



**MINUTES
ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
October 17, 2016
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
4:30 P.M.**



Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Johnnie Wright, Sr.
Johnny Ravenell
Harry F. Wimberly
Heyward H. Livingston
Willie B. Owens

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:
Harold Young, County Administrator
Henry Summers, Public Works Director
Connie Portee, Clerk to Council

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Ravenell, Chairman

Chairman Johnny Ravenell called to order a special session of the Orangeburg County Public Works Committee on October 17, 2016, at 4:39 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence observed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 15, 2016

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked for a motion on the minutes. Councilman Harry Wimberly motioned that the minutes of the sessions of the Orangeburg County Council on the above dates be approved as written. Councilman Heyward Livingston seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0).

1. DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE

Chairman Johnny Ravenell yielded to Mr. Henry Summers. Administrator Young advised we should give an update on the assistance part first to make sure everyone is clear.

Administrator Young advised what the County has received so far is individual assistance and this is when an individual can go to FEMA and get help with damage and things of that nature. What the County is working on is Public assistance which we haven't received yet but we have been assured we will receive it, however we have not received Public Assistance yet. So the figure that Mr. Henry Summers well be presenting to you are only reimbursable back from FEMA if we get Public Assistance. Wanted to make sure that was clear before we start talking about what we are going to do. The County Administrator Young advised if your expectations are to do something regardless if the County gets the Public Assistance or not, this something he would need to know because he would have to make sure financially what the overall cost would be and what the County can afford.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked, Public Assistance is money coming from where?

Administrator Young advised it comes from FEMA back to the County. Individual Assistance is what we are approve for, that means a person can go to FEMA and say I had damage on the structure on my property and we will set up the FEMA centers. FEMA are only going to go where the major damage was done. So FEMA stated they would open up an Individual Assistance location in Holly Hill, Eutawville and then Orangeburg. The Western end didn't qualify for enough damage to open up an assistance location. Public Assistance is where we as Government can take the man hours used to cut, clear, and push, give that back to FEMA and say now we need to be reimbursed.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked, have you received any numbers back from the Fire Department on their time yet?

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised we have not received any numbers back yet. We still trying to get some of their number in.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked, their number would help go toward the Public Assistance right?

Administrator Young advised the money is not the problem base upon our assess value threshold should be at \$300,000 we are up at \$8,000,000.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked, so what is the problem?

Administrator Young advised it's the Federal side.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised last Wednesday he took FEMA through and did the preliminary damage assessment. We had to get some assessment dates in from the assessors to see how bad it was and they were scheduled on Sunday and the first appointment they gave to me was on Wednesday. After going out with FEMA, FEMA and the State recommended to the Governor to request Public Assistance for the Government and Individual Assistance so both request went in at the same time to FEMA corporate but what came back first was Individual Assistance. From what FEMA is telling me today, the

FEMA rep that we have here, they are hoping to get some type of determination out of FEMA today or tomorrow on Public Assistance.

Councilman Heyward Livingston advised he could see FEMA doing the Individual Assistance first and then doing the Public Assistance second maybe a day or so later.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell asked, where are we compared to other Counties when it comes to Public or Individual Assistance?

Administrator Young advised it all depends the Hurricane could have done just as much or less damage but then some citizens in our County may not have the money that other Counties have, just simply getting a tree out of someone's yard because the insurance company say if it didn't touch your house they can't help you and an average person charging \$1,500 to \$2,000 to cut a tree out of a yard not everyone can pay that. If we didn't have the FEMA individual assistance a lot of our citizens wouldn't have nowhere to turn.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised with FEMA individual assistance, citizens are only going to be eligible if it hit their house.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked, so if an individual has trees that have fallen in their yard FEMA is not going to help with that?

Administrator Young advised no FEMA will not give assistance for that.

Councilman Willie B. Owens asked, what if a tree has fallen from the highway right-of-way?

Administrator Young advised the State should take care of that, they will get it out of the right-of-way.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised yes the State will get it out of the right-of-way but they won't go on private property to get what's left on private property.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised Holly Hill got flooded again this year and if an individual signed for individual assistance last year and they received a check from FEMA part of that was they were supposed to carry insurance, so if an individual didn't care insurance this time around they are on their own and that is going to be a problem down in Holly Hill.

Councilman Willie B. Owens asked that's regular home owners insurance right?

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised they would have to have a flood policy with the home owners insurance.

Councilman Willie B. Owens advised this was not a Flood it was a Hurricane.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised not in Holly Hill. It was a Hurricane in Holly Hill but down town Holly Hill was eighteen (18) inch deep in water.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised so the Hurricane cause the flood but you can't call it Flood.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised for the disaster recovery update we yielded to Mr. Henry Summers. Mr. Henry Summers yielded to Mr. Billy Staley.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised aside from all the individual assistance the Disaster Recovery Centers are the YMCA that will be open on Wednesday, the Holly Hill Administration Building will be open on Wednesday and Eutawville but based on FEMA's ride on Sunday and Monday (today) they want to reevaluate Eutawville to see if the damages are there to need the building in Eutawville but we have the building reserve for FEMA if we will need it. On the debris side we had a debris specialist come in from the State and the approach for the debris would be the same as the approach during the ice storm we would do it in house maybe do temp labor, like get one of the temp services with is what they recommend if we choose too and we use County equipment to do the work and rent whatever equipment the County does not have to do anything special we would need to do, but all this is perspective base on what the County wants to do and what the County wants to do base on us getting that declaration.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised base on what Billy is telling us we are going to have to do regardless if we get money because we have to clean it up.

