

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL
IN EMERGENCY SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2008
TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Chairman C. Voisin called the Emergency Session of the Terrebonne Parish Council to order at 11:08 AM in the School Board Office.

Mr. J. Pizzolatto offered the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mr. B. Hebert.

The Council Clerk called roll and reported the following: PRESENT – Mr. C. Voisin, Ms. A. Williams, Mr. J. Cehan, Ms. T. Cavalier, Mr. J. Pizzolatto, Mr. B. Hebert and Mr. A. Tillman (arrived at 11:19). ABSENT: Mr. P. Lambert and Mr. H. Lapeyre.

Mr. J. Cehan moved, seconded by Mr. B. Hebert, “That the Council accept the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Parish Council of September 4, 2008.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. J. Cehan.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: C. Voisin, J. Cehan, P. Lambert, A. Tillman, A. Williams, B. Hebert, T. Cavalier, J. Pizzolatto, and C. Voisin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. A. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. J. Cehan, “That the Council accept the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Terrebonne Parish Council of September 5, 2008.” RCV. Motion adopted.

The Chairman recognized Parish President M. Claudet who reported on the following:

Electric Power has been provided to Terrebonne General Medical Center and the Court House Annex. It is crucial to get electric power to the Court House Building so that the computers may become operational.

TEDA is assisting businesses attempting to re-open and has re-opened their offices on Corporate Drive. Arrangements have been made to acquire trailer loads of food and water, which are coming in.

Two parish bridge house roofs that were destroyed in the hurricane have been covered.

The Dumas Auditorium has generators so that the building can be (and is) used as a shelter. South Terrebonne High School was going to be used as a shelter, but much of the building is damaged and without water. The opening of shelters is being delayed because of the threat of Hurricane Ike and the possible need for re-evacuation.

The Winn Dixie complex on Prospect Street is being prepared to be a MASH unit.

The civic center is out of blue tarps, but more are ordered.

Electric power is coming on in certain areas but much of the parish is still out. He said Entergy is trying to get power on.

Agricultural Report: Cattle will need hay and food and the sugar cane farmers are having a tough time.

Postal Service should begin today.

There are many charitable organizations in town to assist.

CLAYTON VOISIN: Water and electric service is available in upper Grand Caillou and Bayou Dularge has water service. He distributed a list of distribution sites for assistance by various charitable organizations. He also cautioned all Council members to be aware of unscrupulous businesses trying to scam the public.

JOEY CEHAN: There are several telephone poles down on Bayouside Drive near the Smithridge Pool. He also said that if the Government gets a generator for the Government Tower, we should keep it in the event Hurricane Ike come this way.

ARLANDA WILLIAMS: Everyone has been working together as a team and it has benefited the parish. She questioned FEMA's position on individual assistance.

COURTNEY ALCOCK: Said that the flier tells people how to get information and assistance from FEMA. Although the policy keeps changing, FEMA does provide re-imbursement hotels expenses. The FEMA website gives information on a list of hotels that accept FEMA credit. She went on to explain the difference between Blue Roofs (installed by FEMA) and blue tarps (material supplied to individuals to do the repairs). She also mentioned that the Sales Tax Office is issuing occupational license permits to new businesses and is located on Corporate Drive.

ARLANDA WILLIAMS: Special needs people are returning to the parish with no place to receive services. Ms. Alcock suggested that these people contact the Red Cross. The President suggested that these people stay at the special needs shelters. She asked about parts of a house in trees near the Government Tower and the need to remove it. It was suggested that individuals with debris removal on private property contact various volunteer groups to assist with clean up.

BILLY HEBERT: Who contacts AT&T to report phone outages? Mr. Claudet said that Mark Boudreaux with the Communications District is working communication lines. Mr. Hebert said that various doctors and medical facilities would like to return and become operational but are having problems with communications. It was stated that only 5 & 10 K generators are available for use at the present time, although the medical complex needs a much larger generator.

