

MINUTES
OAK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL -- SPECIAL MEETING
October 5, 2016—4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS—TOWN HALL

Present: Mayor Cin Brochure, Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Medlin, Council Members Sheila M. Bell, Charlie K. Blalock, Loman Scott and Jeff Winecoff, Interim co-Manager/Town Clerk Lisa P. Stites and Administrative Support Specialist Debbie Lasek

Mayor Brochure called the Special Meeting to order at 4 p.m. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Hurricane Matthew. Mayor Brochure advised everyone that this meeting topic was changed due to the approaching storm. This will be an open discussion with council and staff. She also said this storm now does not appear to be headed to making a landfall in our county.

Ms. Stites reported on the conference call with Brunswick County and the National Weather Service; they reported that though this is a favorable track, this storm has not been consistent but they are looking at a favorable path. She advised everyone to stay abreast of all updates. Voluntary evacuation of visitors starting tomorrow at 9 a.m. as the saturation inland may lead to flooding. The County will consider its own plan by Friday. There will be another conference call today at 5 p.m. She would like each department head to address specific preparations.

David Kelly, Public Services Director: Mr. Kelly reported that the first round of preparations have been completed, all equipment checked and streets ready. He also reviewed the rules regarding pumping water off streets; if it reaches 14 inches they are allowed to pump. It must be manned the entire time it is pumping. They have no plans to shut off water or sewer, and he sees no need to do that at this time. He has discussed with Brunswick County regarding the utilities. Ponds have all been lowered at the golf course as flow has been slowed. Councilor Bell asked at what point the sewer would be shut down; he said storm surge along the beachfront would be a factor, or if there were a lot of flooding in an area. The Yaupon area is easier to isolate, but they have no plans to do that just for a storm. They have a rotating shift of three crews for the storm, and each one has a backhoe operator and 2 workers and he plans to have them here throughout the storm. They also conducted a beach review this morning, from the Baptist Assembly to West End via helicopter (Caswell Beach will share in the cost). They videoed for record, and will do it again Monday post storm. Mayor Pro Tempore Medlin asked if typically there would be piles of debris from this storm which may overwhelm the employees. Mr. Kelly said they have already have a contractor set up; he has contacted them and they are ready. He also said there are five sites to which people can bring their debris. Ms. Stites said there is a number that people can call for information. Surveys will be done of the entire town for damage, debris collection, etc. Mr. Kelly added the damage assessment team will also be monitoring. Councilor Winecoff asked about the Damage Assessment Team; Ms. Stites said a list is maintained and there training every spring before storm season. Mayor Pro Tempore Medlin asked about elderly and invalid residents; in the event of a heavy flood event.

Chris Anselmo, Fire Chief: Chief Anselmo said the Fire Department has a response plan for weather events with mandatory call backs for staff and all equipment checks completed. Persons with special needs are now under the Brunswick County Special Needs program. There is information on the Town website, or they can contact the Fire Department to make sure they are on the County's list. There is a form to complete, and Brunswick County will contact them and ensure that they get to a family member or to a shelter. The County has an employee who ensures that everyone on the list is contacted and interviewed to ascertain the details of their situation and make arrangements accordingly. The Fire Department is often contacted to assist. Mayor Pro Tempore Medlin asked if this information could be on Channel 8 and the website, and wants to ensure that all citizens know about this program. Ms. Stites said it was already available there but could be promoted. Chief Anselmo said that the County has each person

listed by district so they are not forgotten. Mayor Brochure asked if the information were needed, the local Fire Department could get that list from the County; Chief Anselmo said that the County updates it annually and ensures that all information is current. In the past, there were several different agencies involved and information was not updated. By having only Brunswick County EMS administer the program, it ensures all the information is up-to-date. He does not know exactly how they check on each person registered, but he knows that in a situation like this, the administrator and his staff will contact everyone involved in each district.

Steve Edwards, Development Services Director: Mr. Edwards said he is really the post-storm department, but they have sent out broadcasts to contractors and have advised them to secure their sites and double their silt fencing. He has also advised them if they are next to sensitive areas, to take care to ensure those areas are protected. His department met this morning regarding post storm plan and assessment, with using the Disaster Response Team. He explained the role of the team. He has had staff prepare their vehicles, and they are ready. Mayor Brochure confirmed that the assessment team would have to complete their duties before traffic was allowed back on the island if the bridges were closed. They may only call in a portion of the disaster assessment team; these team members would be the only persons allowed back on the island to do damage assessment. Councilor Winecoff asked if they had been in touch with realtors about putting up polycarts; he plans to do that. Planning and Zoning Coordinator Jake Vares reported meeting with the NCDOT that morning; if there is any damage to roads, they do have maintenance people to do repair but they are short staffed. They advised that the DOT would not stop the Town if it needed to do work to open roads or remove trees.

