



**CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

May 26, 2009 Special Meeting Regarding Flooding

7:00 PM

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PURSUANT TO SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES, IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS PUBLIC MEETING, SUCH PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, SUCH PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, INCLUDING THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY, SUCH AS A VISION, HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENT, OR PERSONS NEEDING OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE, AND WHO WISH TO ATTEND CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS OR ANY OTHER BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETING MAY CONTACT THE CITY CLERK IN WRITING, OR MAY CALL 677-0311 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING AVAILABLE AIDS AND SERVICES. LISTENING DEVICE AVAILABLE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED.
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**A G E N D A**

- 1) Meeting Call to Order by Mayor Fred Costello.
- 2) Invocation
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Presentation:
  - a. Overview of Storm Event
  - b. Stormwater Program Status
  - c. Future Mitigation Actions
  - d. Assistance Available
- 5) Determine Immediate Needs of Residents
- 6) Resolution No. 2009-81

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF ORMOND BEACH; RATIFYING A PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE MAYOR ON MAY 22, 2009; EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN DAYS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RETAIN AN OMBUDSMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT; AND SETTING FORTH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 7) Public Comment
- 8) Close the Meeting

Item #1 – Meeting call to order  
Mayor Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item #2 – Invocation  
The invocation was given by Mayor Costello.

Item #3 – Pledge of Alliance  
Mayor Costello led the Pledge of Alliance.

Mayor Costello explained Agenda Item #5 was when the citizens could suggest ways the City government could alleviate any immediate needs, and citizens would be allowed to speak during Agenda Item #7, public comment. He stated that Congressman Mica and

Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmos were in the area and were working diligently to get the approvals from President Obama to make this the type of disaster that allows individuals to receive financial assistance.

Item #4(a) – Overview of Storm Event

Assistant City Manager Ted MacLeod stated the City received 27 inches of rain during the seven day event. He explained that the City's code required new development be designed for a 25 year storm event, which was nine inches in 24 hours. He stated in 1998, the Stormwater Management Master Plan adopted minimum design standards which identified levels of service for areas within the City to prevent flooding of homes; the level of service allowed for partial road flooding. He reviewed charts of the rainfall which showed a half of a year's rainfall was received within a week; the 100 year storm for a seven day duration was seventeen inches, so the 27 inches within seven days was clearly unprecedented. He stated the City took action by activating the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) once the magnitude of the event became apparent. He stated during the height of the storm ten plumbs were deployed throughout the City, pumping 46,000 gallons a minute; the Bennett Lane pump station was operational from May 17 and had pumped for 234 hours to date, pumping a total of 122 million gallons of water from that pump station. He stated the Police and Community Service Officers were deployed to handle traffic issues, to protect the neighborhoods from looters and wake makers, and to do health and welfare checks and coast patrols to insure no one was in peril. He explained that the Fire Department canvassed areas, conducted evaluations and welfare checks. He stated Public Works handled calls for services, deployed pumps, which required constant attention for maintaining and refueling, deployed barricades, and handled the sandbag operation, distributing 7,000 bags. He pointed out the list of flooded streets and areas which were all over the City.

Item #4(b) – Stormwater Program Status

He reported \$12 million had been spent for stormwater projects since the Stormwater Master Plan was developed in 1998; and in those areas where a lot of improvements were done, the City was spared a lot of flooding. He stated \$8 million in drainage improvements was currently scheduled in the Five Year Capital Improvement Program, including Hand Avenue drainage work and Laurel Creek interconnect of the Central Park ponds; John Anderson Drive; Alcazar, Buena Vista and Seville Street; Allenwood, Ridgewood and Sanchez Avenue; and a city-wide corrugated metal pipe replacement project. He stated that the City Commission approved a \$2 rate increase in the Stormwater Utility Fund to support construction of drainage projects. He explained that one of the major impact areas was Hand Avenue area where St. Johns River Water Management District would not allow the interconnection of the lakes south of Hand Avenue with the lakes on the north side of Hand Avenue; the permit allowed interconnect of the lakes on the north side with Laurel Creek. He stated the hurricanes of 2004 identified the need for considerably more drainage work in this area than previously anticipated; therefore, application was made in 2005 to FEMA for funding to address some of the flood issues; in 2008 notification of grant funding in the amount of \$943,000 was received. He stated that the final design and permitting were expected to be completed in January 2010 with construction starting in July 2010 and that construction should be completed in May 2011.