JOHNNY PIZZOLATTO: Power outages are still the main concern. Mr. Voisin said that SLECA is getting power and Entergy is trying. In response to Mr. Pizzolatto's question about FEMA re-imbursements, Ms. Alcock said that FEMA changes its policies, but direct contact to the FEMA number is best.

General discussion ensued that Hurricane Ike could enter the Gulf of Mexico on Monday and make landfall as early as Thursday. If people have to evacuate again, many do not have sufficient funds to leave again and pay for hotel/travel expenses.

COURTNEY ALCOCK: said that Mr. Pat Babin is in charge of Resource Distribution and could provide more information on resources. The EOC Center could be called and the information will be disturbed to the proper person.

ALVIN TILLMAN: Questioned the chain of command at the phone bank and stressed the need for one liaison person to accept and distribute information. Mr. Voisin said that Mr. Earl Eues is that person. In response to his question, Mr. Claudet said that the only operational shelters at present are Houma Jr. High and Dumas Auditorium. Other sites are being evaluated. Mr.

Tillman said that a future evacuation may be problematic due to the bad experiences with this past event. He concluded by saying that the East side of Houma may have electric power as early as today.

TERI CAVALIER: Asked how the state gets involved with shelters. She also asked how shelter operators can assure that only people in need can enter the shelters. Mr. Claudet said that many people who came to the civic center to evacuate drove their own vehicles and drove themselves back home, but transportation was provided for those who didn't have a car.

She said nurses are being asked to volunteer services, but they must be authorized to do so for insurance reasons. Some Chabert nurse and doctors will be at the Winn Dixie MASH unit and in the back of the Chabert facility in the clinic units.

ARLANDA WILLIAMS: Unemployment assistance will be available to those people who have jobs, but are unable to work because of the businesses being closed.

JOEY CEHAN: Suggested that if Hurricane Ike comes this way, evacuees leave as early as 72 hours in advance to avoid problems.

TERI CAVALIER: Questioned how people will be informed of the approach of Hurricane Ike since most people are still without electric power to operate televisions, radios and computers, some still don't have phone service and few are receiving newspapers. She worried that no one would know to leave.

Ms. A. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, "That the Council create a three person Cat 5 Team to prepare to inform the public of the need to evacuate should Hurricane Ike come to Terrebonne Parish."

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. A. Williams.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: C. Voisin, J. Cehan, P. Lambert, A. Tillman, A. Williams, B. Hebert, T. Cavalier, J. Pizzolatto, and C. Voisin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman appointed Mr. A. Tillman, Mr. J. Cehan and himself to this committee. Ms. Cavalier suggesting using the fire districts to help in the distribution of information and, if need be, house to house calls.

CLAYTON VOISIN: Strongly suggested that the Government Tower be powered up before humidity, mildew and mold create greater problems. If employees come to work (which they must), they could get sick.

ARLANDA WILLIAMS: Said that she and Ms. Cavalier could work with Special Needs for evacuees.

COURTNEY ALCOCK: Said the OEC is assessing other sites for shelters, but if Hurricane Ike comes into the gulf, the Red Cross (that operates shelters) will leave for areas north of I-10.

JOEY CEHAN: Suggested that everyone look at the 5 day forecast for Hurricane Ike, which is on line.

The Chairman said that the next Emergency Meeting will be at 11:00 AM on Monday in the School Board Office.

Mr. J. Pizzolatto moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, "That there being no further business to come before the Council, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:15 PM."

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. J. Pizzolatto.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: C. Voisin, J. Cehan, P. Lambert, A. Tillman, A. Williams, B. Hebert, T. Cavalier, J. Pizzolatto, and C. Voisin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Chairman declared the motion adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

PAUL A. LABAT, COUNCIL CLERK

ATTEST:

/S/CLAYTON J. VOISIN
CLAYTON J. VOISIN, CHAIRMAN
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL