

CM (EMERGENCY) 10-27-12

Minutes of Special Emergency Meeting of Mayor and Council – Saturday, October 27, 2012
Town Hall Council Chambers, 100 Central Avenue
Public Session 9:00 A.M.

Minutes can be viewed at www.townofhammonton.org

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilpersons:

Carpo - Present

Esposito - Present

Furgione - Present

Pullia - Present

Rodio - Present

Torrissi - Present

Mayor DiDonato - Present

PRESENT ALSO

Brian Howell, Town Solicitor

Jerry Barberio, PWM/Business Administrator

This is a Special Emergency Meeting of Mayor and Council held to address the approaching storm currently identified as Hurricane Sandy.

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Special Emergency Procedures set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq. and specifically pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9b. which permits certain meetings to be held notwithstanding the inability to provide adequate notice.

Following an explanation by the Solicitor, the legal requirements for an emergency meeting (namely, approval by three-quarters of the members present; a lack of time to provide adequate notice; all discussions limited to the emergency itself; notice of the meeting provided to the media and public post-meeting; and that the emergency involved the potential for substantial harm to the public interest) a motion was made by Councilperson Torrissi and seconded Councilperson Esposito with all seven members voting in the affirmative to proceed with the emergency meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice was provided to the two local newspapers on the day prior to the meeting (Friday, October 26, 2012). In addition, the administrator arranged for a video tape of the meeting and directed that same be broadcast on Channel 9 and the Town's website, so that the local residents were fully informed of all discussions/plans.

In attendance at the meeting were representatives of the Hammonton Board of Education, the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department, Hammonton Police Department (including dispatch), AtlantiCare (Rescue) and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (and Construction Code Official, Frank Domenico).

1. The Mayor acknowledged the existence of the emergency and urged the public to avoid downed power lines, to stay safe indoors and to refrain from removing storm drains.
2. Business Administrator, Jerry Barberio, provided a live feed to a weather update which indicated that the key portion of the storm would run from late in the afternoon on Monday, October 29, 2012 through midnight with wind gusts in Hammonton reaching near 60 mph. Conditions were expected to improve on Tuesday, October 30, 2012. The total rainfall during the storm would possibly exceed 4 in.
3. Brief presentations were made by representatives of the Rescue Squad, Fire Department and AtlantiCare.
4. AtlantiCare representative indicated that both an ALS (advanced life support) and BLS (basic life support) vehicle would be present in Town.
5. Dispatch and the Police Chief requested that cars be removed from the street so that cleaning of debris can occur.
6. Business Administrator, Jerry Barberio, said that 100 traffic barrels are available. A tree service is on standby. Jerry spoke to Vince Maione of Atlantic Electric
7. Joe Giraldo, HBOE President, indicated that emergency generators were in place at the fuel pumps, which is the refueling location for Town's vehicles. All buses have been refueled, in the event they are needed for transport and they received a water delivery.
8. Residents were advised to continue to monitor Channel 9.
9. Business Administrator, Jerry Barberio, indicated that all Town's systems were at the ready. As of 6:00 a.m. on October 27, 2012 a State of Emergency has been declared for Atlantic County.
10. The Mayor indicated that the DEP had authorized lowering the lake, if necessary.

Motion by Councilperson Pullia, seconded by Councilperson Rodio, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:10 a.m.

Brian Howell, Solicitor/Emergency Deputy Clerk
approved by Jerry Barberio, Business Administrator, Town of Hammonton.