

**CITY OF INGLESIDE
MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 2016**

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. with Mayor Luis Lamas presiding. Council Members present: Mayor Luis Lamas and Council Members Ben Tucker, Bill Underbrink, Oscar Adame, Dennis Knippa, Steve Diehl and John Schack. Staff present: City Manager Jim Gray, Finance Director Paul Baen, and City Secretary Kimberly Sampson. There were approximately 70 guests.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Update and possible action regarding the use of City Reserve Funds for possible Emergency Management needs regarding the Flooding Event of May 15 and 16, 2016 and costs of recovery.

City Manager Jim Gray explained the recent rain event that occurred Sunday night/Monday morning on May 15 and 16, 2016 was a lot of rain in a short amount of time. By the dashboard review by the Volunteer Fire Department it appears more than 140 homes and 15 businesses have some type of water damage. According to the residents who have lived here for a long time, this is the worst flooding in the area in 40-50 years. Old and new homes were affected and there will be a large amount of debris. Even if all of the drainage improvements we are planning with the current bond funds were already completed, it would not have prevented most of this damage.

Mayor Lamas and other Council Members expressed their concern that more rain may be coming and they are worried about the amount of debris already being removed from the homes and sitting in the yards and drainage ways. They questioned why there are not emergency funds available for this type of situation.

Gayle Goble thanked Council Member Adame for coming out when staff were not available. John Stevenson requested the timeline of events related to the contracted projected for the drainage of Swan Lake. Xochilt Garza stated that the City Hall phones were not working and nobody came to check on them. Anna Reyes noted that flood insurance is too expensive and she couldn't get help from the Fire Department because they refused to help rescue her animals. Pete Perkins stated he holds the City Manager, the Drainage District, the Engineers, and all of Public Works responsible for the flooding around Swan Lake. Tim Cooper agreed there was a lot of people dropping the ball on the cleaning of the drainage throughout the area. Elisa Granados questioned why the ditches were not cleaned more regularly and what was being done about the debris in the ditches. Doug Richardson explained that if the drainage ditches downstream towards Copano Bay and elsewhere are not cleaned regularly by the San Patricio County Drainage District, the water has no place to go. He suggested a drainage study be done and the drainage ditches be cleaned starting from the downstream area upstream to town. Diane Russel noted that she believe the ditches along Alana Lane lead to nowhere and everyone in that area lets their trees and other stuff grow into what little drainage we have. Michelle Sanchez stated that a year ago the City staff looked at a smashed ditch in her area and all they did was flush the line and leave the dirt where it landed. She has no family here to help her, they lost everything, and wanted to know what the City was going to do to help her. Karen Bridges stated that when Public Works Director Donald Paty came to Lovers Lane to look at their situation his comment to the residents was that he thought this issue had already been fixed. All the staff has done over the years is use a shovel and rake to clean near the small drainage pipe across Lovers Lane. The website states that the ditches will be cleaned every five years or sooner if needed; is this being done? Ron Yoder noted that he has lived in his current house since 1992 and this is the first time he has ever had flooding in his home and that whomever caused this mess should be held responsible. When the rain event started at 3:00 a.m. nobody at City Hall would answer the phones, only the Police Station would answer our calls for help. Kenneth Allen asked the elected officials to help because the drainage pipe under Lovers Lane is not big enough. Dennis Roberts stated this is a great opportunity to vent our frustrations but there is not a single person responsible for this event; that everyone is responsible to different degrees from the home owner, to the staff, to the contractors, to the drainage district. Debbie Johnston stated she spoke with City Staff back in 2009 regarding the drainage along Alana Lane and no changes have been made. Now

she was in the middle of selling her home on Alana Lane and the buyers just backed out of the contract.

Council Member Diehl agreed that the County Drainage District needs to look further downstream and clean the ditches more frequently. He also voiced his concerns with the County and City Engineers as well as getting an alternative means to get the notices on the City Website when the phones and internet are down.

Council Member Underbrink suggested that if the previous Council's hadn't been focused on lower taxes each year, those funds could have been used to fix some of these issues before they became a problem.

Council Member Schack requested that Emergency Funds be put in place so staff can act faster and protocols can be established and enacted when a disaster occurs. He further placed blame on the contractor of the Swan Lake drainage project for not bringing his concerns to the City Manager and Council faster.

Council Member Knippa asked if the brush trucks could be used for debris removal and Mr. Gray agreed that can be done. He further noted that the City Engineers are attempting to help us with the drainage issues all over town; however, this even occurred before the projects were planned out. There are bond funds that are being committed to these issues and it is unfortunate that the rain event occurred before the projects could be accomplished.

Police Chief Stan Bynum explained that the Salvation Army and various religious organizations are in the area to assist.

Mayor Lamas stated he wanted the staff to get the debris out of peoples yards and all fees to be waived. Mr. Gray requested at least \$30,000 for the solid waste disposal fees alone. Council Member Diehl suggested that the funds could be taken from Council Reserve Funds and then replenished with the \$1.75M check from Cheniere later this budget year. Mr. Gray further requested a \$50,000 line item for future events that the Mayor can have immediate access to if needed in the future. Council Member Diehl stated the additional \$50,000 could be a separate item for discussion at a later date.

Council Member Diehl made a motion authorizing the use of up to \$30,000 of the Council Reserve Funds to be used for the cost of the cleanup up activities related to the weather event before us with the stipulation that the funds be replaced once the \$1.75M check from Chenier is received and was seconded by Council Member Knippa.

Council Member Underbrink suggested that the free debris removal be for the next 30-days. Council Member Adame requested that the staff get the County Drainage District to clean the large ditches.

Council Member Diehl amended his motion to include the 30-day free debris drop off at the Public Works Yards and was seconded by Council Member Knippa.

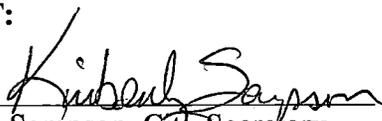
Elaine Kemp asked what about the citizens who don't have trucks/trailers to haul the debris to the yard or the elderly who can't get the debris out of their house. Mr. Gray stated that the brush trucks will be redirected to removing debris from the yards and the Volunteer Fire Department and other religious organizations are assisting some families as quickly as they can; please let the Fire Department know of those with special needs. Cindy Wilson questioned if BFI would still be doing bulk pickups on Fridays and Mr. Gray agreed BFI would still pick up bulk items near the roadway on Fridays. Anna Reyes questioned why it is taking FEMA so long to get here to help the citizens. Marilyn Hall suggested that the Emergency Management Center should have been opened and kept open to help with this situation.

The Mayor called for the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

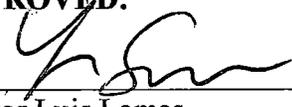
5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kimberly Sampson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Mayor Luis Lamas

24. Staff Reports

City Manager Jim Gray requested the Council Members set a date/time for a Council Retreat. The Council chose Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

25. Requests from Council Members

Council Member Diehl requested a future agenda item within the next 30-days regarding SH-200. He asked that the agenda item be broad enough to include all aspects, including finances, the possibility of TxDOT taking the project over, and it all to be in Open Session as much as possible.

Council Member Adame requested a future agenda item regarding drainage on Avenue B, Tiner, and Parkview.

Mayor Lamas requested a future agenda item regarding a Street Light Study.

26. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kimberly Sampson, City Secretary

Mayor Luis Lamas

(Handwritten signatures and scribbles)