Administrator Young advised we have to clean up what is in the right-of-way now, not what people bring there.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised if in the right-of-way when we get there we going to pick it up. We not going to leave it. Whatever numbers Billy is telling us now, it has to come up in regardless if FEMA helps.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised but we can't still publicly announce to the citizens to bring it to the right-of-way.

Administrator Young advised not until we get Public Assistance.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised the way that needs to be worded when we get to that point is "we will be doing debris pick up in this area on a certain day." If we publicly say bring it to the curb then FEMA is going to have an issue with that. So all we can say is we are coming through on these dates to pick up debris and if it's there it's there.

Councilman Willie B. Owens asked, where do you expect the debris to be?

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised within ten (10) to fourteen (14) feet of the curb.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised we have the press here.

Councilman Johnnie Wright advised after we make a determination someone will speak with the press before they print anything.

Councilman Willie B. Owens advised it needs to be clear as possible not to cause confusion.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised we don't want to get disqualified for FEMA assistant because we didn't correctly announce it.

Administrator Young advised he agreed with Councilman Harry Wimberly about still needing to do something because it makes a difference to him, regardless if you want to do something or not that is fine but if we can get reimburse for it makes a difference.

Councilman Harry Wimberly advised yes it makes a big difference but the County has got to clean it up regardless but the big difference is rather we get reimburse.

Councilman Johnnie Wright advised the press you do understand it's important to wait until you get the right information.

Lee Hendren from The Holly Hill Observer advised we pay taxes to if we can get reimburse, its get reimbursed.

Councilman Johnnie Wright advised so we need to wait until we know exactly what we are going to do before we give the press a story.

Chairman Johnny Ravenell advised no matter what route we take we are not going to enter on people's personal property to do anything. We are going to stay within the County right-of-way.

Councilman Willie B. Owens asked, are we going in the City and the County?

Administrator Young advised only County roads and some County roads are in the City but not many, only County roads. However, DOT (Department of Transportation) may do something totally different but what we decide to do as a County will only be for County maintain roads only.

Councilman Harry Wimberly asked, Billy Staley did he had any numbers on the tonnage?

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised based on what Mr. Henry Summers saw on his ride. Henry thinks we have about a double the amount of debris removal during the ice storm along the County roads, however although there is no tonnage, during the ice storm FEMA calculated our expenses that we got reimbursed within close to \$800,000 is what that debris removal process costed us that FEMA put on project worksheets that reimbursed us, so base on the preliminary damage assessment that was given to FEMA it was double to \$1.6.

Henry Summers asked Billy Staley to explain to the Committee about the first thirty (30) days we would get 85% back?

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised he had informed FEMA the scale again like we did during the ice storm. We get 85% for the first thirty (30) days' worth debris we remove from the date of the incident. Then we get 80% from the second thirty (30) which would be sixty (60) days and then after sixty (60) days we get 75%.

Councilman Willie B. Owens asked, Billy Staley were we satisfied with our production of the ice storm with FEMA.

Emergency Services Director Billy Staley advised yes we were satisfied with that. The big challenge we are going to have this time around is going to be the size of debris, during the ice storm we chipped and grind. This time around it won't be just a chip or grind, it's going to have to be some type of equipment to load up the trees the big heavy stuff and that is a part of what Mr. Henry has been working on. On the back side we working with FEMA and they are aware we are going to be also calculating debris totals at the Landfills additional cost that we may pick up from additional low lost being called from the Convenience Sites because those are above what our normal expense are, up to and including general house hold garbage because the power was out for so long, so many people had to throw all of their food away and that is additional garbage we had to pay to go to the Landfill.

Henry Summers advised the Public Works Committee with a proposed outline sheet of equipment for Hurricane Matthew cleanup. If we rent these machines and trucks would keep our cost from tearing up so much tops on our trucks. Up on the Western end of the County at Robbie's place, DHEC would not allow us to burn there, we would have to be 300 feet from any structure.

Councilman Heyward Livingston asked, we didn't burn there a year ago?

Henry Summers advised DHEC would not approve that to be a burn site, however we were looking at the dirt pit and burn there but if we have to put it some place and we have to grind it that is how much it is going to cost you per hour to run a big tub grinder.

Councilman Johnnie Wright asked how many days do you think we would have to have this grinder?

Henry Summers advised maybe about a month.

Councilman Johnnie Wright asked, if you burn it that would that mean you would have less to chip?

Henry Summers advised if we could burn it we would not have anything to chip. Burning would be the best thing to do if we could find a place to burn it.

Chairman Ravenell asked for a motion on a recommendation for Public Works to continue to work with the equipment we currently have on the timeline we have with FEMA.

Councilman Harry Wimberly made the motion that we continue the cleanup with the equipment that we have and continue in the process of requesting the FEMA declaration and follow up on the proposal for getting additional equipment to speed the process up. Councilman Heyward Livingston second the motion. Motion carried. (5-0-0-0).

2. VOTE FOR ADJOURNMENT


Chairman Ravenell asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Heyward Livingston motioned that Orangeburg County Council Public Works Committee of October 17, 2016 be adjourned. Motion carried (5-0-0-0).

3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



**Connie N. Portee
Clerk to Council**



**Johnny Ravenell
Chairman
Public Works Committee**