

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty and Councilman Nicholas W. Foglia were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark Gleason; General Manager, Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel, Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance, Fire Chief Scott Skinner and Police Chief Ron Boisvert.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with and accept the minutes from the previous City Council Meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council that he wanted to update the Council regarding the action taken by the City Administration in response to Hurricane Irene.

On Thursday, August 25, 2011 the progress of Hurricane Irene and the effects of this hurricane would have on the City of Watervliet are being tracked.

On Friday, August 26, 2011, Mr. Gleason met with the Department of Public Safety and Department of Public Works to review the City's Emergency Action Plan and organize our implementation of them. Our DPW and Water Dept. spent the rest of the day preparing for the storm. Mr. Gleason noted that the preparation included fueling all vehicles along with locating all equipment such as chain saws and pumps. The Sanitation Dept. spent the day clearing all catch basins of debris. Our DPW filled sandbags and stored them a a truck in case of any possible need. The Watervliet High School Superintendant was contacted to inform him that the High School may be needed as a temporary shelter. Police Chief Ron Boisvert will be activating the Robo Call to inform residents of the impending storm and that residents may be asked to evacuate. Mr. Gleason further explained that the City was informed by the Albany County Emergency Service Team (John Layton) that the City could expect up to 6 – 10 inches of rain on Sunday the 28th. Additionally the City should expect wind gusts of up to 30 – 65 miles per hour.

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, the Department of Public Works and the Water Department personnel work on Hillside Drive and Wiswall Avenue strengthening our storm water protection in the area.

On Sunday, August 29, 2011 Tropical Storm Irene hits. The Department of Public Works and the Water Department personnel monitor all storm water hot spots and keep them clear of debris. The Upper/Lower Dam is checked regularly by Police Chief Ron Boisvert and the Police Department. At this time the Fire and Water Departments begin responding to residents who report water in their basements. By the time the storm is over City personnel pumped out over 200 basements in the cellar. At 7:30 P.M. Police Chief Ron Boisvert, Fire Chief Scott Skinner and himself are called to a meeting at the Albany County Emergency Services Center.

We were informed at this meeting that the Hudson River will crest at 27' on Monday, August 30, 2011 by no later than 2:00 P.M. Chief Boisvert, Chief Skinner and Mr. Gleason review the City's elevation and conclude that Broadway from 23rd Street to the Bike Trail entrance could flood. The Watervliet Housing Authority is informed that they should prepare to evacuate the Hilton, Quinn, Joslin and Michael J. Day apartments complexes. Matt Ethier of the Watervliet Housing Authority sends out a Robo Call asking their residents to prepare for a possible evacuation. Police Chief Ron Boisvert sends out a press release about the possible evacuation and organizes a door to door evacuation (if needed).

On Monday, August 29, 2011 the storm passes. On Interstate 787, Exit 8 which is the 23rd Street exit is closed to north bound traffic. The access from the City to Green Island from 23rd Street and 25th Street is closed off due to 3 – 5 foot of water. At this point a meeting is conducted with Mayor Michel P. Manning to discuss the damage left by Hurricane Irene and also to review the emergency action plan. This meeting included the City, Watervliet Housing Authority and the Superintendent of the Watervliet City School District. At this point Police Chief Ron Boisvert activates the Emergency Action Plan for the Watervliet Reservoir. The Hill Towns in Albany County received up to 10 inches of rain compared to the 5 inches in the Capital District. The power is cut to the Hydroelectric Plant Facility as well as the Pump House which pumps the water 21 miles to the Water Plant in Latham, NY. Mr. Gleason explained that the City has a 4 day supply of water at the Filtration Plant. Mr. Gleason then noted that as the water raises tons of debris builds up on our dock in Hudson Shores Park. The 23rd Street exit is then closed to all traffic north and south bound. At approximately 4:00 P.M. the catch basins along Broadway begin to overflow with storm water. The homeowners and businesses basements along Broadway begin to fill up with storm water backup. The City then shuts down Broadway from 13th Street to 3rd Avenue. A press release was sent out detailing the closing of Rt. 32 and exit 8. The information is placed on Vliet Channel 17 along with the City's website. At 4:15 PM the Hudson River crests at 27.05 feet which is 5.5 feet above flood stage the highest its been since 1948.

On Tuesday, August 30, 2011 the cleanup has begun. The hardest hit area is in Hudson Shores Park. Police Chief Ron Boisvert and General Manager Mark Gleason attend a briefing at the Albany County Emergency Services in the City of Cohoes. Congressman Paul Tonko was in attendance for this meeting. Congressman Tonko informs all in attendance that he is working to have the Capital District declared a Federal disaster area. Mr. Gleason then states that at 5:30 PM one water pump is restored at the Pumping Station in Guilderland, NY. The City immediately begins to pump water to our plant in Latham.

On Wednesday, August 31, 2011, President Barack Obama declares Albany County a Federal disaster area. Information as to how to apply is posted to the City's website. The cleanup continues in Hudson Shores Park. The City decides that Hudson Shores park will be closed until further notice and possibly for the season.

Mark Gleason thanked, William Ashline, Water Department Supervisor, Robert Loya, Recreation Department Supervisor and Police Chief Ron Boisvert for all their hard work with this terrible flooding.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 8748 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the Forbearance Agreement between the City of Watervliet and Donald Clickner and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this will allow Don Clickner to work while the City negotiates a Workers Compensation 207-A agreement. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8749 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby establishes a standard work day for Nicholas W. Foglia, City Councilman for the City of Watervliet for determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System. Before voting Bruce A. Hidley explained that the NYS Retirement System has rejected the previous reporting calendar for Councilman Foglia. The City needs to complete this process by posting the information for three months regarding Councilman Foglia's reporting of time. Additionally, the reporting calendar for Councilman Foglia was updated to meet the Retirement Systems requirements. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted. Councilman Foglia abstained from voting.

RESOLUTION NO. 8750 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet will receive sealed bids on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 until 10:30 A.M. for Contract No. 72-2011, 23rd Street Paving and Pedestrian Signal Improvements Project. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this is the third time the City has gone out to bid for this project. This project has now been scaled down to a mill and fill program with the signal improvements included in the project. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that another Budget Workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011. This budget workshop meeting will focus on the Department of Public Works Highway Garage and the Sanitation Department. Mr. Fahr noted that the public is welcome to attend this Budget Workshop meeting.

Before moving into the Public Comment Period Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council informed all in attendance that the Thursday, September 15, 2011, City Council Meeting has been re-scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Bob Gusberti – 1212 Hillside Drive – Watervliet, New York explained to the Council that he feels the City did a great job in that area with the recent flooding. Mr. Gusberti once again expressed that he feels that Hillside Drive is too narrow. The signs for No Parking are faded. Mr. Gusberti feels that the signs should say No Parking or Standing. Mr. Gusberti would like No Parking or Standing signs placed in this area. Mr. Gusberti feels that the entrance signs for Watervliet should be a lot bigger. Mr. Gusberti also discussed what he feels is a garbage problem in the City. No recyclable bins and garbage bags that you can't see in. Mark Gleason, General Manager noted that the City has been aggressive with garbage issuing a warning letter to problem areas. The City also utilized their Summer/Seasonal employees to distribute letters about the City's recycling program.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council