

E M E R G E N C Y M E E T I N G

Of The

CITY COUNCIL

to be held in

City Council Chambers
City Hall

Abilene, Texas

on

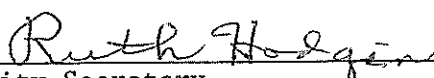
Friday
OCTOBER 16, 1981
8:00 A.M.

Whereas, there is an urgent public necessity that the City Council give authorization for seeking all possible emergency assistance to the citizens of Abilene in light of the recent severe flooding in the City of Abilene and it is therefore imperative that the application for any and all assistance be secured and requested at the earliest available time; therefore, there is sufficient time to meet the 72 Hour Notice Requirement and an emergency meeting of the City Council is necessary.

1. Council Tour of Disaster Area.
2. Invocation.
3. Review of a video tape presentation.
4. Report on the clean-up program and related flood statistical information.
5. Consider a resolution recognizing military and volunteer support.
6. Discussion of damage assessment.
7. Consideration of request for Federal Presidential Aid.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 15th day of October, 1981, at 9:00 o'clock, A.M.



City Secretary

CHAMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
CITY HALL, THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in Special Session, Friday, October 16, 1981, at 8:00 a.m., with Mayor Elbert E. Hall present and presiding. Councilmen Seaton Higginbotham, Dick Bowen, Juan C. Rodriguez, A. E. Fogle, Jr., L. D. Hilton & Councilwoman Kathy Webster, present. City Manager Ed Seegmiller, City Attorney Harvey Cargill, and City Secretary Ruth Hodgins, present.

The Council made a tour of the flood area starting at 8:00 a.m.

Invocation by Councilman Fogle.

There was a video tape presentation of the flooding of the different areas and the lakes and their overflowing, which was filmed on Tuesday, October 13, 1981.

Mayor Hall recognized Elaine Talley, from Representative Stenholm's office, Chris Steed from Senator Tower's office, and County Commissioner Jake McMillon and others who were in the audience.

Mayor Hall asked Mr. Bob Whitehead, Director of Public Works, to give a report on the clean up program planned after the flood.

Mr. Whitehead showed some charts which had been developed on Elm Creek. These charts helped to show when the crest might come through, which helped to alert the citizens in the area. He said that they did not have this kind of information on Cedar Creek. The locations which were monitored on Elm Creek were at Danville and FM 707. At FM 707, the crest came through about 11:00 or 11:30 p.m., and at Danville, on Tuesday evening about 6:00 p.m. The crest on Elm Creek was a couple of feet less than the 1974 flood. It is still unknown whether this was a 10, 25, or 50 year flood, data is still being collected to decide on this.

Mr. Whitehead said that the clean up program would involve two departments mainly, which are the Street and Refuse Collection. He said that there was a lot of damage to asphalt in the streets and to the shoulders of the roads which were flooded. Several of the bridges need repair, and two of them are closed to traffic. He said that the abutments were damaged to some of the bridges. He said that the two that are closed, either need to be repaired or replaced. He showed pictures and slides of the bridges, which are located on Rainy Creek & North 10th Street. He said that the estimate for street and bridge repair, which includes overtime during the flooding, is \$1.457 million. He also pointed out that they have set up priorities on the streets, etc.

Mr. Seegmiller said that the Public Works Department was also helping with the clean up of private residences as well as work on City property. They will continue to do that for an extended period of time.

Mayor Hall read a resolution expressing the City Council's deep appreciation to all citizens of Abilene during the recent flooding. He expressed their appreciation to the Abilene Red Cross, the Marine Reserves, Dyess Air Force Base, news media and the City employees who put forth countless hours far beyond what may be reasonably expected, monitoring the flood levels and assisting citizens; and all the citizens and other groups, that are just too numerous to mention, who gave their time and energy to help their neighbors in this recent flood emergency.

Councilman Rodriguez moved adoption of the resolution expressing the Council's deep appreciation to all the citizens of Abilene during the recent flooding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fogle. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmen Higginbotham, Bowen, Rodriguez, Fogle, Hilton, Councilwoman Webster & Mayor Hall.

NAYS: None.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, EXPRESSING ITS DEEP APPRECIATION TO ALL THE CITIZENS OF ABILENE DURING THE RECENT FLOODING.

Roy McDaniel, Director of Finance, said that they had tried to total the cost that the City had incurred over the 24 to 36 hour period. This was for overtime, extra fuel cost, minor tools and equipment that were either lost or damaged, with a total cost of approximately \$57,000. On top of this, we not only have damage to our streets and bridges, but it will take approximately

\$50,000 to clean up & fix up the golf course. He said that to add this to what Mr. Whitehead has already brought up, the City is looking at approximately \$1,600,000. He said that there was erosion damage from the flooding at the new Lake Abilene Dam, because the grass had not had time to cover after the new dam was constructed. Damage to City buses and damage to private boats (three) which were helping out in the evacuation was also sustained.

Mr. McDaniel said that in the area of private property, the City has sent teams out to drive the streets where they could get, talk to the people who were involved, make their best estimate as to the damage that was done. At the same time, the Planning Department was running a Computer Model, against the tax values, using the information from the field people, trying to use all the information at hand. After taking everything into consideration, the best figure that we can come up with is about \$3,000,000 minimum damage to about \$5,000,000 total. This includes residential, commercial, trailer homes, but it does not include automobiles.

Mr. Seegmiller said that Senator Tower's office and Congressman Stenholm's office, have been very helpful in looking into what kind of programs that the City can apply for assistance.

Wayne Jepson, Civil Defense Coordinator, said that two types of federal disaster declarations can be made. One makes Small Business Administration loans available and the other does the same plus provides some individual grants, generally ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 each. He said that he felt that the city individuals could qualify for the Small Business Administration declaration. He also said that a presidential declaration, making grants available is more difficult to obtain since an entity must show casualties and extensive total loss of homes and public property.

Councilman Bowen said that he felt that we should apply for everything that is available to us.

Councilman Bowen moved adoption of the resolution requesting emergency assistance from all applicable Federal and State Agencies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Higginbotham. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmen Higginbotham, Bowen, Rodriguez, Fogle, Hilton, Councilwoman Webster & Mayor Hall.

NAYS: None.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.

Mr. Seegmiller said that besides seeking a federal disaster declaration, the City Staff is investigating additional possible sources of outside aid.

Doris Ballard, Housing Administrator for the City, said that the assistance office had been open since Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the old Tax Office downstairs here in City Hall. The purpose of the office is to provide the immediate needs of any flood victim. She said that they are coordinating with the other agencies, in trying to find out what the victim's needs are and what can be offered to them. She said that they had 91 request for assistance, and they had completed 44 of those, at this time. 17 of the requests were for flood damage reports, wanting someone to come out and assess their damages. 34 cases are still pending, she said. She said that they were trying to provide families with temporary lodging and clothing. She said that response from the community had been great. They have had help from the Air Force and the Military Blue Control. They are sending teams out to the Carver and Stevenson additions, to get mud out of the houses. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has volunteered 18 of their women, to assist any family or flood victim to clean their homes. She said that they had coordinated with Rose & Sears Park and the YWCA to provide shower facilities for the victims. Have made arrangements with the utility companies, when the flood victims gets their houses ready for utility services to come out and turn that utility on.

The agencies that have provided assistance is Call for Help, The Salvation Army, and the Christian Service Center. The Red Cross came in officially this morning at 10:00 a.m. They have informed the Staff that they will be putting out vouchers for food, clothing and furniture. The Salvation Army said that they are accepting clothing, small appliances, to be distributed to the flood victims. The Christian Service Center is also doing this.

Mr. Seegmiller said that this meeting was to update the Council and those interested people in what had transpired since the flooding Monday night and Tuesday & Wednesday.

There being no further business, Mayor Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.