads and perform mud cleanup. Mr. Erichson noted that if we don't get this done right away, the job gets really difficult. The next steps are the collection of sandbags and picking up flood-damaged debris. The City will pick up debris free of charge but we will require sandbags to be delivered into the street. The flood-damaged debris must go to a sanitary landfill; in the past we have delivered the debris to Lake Mills, Iowa and there is a cost with this. If the City declares an emergency and we are eligible to receive funding, there will be a reimbursement as we have had in the past. The reimbursement is 75% from FEMA, 15% from the State. State reimbursements take years to receive; we are still owed from 2008. And the local cost share is 10%. Mr. Erichson said we could be looking at a total cost of \$50,000 for this flood with \$7500 potential cost to the City.

Police Chief Brian Krueger said officers have been taking hourly readings. At 11:00 am today, the Cedar River was at 20.4 feet, and at 11:45 am it was at 20.3. Turtle Creek is stable at 7.2 and

7.3 feet. Dobbins Creek has gone down over a foot in the last five hours. And Cedar River at Ramsey Dam has gone down over a foot in two hours.

Moved by Council Member Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution giving consent and approving the Mayor's Declaration of Local Emergency dated September 24, 2010. 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution approving pick-up service for flood-damaged materials. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm said he was amazed at the way the community has handled this flood emergency. He thanked the Police Department, Street Department and staff who helped.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting.

Adjourned: 12:11 pm

Approved: October 4, 2010

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____