Answering a question from the audience, Ms. Stites said that there is not a Town radio station but that the Town will update information at 910-201-8088. There will also be updates on the website, www.oakislandnc.com. There is also a new Twitter account.

Rebecca Squires, Parks & Recreation Director: Ms. Squires reported that several events have been cancelled, including the new kayak launch at Bill Smith Park which has been rescheduled for the 20th. Staff has removed debris and signs at parks, and have photographed facilities in case there will be damage. They are looking at closing the Rec Center on Saturday, and all outdoor facilities will close over the weekend. The sign is also available for evacuation notices. They are ready. Mayor Brochure mentioned that evacuation signs would be at the bridges. Also, the golf course also has offered the use of its sign. Mayor Brochure added that social media could be utilized. The Veterans Fishing Tournament has also been postponed until the 21st.

Greg Jordan, Police Chief: The Chief reported the Department is following its plans, and is in the preparatory stage until under a watch or warning. Vehicles are prepared, fully fueled and on standby. Staff has been notified of shift changes. They are prepared for evacuation if necessary. His plan is to put up evacuation notices wherever he can; going street to street is not effective as they are not heard. He will also use Facebook and Twitter. There are no plans to close the bridges unless he is told differently; unless the wind makes it too dangerous, they have no desire or plans to close. They have been operating under a state of emergency since 6 a.m. yesterday when the Governor called it. Officers will be on the street as soon as safe to assess damage, and will check on houses that appear to be damaged or to identify any hazards. Their Facebook page has several links that offer preparedness tips. Councilor Blalock asked about Code Red; Chief Anselmo explained that it is a County program that basically is a notification system. It's an app on your phone that allows you to receive County messages; they can send messages to only a specific municipality or to the entire county. A link to this service is also available on the Town's website. He explained that the information will be based on the address listed by the participant, and that it may result in data charges. The intent of usage is only for items of importance. Also, the Fire department will clear a street of trees; the rest will then be handled by Public Works. An audience member commented that Code Red has had some unfavorable reviews and asked if it has improved; Chief Anselmo said he has had it for one month and has had fairly quick notifications so far. Ms. Stites said she

would add a link on the Town's home page. Chief Anselmo explained that the WebEOC is not intended for the public but is for communications to the County, who would then contact the Town before putting the information on Code Red. He advised the Council to let him know if anything needs to go on WebEOC, whether it is flooding or evacuation, and he will have it put on. Chief Jordan was asked about bridge closing; he said it is more dependent on all conditions rather than just 40 mph sustained winds. He added that it would be the Mayor's decision, but if he won't let his officers cross, then no one else should. If there is an evacuation, the bridge will not close until after the evacuation. Mayor Brochure added that they must coordinate with Caswell Beach. Ms. Stites said a message would be sent out to citizens out in all ways possible.

Ms. Stites advised everyone to be prepared and to pay attention, saying if people plan to leave, it would be best not to wait until Friday night. Mayor Brochure advised that this is a fluid situation, and there would be another conference call tonight at 5:00. Ms. Stites then explained to Council that, with a mandatory evacuation, the Administration would work out of the police department at the Emergency Operations Center if necessary. Mayor Brochure said she would be there at the EOC and would want all members available by phone. An announcement to return in case of evacuation would be sent to local outlets and media.

Mayor Pro Tempore Medlin made a motion to adjourn at 4:47 p.m., Councilor Bell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cin Brochure, Mayor

ATTESTED: _____

Lisa P. Stites, CMC
Town Clerk

Clerk's Statement: Minutes are in compliance with the open meetings laws. The purpose of minutes per the open meetings laws is to provide a record of the actions taken by a Council or a Board and evidence that the actions were taken according to proper procedures. All actions of the Council are recorded in the official minutes. Not all portions of Town of Oak Island meetings are recorded verbatim in the official minutes, with general discussion items, reports, presentations, and public comments being paraphrased or summarized in many instances. Public comments in writing should be submitted to the clerk via hard copy, electronic mail, or other means so as to ensure an exact verbatim account. The Town of Oak Island provides full coverage of meetings on Government Channel 8 so that the Citizens and the Public may view and listen to the meetings in their entirety.