

Mayor Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
City Council Members

Mayor Mark D. Boughton called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm on November 15, 2011.

Present were Council Members: Robert Arconti, Philip Curran, Nancy Deep-Damici, Gregg Seabury, Colleen Stanley, Don Taylor, Michael Halas, Joseph Cavo, Thomas Saadi, Fred Visconti, Jack Knapp, Peter Nero, Benjamin Chianese, Paul T. Rotello, Duane Perkins, Joseph Scozzafava and Mary Teicholz

PRESENT: 17 **ABSENT:** 4

Council Member Riley was absent due to illness and Council Members Colla, Nagarsheth and Trombetta were working.

Corporation Counsel Robert Yamin and Deputy Corporation Counsel Laszlo Pinter and Legislative Assistant, Jean Natale, were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Prayer

P.J. Prunty, Community Services Coordinator, led everyone in the room in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Curran led everyone in the room in a prayer.

Jean Natale, Legislative Assistant, read the notice of the Special Meeting.

Council President Cavo moved to accept the call to return to service for the Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Taylor. ***Motion passed by unanimous vote.***

Public Speaking-

There were no members from the public wishing to speak.

Mayor Boughton expressed his thanks to the Council Members and residents for all of the cards and messages of condolence on the loss of his father.

Mayor Boughton also commended Paul Estefan, Director of Civil Preparedness; Antonio Iadarola, P.E., Director of Public Works; Tom Hughes, Superintendent of Construction Services; Wayne Sheppard, Chief of Staff; David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance, Robert Yamin, Corporation Counsel and Laszlo Pinter, Asst. Corporation Counsel for all of their untiring efforts and support coordinating the clean-up efforts.

Item #1 - Public Health and Safety/Debris Removal and Securing of Safe Passage-Storm Alfred Declaration of State/Local Emergency

Council Member Cavo moved to receive the communication and Resolution and to adopt the Resolution as presented, seconded by Council Member Seabury.

Mayor Boughton called upon Paul Estefan, Director of Civil Preparedness to give an overview of the Debris Removal Program. Mr. Estefan started by saying that he has never seen so many trees down in the City as there are from Storm Alfred. Clean-up from Storm Alfred commenced on Monday, November 14, 2011. An ending date for the collection has not been determined at this time.

There were approximately 200 streets blocked by trees and downed wires. It is estimated that there is about 40,000 cubic yards of debris that needs to be collected and disposed of. A memo of understanding is in place with Ashbritt and SAIC (Science Applications International Corp.) 75% of the expense is reimbursable from FEMA, but the City must absorb the remaining 25%.

Mayor Boughton explained that Ashbritt would be the hauler and SAIC is the monitor for the project. Both companies have considerable experience working with FEMA. Residents have been bringing material to Ferris Mulch in Danbury, however they are at near capacity.

Upon questions from several Council Members, Paul Estefan explained that the contract with Ashbritt includes pick-up, grinding and disposal of the material within fifteen (15) miles. Transporting the material further than fifteen (15) miles would incur an additional expense. Ashbritt conducted a tour of the area with a City staff member and determined the estimate of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of debris. Ashbritt and SAIC are the state approved vendors thru competitive bidding. The state contract dictates the terms and conditions. Some temporary, local jobs have been created for the project. Forestry Division staff will accompany the crews to take down hangers that could cause problems with the onset of any snow storms. There are currently six (6) trucks utilized and more are expected within the next few days.

The marketability of the ground material was discussed. Storage of such a large amount of material is a consideration. Ownership of the chipped material will be determined and then avenues of marketability would be investigated.

Condo and other associations doing their own clean-up may qualify for some FEMA reimbursement. Commercial debris does not qualify for any FEMA reimbursement.

The State is assuming the collection for debris on state roads. A schedule of collection dates would be researched.

Private roads would be evaluated for emergency access. One truck with a driver, a monitor and a city staff member would be designated to work on the private roads. The slips would be kept separate from the others and submitted to FEMA in the hope of reimbursement.

David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance, discussed the financial aspects of the project. The City's 25% would come out of the undesignated fund balance and would have no impact on the bond rating. Other non-cash items are reimbursable from Storm Alfred and Hurricane Irene. Detailed accounting records from the various departments are currently kept for submittal. It takes between twelve (12) and twenty-four (24) months to receive reimbursement from FEMA.

A final report of the amount of debris collected, disposal of the chipped material and end date for the collection will be submitted to the Council by Paul Estefan.

Council Member Saadi moved the question, seconded by Council Member Cavo. ***Motion passed by unanimous vote.***

The main motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Boughton extended all committees, congratulated those Council Members who were re-elected and welcomed new Council Members.

As there was no further business to come before the Council, **Council Member Rotello moved to adjourn at 7:26pm**, seconded by Council Member Saadi. ***Motion passed by unanimous vote.***

Respectfully submitted,

Doratheia A. Gulya-Stasny

Attest: Mark D. Boughton