

**FORT MYERS BEACH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2004  
Town Hall-Council Chambers  
2523 Estero Boulevard  
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** A special meeting of the Fort Myers Beach Town Council was called to order on Wednesday, August 18, 2004 by Mayor Bill Thomas.

**Members present at the meeting:** Mayor Bill Thomas, Vice Mayor Garr Reynolds, Councilman Bill Van Duzer, Councilman Howard Rynearson, Councilman Don Massucco.

**Excused absence from the meeting:** None.

**Staff present at the meeting:** Town Manager Marsha Segal-George, Deputy Town Manager John Gucciardo

**II.** Mayor Thomas advised that this meeting had been called because of the necessity to pass some emergency resolutions. He turned the meeting over to the Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager.

Mr. Gucciardo explained that the purpose of the meeting was to request Council to extend the declaration of a local State of Emergency which had been passed last week. State Statute which specifies that such declarations are valid for only a 7-day period unless extended and renewed.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Councilman Van Duzer to extend the State of Emergency on Fort Myers Beach for another 7 day period. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Reynolds.

**VOTE:** Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gucciardo advised that this was the only order of business, but offered to provide an update on some operational items. Captain Greiner of the LCSO was also available to provide information. He advised that there were few negative results at the checkpoint when people were allowed back on the Island, and that the National Guard and deputies are in place on the Island for safety of the residents. Mr. Reynolds complimented Captain Greiner on the pre-qualification process while people waited in line, which he said speeded the process.

Ms. Segal-George advised that supplies from Emergency Operations were delayed but were expected within a few hours. Tarpaulins are in short supply. A secure location for storage will be established under the bridge, and will be distributed to those in need at Town expense. There will be an attempt to insure that people are obtaining supplies for their own personal repairs. A call for roofers has also been issued. Priorities have shifted after becoming operational. Licenses for contractors will be available Friday morning. An expedited building permit process will also be established; permits will be issued at Town Hall. The Town will be putting its own assessment teams together for FEMA so that teams can be sent street by street to obtain information needed for FEMA claims, to expedite these claims. Staff has advised that they want to keep Town Hall open this weekend, even though some have worked daily since the storm.

Mr. Gucciardo explained that he understands from his Emergency Operations contacts that FP&L is sending an additional 80 to 85 trucks via the south end to work on the side streets, although this has not been verified. Ms. Segal-George added that there are still problems with Sprint service and downed lines. ComCast has been contacted regarding restoration of service, and mail service has resumed. Two grocery stores are operational, the 7/11 is open, there is gasoline available, and 2 medical clinics are in operation, so basic services are available including water and sewer. There was some discussion about when power would be restored.

Harold Huber came forward and offered to round up a volunteer group. His telephone number is 463-5829 and his cell phone number is 823-7400 (but he is out of minutes until the 21<sup>st</sup>.) Ms. Segal-George asked him to recruit as many as possible by Friday, and she will contact him.

Councilman Van Duzer commented that he was amazed at what has taken place in a very short time, although other areas of the county are still drastically affected. He referred to the results obtained by the Emergency Management Team, Town Staff, the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, and the subcontractors as "an

absolute miracle" and recommended that everyone should rejoice.

Vice Mayor Reynolds complimented the Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager and those brought in to work after the storm. He said the response has been fantastic. He commented that he hoped people would realize in spite of their frustration how difficult it was for Staff to organize the recovery effort and how well things went together. He complimented several individuals and groups; but his comments were not entirely audible.

Councilman Ryneanson complimented the Emergency Management Team that Ms. Segal-George and Mr. Gucciardo put together and also the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department. He recalled attending all of the meetings, and said that this Island is up and safely running due to their efforts.

Mayor Thomas thanked the citizens for their patience during this emergency and inconvenience. He said that safety and health of the public is the #1 priority, and recalled that everyone worked around the clock. He complimented the entire Staff and added that Fort Myers Beach is a community with something to be proud of, and that it will be up and running in a very short time with everyone pulling together.

Vice Mayor Reynolds stressed that although Council and Staff personnel were on the Island daily while the general public was excluded, their houses are no further along in the cleanup effort than anybody else's. He described some of the damage to his property and pointed out that the efforts of all, including Council and Staff, went toward restoring services and safety on the Island.

It was noted by Mr. Huber that pre-disaster buildback is no longer applicable.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Middlekauff  
Transcribing Secretary