

CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

April 28th, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Townson reported on the status of the EF-4 Tornado which struck the City of Cullman yesterday. The City of Cullman has been declared a federal disaster by the Governor, Mayor and Police Chief. The Police Chief and Fire Chief have been named as commanders in chief of the declared emergency team. Alabama State Troopers and the National Guard are in the city to help. The restricted area will not allow any traffic due to the safety issues. Permits will be issued to residents to get into the restricted area. Mike Bates, Red Cross Director, will be set up at the McGukin Civic Center for ice and water distribution. Shane Bailey, ADECA Representative, has secured some extra generators, diesel fuel and gasoline for the City of Cullman to function on alternate power of generators. Mike Manning, Cullman Power Board was present to report on the status of repairs and an estimated date is 7 to 9 days before power service will be restored in the City of Cullman. TVA will host a teleconference at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow for further information. Mayor Townson asked businesses with coolers and freezers of food to get with Mr. Mike Bates for cooking and distributing of food to the people. The volunteers need to eat and stay hydrated with bottled water. Rusty Turner, Park Board Director, stated grills will be set up and cooking food tomorrow from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. at the McGukin Civic Center. Dr. Jan Harris, City School Superintendent and Billy Coleman, Cullman County Superintendent were present and have been given permission from the FDA to distribute food from the schools to area church organizations to distribute to the public. Mayor Kenneth Nail of Hanceville has agreed to help get a tanker of gasoline to the emergency vehicles tomorrow morning at 5:00 A.M. behind the Museum. Mr. Roy Williams, Cullman City Attorney, made contact with Mr. Robert Norris, Jet Pep Distributor, to allow the City of Cullman to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel to power the generators and vehicles on an emergency basis. Phylis Little, EMA Director, was present to discuss the role of volunteers and have them report to the parking lot behind Cullman High School. United Way will register the volunteers and issue a wrist band for identification. Donated supplies will be accepted at the Civic Center. Clothing articles are not needed at this time because there are no storage areas for distribution. There will be MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) available for distribution soon. Wal-Mart opened a few hours today for cash only transactions. As businesses are announcing openings it will be posted in the daily newsletter. Mr. David Freeman, Water Plant Supervisor, announced the generators are operating the water plant to full capacity. There will not be a shortage of water and the quality of the water is very good. Cullman County has water and there should not be a shortage in any area. Daniel Hunt, IT Manager, reported on the need for more gasoline for generators to keep the radios and computers up for emergency communications. Mark Bussman, Cullman-Jefferson Gas Manager, reported on the gas lines that have been turned off. The area being surveyed is 95% complete. He stressed the importance of not digging in the area of gasoline lines before checking with proper personnel. Mayor Townson stressed the importance of communication between all agencies working together. Mayor Townson turned the meeting over to President Gudger who just returned from a business meeting and was not present when the tornado struck. President Gudger said the communication for the citizens is very crucial at this time. Being no power for tv, radios and computers the public needs a source of information. President Gudger wants a daily newsletter be drafted and printed at Cullman City Hall then distributed to the public for locations of food, important telephone numbers and any information updates on a day to day basis. Mr. John Drake asked for the public to check facebook, utube or any type of media available on smart phones. The information will be updated and information posted on a daily basis. Use your car chargers for telephones. Tony Glover, Cullman County Agent, will have a mobile wi-fi and mobile telephone charging station

located near United Way Office in Depot Park.

President Gudger stated a Community Watch Program will be organizing a local chapter soon. Rick Henry, Street Department Superintendent, and Mr. Larry Jones, Sanitation Department Superintendent, have been clearing the streets as soon as possible. The employees are working long hard hours but showing great improvements in all areas. Council Member Folsom commented on the importance of the homes being cleared for emergency exits by these departments and the appreciation of the public for this service. The volunteers can help the older citizens clear their yards and property. FEMA will pay 75% and the State 15% and local government will be responsible for the remaining 10%. It is very important for the departments to keep detailed accurate records of expenses and labor costs.

President Gudger called the official Cullman City Council Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

A roll call by the City Clerk reflected the following. Present - Mayor Max A. Townson, President Garlan E. Gudger, Jr, Council Member Johnny Cook, Council Member Andy Page, Council Member Jenny Folsom and Council Member Clint Hollingsworth. Also present were City Attorney Roy Williams, City Clerk Ruth W. Rose and Wes Moore.

President Gudger thanked the city department heads and staff for working so hard and being united in getting organized so quickly.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Council Member Andy Page - Police Committee - No Report.

Council President Garlan Gudger - Fire Committee - No Report

Council Member Johnny Cook - Sanitation Committee- No report.

Council Member Clint Hollingsworth - Street Committee - No Report

Council Member Jenny Folsom - Finance Committee - No Report

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mayor Max A. Townson - No Report.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Hollingsworth made a motion to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign emergency agreements or contracts:

RESOLUTION 2011-93
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY
SERVICES NEEDED BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN FOR OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, the Cullman City Council authorizes the Mayor to sign any agreements with any engineering services, contractual services or needed services such as fuel and dire needed items due to the emergency created by the tornado on Wednesday, April 27th, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Cullman Council are aware of the devastated condition of the City of Cullman and the power outages have created extensive problems for the City of Cullman and Cullman County; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it appropriate to authorize the Mayor to sign any agreement deemed necessary to keep the City of Cullman as safe and repaired as soon as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any agreements deemed necessary and classified as emergency now before this Council on behalf of the City of Cullman.

ADOPTED this the 28th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr.
President of the Cullman City Council

ATTEST

/s/ Ruth W. Rose
City Clerk

Transmitted to the Mayor this the 28th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Ruth W. Rose
City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this the 28th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Max A. Townson
Mayor

Council Member Cook seconded the motion and the resolution was adopted by a voice vote. Ayes: All. Nays: None.

City Attorney, Roy Williams, explained the emergency proclamation signed by Mayor Townson needs approval of the Council. Council Member Folsom made a motion to approve the following proclamation:

Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency

**STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF
CULLMAN**

WHEREAS, in accordance with State law, which empowers the City of Cullman to determine the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said City is affected or likely to be affected by public calamity; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Cullman has authorized the Coordinator/Director of the Emergency Management Agency of Cullman County to determine the existence of a local emergency therein due to the imminent threat of damage to the local infrastructure by severe weather, flooding, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, said Emergency Management Director does hereby find:

That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said City, caused by severe storm, tornado damage, or other causes, commencing on or about 3:00 p.m. on the 21st day of April, 2011 ; and,

That the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the determination of the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a local emergency now exists throughout said City; and emergency assistance is requested and major disaster assistance is requested.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED during the existence of said emergency the powers, functions, and duties of coordinator of the Emergency Management Agency and the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by State law, by charter, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Cullman as of April 27, 2011.

Done this the 28th day of April, 2011.

**/s/ Max A. Townson
Mayor**

/s/ Phyllis Little, Director Cullman County Emergency Management Agency

Council Member Page seconded the motion. The proclamation was approved by a voice vote. Ayes: All. Nays: None.

Mayor Townson asked to meet again tomorrow, April 29th, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. in the auditorium.

Council Member Hollingsworth made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Cook seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. by a voice vote. Ayes: All. Nays: None.