Item #4(c) – Future Mitigation Actions

Mr. MacLeod stated the current design of the Hand Avenue and Laurel Creek project would be reviewed with the engineers to consider changes based on the experiences with this storm event, other improvements would be investigated to more effectively transfer water downstream to outflow locations, and the need for the lake interconnect would be revisited with St. Johns River Water Management. He discussed the possibility of additional pumping stations to assist in flood control. He stated that intergovernmental coordination with the County and other cities south of Ormond Beach was a major issue, as the drainage from Central Park gravitated both north and south, and the drainage problems of Nova Canal and the 11<sup>th</sup> Street area would be a major undertaking requiring significant coordination. He stated the Laurel Creek pumping station would be considered for additional pumping capacity. He reported staff would meet with the Commission to review all the stormwater projects that were programmed to consider any changes in the prioritization based on recent history and to seek additional funding sources such as FEMA, the State and any stimulus money that's being made available to increase the numbers of project that would be accomplished.

Item #4(d) – Assistance Available

Mr. MacLeod pointed out that assistance was available at two essential service centers; one at the recreation center in Holly Hill, 1046 Daytona Avenue, and another at the Daytona Beach Public Works Training Room, where representatives from the State agencies and other help agencies such as Red Cross and faith-based organizations would be providing food stamps and temporary housing among other services. He stated that if the federal declaration of disaster was received, these would become federal service centers.

Mayor Costello commented that most of the flooding occurred between Nova Road and US1. The Mayor explained the water could not be pumped south of Hand Avenue due to lack of capacity nor could the water be pumped north because the water was up to capacity; therefore, there was no place to put the water. He stated the slide presentation would be posted on the City's website. The Mayor stated 27 inches was a lot of water with 9 inches just on Thursday when he declared an emergency. Mayor Costello stated water could not be pumped north across Division Avenue, Granada Boulevard, Sterhaus, or Wilmette because they were flooded, so the pumping was started at the north in an attempt to get the water flowing. He explained the City had never been allowed to establish interconnects under the roads; but after the effects of this event, approval might come from St. Johns River Water Management District. The Mayor stated that with the permits, ways could be determined to get the water to the north to the Tomoka Basin or south out of the City; therefore, plans were needed on a regional basis to determine ways of moving flood water out of flooded areas.

Commissioner Gillooly thanked all for attending and looked forward to hearing from them. She commended staff for all the hard work that was done. Commissioner Gillooly stated the list of affected areas for Zone 1 included Ormond Lakes, but Zone 1 had other areas that were significantly affected. She asked if federal funding would open other funding opportunities that would allow the necessary improvements to happen sooner.

City Manager Joyce Shanahan stated that typically when a storm event was declared a disaster, often times, a portion of the total disaster was set aside in additional mitigation funds. She explained the funds were set aside to prevent repetitive loss.

Commissioner Gillooly asked if this disaster changed the City's eligibility for stimulus funding.

The City Manager stated our Congressmen and our lobbyist were asked to earmark some funding for stormwater management.

Mayor Costello asked that a letter from Governor Crist requesting a declaration of disaster to President Obama be posted on the City's website for the public to review.

Commissioner Kent state his heart went out to the victims for their difficult situation. He thanked the first responders and Public Works crews who worked tirelessly. He stated he would yield his time because he would like to hear from the citizens. He stated a government was judged on how residents most in need were handled.

Commissioner Kelley thanked staff for their efforts and expressed concern for the citizens. He stated he would yield his time to the citizens because that was what it was about.

Commissioner Partington thanked staff; Public Works, Police, Fire, Administration, and even the Finance Director who explained where the money would go to provide corrective measures. He remarked the empathy from the City Commission was clear by Mayor Costello calling the meeting so quickly, and he appreciated that. He stated he understood from the meeting called by Congressman Mica that eleven families were displaced and 100 homes were damaged. He stated that Congressman Mica said the most rain reported prior to this event was in the month of Oct 1924 when 24.82 inches fell in Volusia County; this event was 27.9 inches in four days, which was unprecedented. He stated that President Obama needed to sign an emergency declaration; Governor Crist already signed two declarations. He reported that when the federal emergency declaration was signed, citizens could call 1-800-621-FEMA for assistance, and a list of entities to assist would be provided. He stated VOTRAN was providing transportation for people to the two recovery centers, and Volusia County was working to get supplies for mosquito control. He stated that any of his suggestions were relayed from citizens. He stated he wanted to consider waiving permit fees for damages caused by flooding, expediting permits, property tax abatement for affected properties, an ombudsman to assist citizens in getting help, and helping people who were feeling overwhelmed. He stated he wanted to consider what could be done to improve the stormwater drainage system.

Mayor Costello asked City Clerk Veronica Patterson to read the entire resolution.

**Commissioner Partington moved; and seconded by Commissioner Kent, for approval of Resolution No. 2009-81.**

Item #5 – Determine Immediate Needs of Residents

Adrian Thompson, 6 Dorado Beach Trail, President of the Pine Trails Homeowners' Association, stated he was approached by residents regarding stormwater drainage problems. He stated the stormwater system had failed because it was not maintained properly. He explained the picture presentation he had brought to show the maintenance done in 2008, which was a band-aid fix; and there were four culverts, none of which were working. He related that residents were concerned that the water was washing out under their homes. He stated that a lot of the flooding could have been prevented by maintaining the system currently installed.

Mayor Costello asked for a report of the maintenance of existing installations in thirty days and asked what part of the \$8 million budgeted in the stormwater plan was the replacements. He requested the City establish an education program for homeowner associations regarding their responsibilities and the City's responsibilities in relationship to maintaining and repairing of the stormwater systems in their subdivisions; the City could inspect the systems for any problems.

Rob Rodriguez, 24 Pine Trail, suggested some immediate needs that would assist the victims were to waive the permit fee for repairs and expedite the process. He stated that the sandbag situation was a problem; 7,000 bags were not enough at ten bags per person. He suggested the City provide a stockpile of bags and sand for citizens to get what they needed, not just ten.

Mayor Costello explained the limit of ten sandbags per trip was a liability issue due to the weight of the bags in most vehicles. The Mayor stated that only Ormond Beach filled the bags and loaded them for the citizens, and he was really proud of the results.

City Manager Joyce Shanahan explained that the weight limitation was the concern, and Public Works had 6,000 sandbags stockpiled, if he needed more.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that if a citizen had a vehicle that could handle the weight of more bags, they should be allowed to have as many as they wanted.

Lanny Harris, 44 Aaron Circle, expressed appreciation for the staff efforts and the sandbags. He stated the Fire Department had to bring out his neighbors to safety. He stated that in 1997 South Daytona established a stormwater management plan, which used one-way valves to drain water into the river. He suggested Ormond Beach contact South Daytona for information about their stormwater management plan.

Mayor Costello explained that this issue was not an immediate need, but he wholeheartedly agreed that the City was going to investigate such possible solutions.

Ian Davies, 18 Lakebluff Drive, stated he had three inches of water in his home and one and one half feet of water in the yard. He stated he wanted to emphasize the importance of maintenance. He explained there was a utility easement behind his house with a ditch beside it where the vegetation built up and caused the water to back up into his house and yard.

Brenda Marshall, 997 Calle Grande Street, stated her house was the only house on her street that was within the City, and she felt ignored. She stated the resource center in Holly Hill couldn't help her, and Ormond Beach does not know she existed. She received a mandatory evacuation order but the only evacuation center opened, which was on Mason Avenue, turned her and her five children away because she did not have five blankets and five pillows. She stated the resource center in Holly Hill turned her down for assistance because she does not receive food stamps. She explained her house was burglarized after she evacuated. She stated she was staying at her house but had to take her children out by boat, while she had water up to her waist, because the house was surrounded by a flooded ditch. She thanked Larry from Public Works who came out in the middle of the night on Tuesday to look at her home; he told her honestly that there was nothing to be done to prevent the flooding so she did elevate her possessions in an attempt to save them from damage.

Mayor Costello asked Ms. Marshall to please wait until after the meeting when either he or someone else would get her help.

**Commissioner Kelley moved; and Commissioner Gillooly seconded, to designate the amount in Section 3 of the resolution be the same amount as in Section 4, which was \$25,000.**

|            |                         |     |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Call Vote: | Commissioner Gillooly   | Yes |
|            | Commissioner Kent       | Yes |
|            | Commissioner Kelley     | Yes |
|            | Commissioner Partington | Yes |
| Carried.   | Mayor Costello          | Yes |

Commissioner Kent expressed his concerns regarding the resource center turning away a displaced resident in need.

Mayor Costello explained that the ombudsman program was for this type of thing; and until someone could be found, the City Manager would handle these situations.

Commissioner Partington asked the Deputy City Attorney to explain the ombudsman program. Although the Commission understood the program, he stated the public needed to understand why an attorney might receive \$25,000 from the City; and if he did, it would be because he had helped the citizens bring in a lot more from which he would take a small percentage as a fee.

Deputy City Attorney Ann-Margret Emery stated the ombudsman program was to help the residents get answers from other agencies. She explained the ombudsman could meet with citizens, individually, to discuss their concerns and help get answers and solutions for them. She stated the ombudsman could not represent the citizens in any law suit. She reported the Volusia County Bar Association would use their website to ask attorneys to volunteer to assist citizens.

Commissioner Gillooly asked if Charles Cino was an experienced ombudsman and why he was chosen.

The Deputy City Attorney stated Mr. Cino had a tremendous amount of experience in the law and particularly, government law; he was the attorney for Flagler Beach; he had done work for both Port Orange and Ormond Beach; and he was a local attorney who was a caring person who was very interested in helping. She stated his office was located on Granada Boulevard.

Commissioner Gillooly stated she wanted the public to know that the ombudsman would help them to get the assistance they needed but could not represent them in a law suit.

Michelle Kinsler, Carter Circle, Daytona Beach, stated she had an issue with the shelter and not being allowed to ask questions about where she could get shelter and clothing for her and her four children.

Mayor Costello asked her to wait until the end of the meeting and someone would help with her concerns.

Steve Burnside, 715 Fleming Avenue, stated information was the most important thing during an emergency event. He suggested giving out pamphlets, putting information on the website and the radio; and telling citizens where to go for help. He stated the City needed to let people know what the options were. Mr. Burnside asked for one community place for the public to go for information.

Mayor Costello asked what sources were best for citizens to get information. He listed the sources that were used, such as the website; even the library had access to the City's website, the radio, and even some flyers were handed out.

The City Manager explained the information was advertised on the television, the radio and the City's website, stating that if citizens were in need of assistance, they should go to the Public Works department, and two phone numbers were listed. She explained that Public Works was staffed through Saturday afternoon.

Mayor Costello stated that United Way was working to establish "211" as the emergency number, and if it was not available yet, it would be soon. He explained the City did not have enough staff to come to each house that might be impacted, but did have enough staff to assist anyone who called or contacted the City to let them know their needs. The Mayor stated that firefighters went to a lot of homes, but could not get to everyone.

Item #6 – Resolution No. 2009-81

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF ORMOND BEACH; RATIFYING A PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE MAYOR

ON MAY 22, 2009; EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN DAYS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RETAIN AN OMBUDSMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT; AND SETTING FORTH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

|            |                         |     |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Call Vote: | Commissioner Kent       | yes |
|            | Commissioner Kelley     | yes |
|            | Commissioner Partington | yes |
|            | Commissioner Gillooly   | yes |
| Carried.   | Mayor Costello          | yes |

Item #7 – Public Comment

Bob Wentz, 38 Aaron Circle, south of Fleming, thanked the City for their excellent efforts during this flood; staff that came out were excellent and did their jobs very well. He stated the only issue he had was with the City’s drainage system maintenance. He explained the City cleaned out the drains last summer, but the movement of the stormwater through the Santa Fe canal to the main creek to the river went over a property on Santa Fe Trail, which was not part of the City, and the property owner would not allow City employees to maintain the stormwater drains on his property. He stated he did not know if maintenance on that portion of drain on this property would have eliminated the flooding, but it probably would have alleviated a lot of the problem by allowing the stormwater to flow from Laurel Oaks, down along Fleming, through Aaron to the retention pond and further south.

Mayor Costello confirmed Environmental Systems Manager Kevin Gray was familiar with the location and stated staff would handle resolving the issue.

