MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Emergency Meeting of The City Council

November 8, 2022

An Emergency City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, in Cocoa City Hall, in City Council Chambers, located at 65 Stone Street, in Cocoa, Florida, 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Opening Matters:

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chief Lamm provided the invocation and Mayor Blake led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The City Clerk took the roll.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	Lavander Hearn	Deputy Mayor
	Rip Dyal	Councilmember
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney (attended via phone)
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Carie Shealy	City Clerk

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Samantha Senger, Asst. to the CM/PIO; Evander Collier, Chief of Police; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director/Acting Growth & Economic Development Director.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. **Agenda:** Special Meeting of November 8, 2022. (22-677)

2. **Minutes:** n/a

Mr. Smith requested that the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 15-2022, which is on the November 9, 2022 agenda, be postponed to a time certain of either November 29, 2022 or December 13, 2022, in order to preserve the advertising.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Dyal, to amend the agenda to postpone the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 15-2022, which is on the November 9, 2022 agenda, to a time certain of December 13, 2022.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

None.

IV. Delegations:

None.

V. Consent Agenda:

None.

VI. Public Hearings:

None.

VII. Council Business:

None.

VIII. City Business:

1. Approval of Resolution 2022-120, declaring a State of Emergency due to impending disaster conditions and the potential of Subtropical Storm Nicole. (22-676). (City Manager)

City Manager Whitten advised that the City Attorney was on the phone. This meeting is being held to approve two emergency resolutions as well as cancel tomorrow night's City Council meeting.

City Manager Whitten reviewed what the resolution entailed and pointed out that everything was outlined in the resolution.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Koss, to approve Resolution 2022-120, declaring a State of Emergency due to impending disaster conditions and the potential of Subtropical Storm Nicole.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. Approval of Resolution No. 2022-121, Authorizing the City Manager and Finance Director to sign any contracts and amendments from the Florida Division of Emergency Management related to Tropical Storm Nicole Reimbursement. (City Manager)

City Manager Whitten reiterated the reason for these resolutions and noted that this was authorizing the City Manager or Finance Director to sign any contracts or amendments that affect purchases or emergency purchases during the storm.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Councilmember Dyal, to approve Resolution No. 2022-121, Authorizing the City Manager and Finance Director to sign any contracts and amendments from the Florida Division of Emergency Management related to Tropical Storm Nicole Reimbursement.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

3. Cancellation of the November 9, 2022 City Council meeting. (City Manager)

City Manager Whitten announced that there is a Swearing In Ceremony on November 22nd and a Regular meeting on November 29th. All of these items could be moved to the meeting on November 29, 2022.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to cancel and reschedule the meeting on November 9, 2022 to November 29, 2022.**

Councilmember Koss asked if that meeting would include the item on J & K Septic to Sewer. In response, City Manager Whitten stated it would, as it was going to be walked on tomorrow night.

She voiced her concern that there could possibly be new Council members at the next meeting. That was an important item for a new council to deliberate on and the public had spoken.

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins

NAYES: Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED (4-1)

Multi-Year Contracts:

IX. Informational Agenda:

X. Reports:

Chief Lamm provided an update on the storm and shared what the projections were at the moment. He advised that around 2 p.m. tomorrow the wind and storm gusts will begin to have an impact. They are predicting that when it hits the coast it will be a Cat.1 and feeder bans will stretch to the Carolina's. The prediction for rain is about four to six inches but there will be some storm surge in the Indian River Lagoon. Public Works has been checking on storm drains and other City crews are making sure all areas of the City are in good shape as far as utilities, roadways, etc. The EOC will be staffed starting tomorrow and they will re-access as the storm moves through.

Mayor Blake asked about the retention ponds and in response, Mr. Smith assured him all of the ponds were in good shape.

Deputy Mayor Hearn asked if the Riverwalk Project road would be closed on River Road. He was advised yes, as there is erosion in that area.

Further discussion was held on other specific areas of the City and if issues had been worked out since the last storm. Staff assured Council that areas of concern were being checked on.

Mr. Walsh spoke about the wellfield. He advised it was stable but not fully recovered as it is still exposed and with another water event, there could be additional damage. Concrete is being delivered tomorrow morning but he

explained where it drains and stated it was hard to predict what may or may not stay up.

Mayor Blake asked citizens to respect the storm, such as getting medications, taking photos of your home, getting important papers/passports/birth certificates, and freeze bottles of water. Also, in case of a loss of electricity, to fill up your bath tub up with water. Additionally, ensure that you have enough food for pets.

Chief Lamm added that grounds are still very saturated from Hurricane Ian and other rains we have had. There is a good possibility that we can have more trees down this storm due to the wet grounds.

Lastly, FEMA reimbursements were discussed and Chief Lamm stated that it was made very clear that 214's and expenses have to be split out from Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole. They cannot be combined. Reimbursements are only good for one event.

In closing, Mayor Blake asked all to be safe.

XI. Adjournment:

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to adjourn the Emergency Meeting of November 8, 2022.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie E. Shealy, MMC, City Clerk

CITY OF COCOA FLORIDA SEAL