

THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON HELD MAY 21, 2009- 4:00 PM

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: MPT Weber, CM Beeton, CM Fennewld, CM Woods
Absent: Mayor Thomas, CM Mahoney, CM Colbert
Staff: City Manager LeBlanc, City Attorney Green, City Secretary
Lawrence, Director of Grants and Housing Patrick
3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT
None
4. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED HOUSING DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM
MPT Weber opened the PUBLIC HEARING.
Betty Massey, Chair of Recovery Committee, 1602 Ave. O, stated the staff's plan has picked up the essential elements of the Recovery Committee Plan. She stated the need for Green Guidelines for reconstruction.
Chula Ross-Sanchez, 9111 Teichman Rd., Galveston Housing Rehab and Infill Committee, stated the process is about neighborhoods. As an individual, not a committee, Ms. Ross-Sanchez distributed a letter from the U S Green Building Council to help the City of Galveston write the green guidelines for rebuilding using the recovery fund. She also distributed a letter from the AIA Houston Committee on the Environment offering to help write the guidelines pro bono.
Mardi Mitchell, Architect, spoke regarding problems with contractors and stated the the proposed Neighborhood Design and Resource Centers were very important.
Laura Murrell, 4121 Fudler Crab, spoke in support of the Housing Study Committee recommendations.
Shane McDermott, 1507 Church, stated the importance of a good set of infill guidelines.
Matt Burger, 3109 Avenue Q, said there should be proper review of Section 106 for the Federal money being provided to Galveston, money for code compliance and enforcement should be increased, there should be a focus on saving and rehabilitation of existing buildings and public housing needs to be redone correctly.
Charles Smith, asked Council to keep in mind the cost of new rules and regulations.
Susie Martin, 5920 Ave. Q ½, spoke regarding flooding problems on Ave. Q ½ between 59th and 61st Streets.
Julie Hatcher, 1622 Campbell Lane, stated her concerns pertaining to the allocation for homeowner repairs and asked Council to consider waiving permit fees for elevation, etc.
James Josie, Disaster Recovery Committee on Housing, requested more money be allocated for Code Enforcement Officers.
Barbara Crews, 525 22nd St., Co-Chair of Galveston County Restore and Rebuild, member of Gulf Coast Interfaith and Northside Task Force, complimented City staff for the method of distribution and the allocations. She stated concerns regarding the 50% match that could be required of low income individuals that have a duplex or triplex. Ms. Crews asked

Council to get as accurate a number as possible on rental units in the City - insured and underinsured.

Cornelia Banks, said Galveston North Side Task Force and Gulf Coast Interfaith are in support of the Housing Authority replacing the 569 units and to receive the \$25m. If all the money is not used, the remainder could be used for rental rehabilitation.

Joe Compian, Gulf Coast Interfaith, North Side Task Force, Galveston County Restore and Rebuild, asked Council to be flexible with eligibility requirements for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Lillian McGrew, 5316 Ave. M, Sally Abston Project, spoke in support of the City staff report.

Mark Davis, 4812 Ave. O, commended Sterling Patrick and his department, Betty Massey and the Recovery Committee, thanked Council for its due diligence and asked that the process proceed quickly.

Linda Benson, 7149 Spanish Grant, rental property owner, said rental property owners need funding assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of rental property.

David Miller, 3319 Ave. M, housing is needed for everyone especially the poor. Mr. Miller also addressed the need for increased code enforcement. He asked Council to support the plan.

Herbert Turner, 215 Postoffice #507, stated the need to rehabilitate housing as quickly as possible so people can return to the island.

There being no one else to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. LeBlanc responded to the comments that had been made.

Break: 6:05 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

5. DISCUSS PROPOSED HOUSING DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Council discussed the proposed Housing Disaster Recovery Program. No action was taken.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.