William Hernandez, 6 King Phillips Way, Ormond Lakes, thanked the stormwater group employees for coming out to do their job, and stated they handled it well. He stated there was a problem with a lake that drained into their lake that had oversized drains to drain the properties around that lake that had a history of flooding, which overflowed their lake. He stated the pumps brought in by Public Works saved their homes from being flooded by the 14 to 20 inch deep water that was in the streets.

Mayor Costello asked Kevin Gray if this situation could be handled in the recommendation for changes in the next 90 days.

Mr. Gray stated there were options that were being considered to resolve the problem.

Gordon Whitley, 350 Cumberland Avenue, thanked staff and the Commission for their support and stated that although he had been flooded a number of times, he did not get flooded during this event. He encouraged staff to research ways to get FEMA and state funds. He stated this was an emotional and complicated issue, but everyone needed to look at the entire city. He stated concern about pushing water over Wilmette and asked if water could go east.

Mayor Costello explained the river was above the outflow pipes and was pushing water back inland due to a tide from the full moon effects.

Yvonne Phillips, 719 Fleming Avenue, stated there was a lot of property in Central Park that was for sale and asked why the City could not purchase property to dig a ditch and/or build a pump station in Central Park.

Mayor Costello stated that he had asked that question but did not want anyone to think it would happen, even though it was among the options being considered.

Cheryl Coxwell, 91 PineTrail, stated that fortunately, none of the homes on her end of the street flooded, although the streets were. She stated she had a family member who had dealt with a flooding situation and suggested ideas such as possible property tax abatement during the time a property owner was displaced from their home, a monthly follow up with people who have damaged homes to insure they were getting the help they needed and the contractors were not taking advantage of them. She emphasized the importance of communications, suggesting the use of utility bills to deliver emergency information that could be on a magnet that people would keep handy.

The City Manager reminded that people could call the Building Department to confirm that a contractor was permitted to perform the repairs.

Commissioner Partington reported the magnet idea was in process.

Jean Starke, 727 Fleming, stated she lived in the middle of all that's going on and reported there was some miscommunication regarding the sandbags. She explained her neighbor, who owned a big diesel truck, took her husband to pick-up sandbags and was told of the 10 bag limit, even though, the truck could handle much more than 10 sandbags.

Mayor Costello apologized for the confusion.

Mrs. Starke stated her home was on a retention pond on Fleming and the fingers of land on the pond needed to be maintained, as well as resolving the drainage problem.

Tommy Bozeman, 1319 North Beach Street, spoke regarding the sandbags issue, stating when he needed sandbags there was no sand, but at Fire Station #11 in the county, there were bags and sand. He suggested in addition to filled sandbags, the City could have bags and sand available for people to fill and take as many as they needed. He stated the Public Works guys were stretched thin as were all the City's public service personnel, including Police and Fire; and this was another example of why personnel cuts in services areas did not need to happen.

Mayor Costello stated that both options for sandbags would be available for any future events.

Dick Wolff, 678 Hand Avenue, stated that Sunday morning Public Works staff barricaded Hand Avenue at Bryant near Nova Road, and traffic was backed up trying to get home. He suggested that when a street was barricaded to traffic other than residents of that street, a flagman should be at the barricade and the additional cost was worth it. He suggested some effort should be made for mosquito control.

Mayor Costello reported that the City was working with the County on the mosquito issue.

Lura Wilhite, 161 Riverside Drive, stated the properties at 145, 161 and 165 Riverside have had an ongoing problem with an old drainage pipe leading to the river, and the inadequacy of the overall drainage system had been brought to the attention of the City five years ago with no resolution.

Mayor Costello confirmed Ms. Wilhite's property was one he heard about where a neighbor was pumping onto her property. The Mayor stated he wanted a bobcat to open drainage from her property and requested this issue be added to the list of issues to be resolved.

Rosa Morey, 158 Tomoka Ave, stated she just purchased her property but was tending to her niece following surgery who lived at 475 Jeannette, off Orchard, where the flooding made the house unlivable for her niece and her three children. She reported they were staying at the house on Tomoka Avenue, but the roof just caved in. She suggested the flooding could have been avoided by proper maintenance of the gulley, which she understood was a problem issue between the City and Volusia County. She inquired about assistance for the uninsured; if FEMA could not provide assistance.

Mayor Costello stated FEMA and the SBA would make a determination in a couple of days and let the City know.

Ms. Morey stated she loved the magnet idea but suggested when the lights go off and the phones go out, information should be made available at the Police station or the Fire stations; and she suggested a 211 service.

Mayor Costello stated a "211" service should be available soon, and the Police and Fire departments were always places for up to date information.

Mayor Costello stated there would be a five minute recess which ended at 8:53.

Kathie Selover, 3 King Edward Drive, stated there had been a history of flooding problems in her neighborhood; she asked what citizens could do to make sure their problems were corrected and asked if there was a master plan.

Mayor Costello explained that areas where flooding occurred would be taken care of first but the rest would take some time. He stated the City was going to take a proactive approach to prevent this from occurring in the future..

Commissioner Partington stated that needed permits came from the St. Johns River Water Management and that letters from the citizens explaining their flooding problems would help to get the permits.

Ms. Selover stated that citizens would love to help however they could and to let them know what they could do to help. She suggested setting up a twitter account as another way to get information to the public.

Ms. Shanahan stated the Police Department was in the process of setting up a twitter account for that purpose.

Sean Daly stated there should be a designated place to go for information and suggested the Police Department. He stated there should be one emergency management coordinator. He expressed the City should be ashamed that Laurel Oaks was flooded, as the City should not have allowed building in a flood plain. He stated there were lots west of Central Park in the swamps that would not sell, and the City should not allow fill to be brought in. He stated the City needed to rethink what was allowed in the flood plain, and suggested the plat and the deed state that the property was in a flood plain. Mr. Daly stated as an attorney, he would volunteer to assist victims.

Mayor Costello stated that some of what was allowed in the flood plain actually improved the situation and that some scientists agree that compensatory storage was a better calculation than the amount of fill; but if the City authorized a home to be built, the City could not guarantee with 27 inches of rain, the property would not flood.

Dale Reiman, 26 Arroyo Parkway, stated his house flooded and asked what he could do personally to prevent his house from flooding in the future.

Mayor Costello referred Mr. Reiman to Environmental Systems Manager Kevin Gray for assistance.

James Olmstead, 39 Dix Avenue, stated he had a little damage, but Jeanine Flora on Hernandez had a problem with flooding because the storm drain did not work correctly and backed up. He stated that Public Works staff brought a pump to the site and was pumping the water out.

Mayor Costello stated that Hernandez was on the list for corrective action.

Sara Beltrani, 12 Pine Trail, stated she had left message for Public Works on Friday and had never heard from them, and not once did any staff come into their cul-de-sac from Wednesday morning until Saturday morning. She stated that no communication was unacceptable. She stated the joy riders on the street caused damage with the wakes that were left. She stated there should have been firefighters or police manning the streets. She suggested the retention pond, known as Lake Elizabeth, could be dredged.

Mayor Costello stated that was a private retention pond, and therefore, the City could not legally dredge it.

Greg Beltrani, 12 Pine Trail, stated when he went to get sandbags there were twelve people at Public Works; the City did not need twelve people to do sandbags, and the others could have been assisting in other ways. He suggested the fire stations were the best place for public information officers to be located.

Mayor Costello explained, at times, there might be twelve people working because the shifts overlapped, but normally, the whole process required five or six employees at any time.

Cheryl Bryar, 721 Fleming Avenue, stated she could not get out to pick up sandbags, but staff came Thursday to offer assistance, including evacuation assistance. She stated they chose not to evacuate. She stated they have had flooding on their property from the retention pond during other storms, which had created severe erosion in the ditch. She suggested removing the weeds in the ditch and the retention pond, which was a gator nesting area.

Commissioner Kent stated he does not like using a fire station as an information center because the personnel might be on a fire related call; he preferred using the Police Station as the information center. He thanked Mr. Daly for his offer to assist residents.

Mayor Costello thanked the residents for their input and stated the Commission looked forward to the report from staff.

Item #8 - Close Meeting

Mayor Costello adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

APPROVED: June 16, 2009

BY: Fred Costello, Mayor

ATTEST:

Veronica Patterson, City Clerk