

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Beverly James Boyd
Randy Green
Virginia Reagan
Scott Thomas
David "Bo" Traylor

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Austell City Council was held on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; Sandra Farmer, Deputy City Clerk; General Administration; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Affairs Director; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Reverend David O'Dell gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked if any Council Member would like to add items to the Agenda. No one did. Mayor Jerkins stated we had four employees to receive five year pins. Randy Henson, Jason Burton, Adam Moody and Christy Norman.

Mr. Traylor, Police Chairman presented five-year pins to Randy Henson, Jason Burton, Adam Moody and Christy Norman. Mr. Traylor thanked each one for their service and dedication to the City of Austell.

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

(No Action Required by Council – See Specific Department Director before Meeting.)

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$1,763.38
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting September 14, 2009

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Ann Powell stated she would like to just say thank you to the City of Austell employees for their efforts during the flood. I have seen Mr. Scott Thomas almost every day at the Austell Super Market working with the donations coming in since the flood. Chief Starrett and his police officers have been on top of the looting that has been taking place. Mr. Bowens came by and gave us some suggestions as to what to do. Mr. Graham's employees and the Fire Department have been so helpful. I know there will be some fussing tonight but I wanted to be here and tell you how much I appreciate the City employees. I know we have all lost stuff but it is just stuff. No one died. I think the City has handled everything very well. Who would have thought we would have been under fourteen feet of water. I just wanted to say thank you for helping us and me and everybody else. We have a long road ahead of us because FEMA will not help property owners if you don't live on that property. We do have a challenge ahead of us. It will be a re-building process for Austell. So, I just wanted to say thank you.

Pastor Robert Moore, New Birth Community Church stated we are here to voice our concerns and we are here to help and this is the reason we are here. We were impacted by the flood tremendously and fortunately we have flood insurance. Our concern is what can we do about the infrastructure to help when this does happen again. Looking back and doing some research back in 1989 there was a flood and back in 2005 there was a flood. I just want to know what can be done to prevent another loss like this in the future.

Mayor Jerkins stated in March of 1990 we had a pretty good flood. I went into office in January. You spoke of the one in 1989 and there was not much to that one and I don't remember a lot about that one. Four years ago which was July 11, 2005 it got three feet higher than I had ever seen it. That was three feet above the hundred year flood marker. This time it got fourteen feet higher. This has never happened before. I am one of the victim's as well. My mother's house, I built it for her and she has since passed away, my daughter lives there now. I built the house in 1963 the house has been there forty-six years it liked three feet four years ago getting into the house and I didn't buy any flood insurance. So, that was three feet higher than I had ever seen it. This time it got seven feet inside the house.

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I lost a tractor, the house, a wood splitter, a Jeep and a lawn mower. I didn't have any insurance. What can we do? Basically nothing, the Corps. of Engineers studied it twice and actually it has come back both studies and it said Sweetwater Creek had ten feet of fall until it got to Austell. When it reached Austell it only has one foot of fall per mile. When it gets here it is slowly running through Austell and around Austell. After it gets down below I-20 it has about fifteen feet per mile and it doesn't flood there. It drops off and the water goes. It even got over I-20 this time. Four years ago on July 11, 2005 we got seventeen inches of rain and this was a record. Austell had never gotten this kind of rain. This time we got twenty-one inches of rain and it wasn't just us getting the rain. It was Paulding County and Cobb County and all of them. To give you a little bit of history on Sweetwater Creek, I was raised on it, fished on it and caught a lot of nice of fish out of it. Sweetwater Creek starts in Paulding County so when it rains in Paulding County we get their water. It goes into Sweetwater and heads to Austell. Powder Springs has a creek called Powder Creek and it hits Sweetwater right up here at C.H. James Parkway. You down a little farther there is Olive's Creek that crosses Clay Road. And above that Noses Creek crosses Clay Road from Cobb County and that's two major creeks hitting Sweetwater right down there at Perkerson Mill bridge and they are both about a thousand feet apart when they hit Sweetwater. Then you come on down from the Mableton area and you have Buttermilk Creek which comes under Bankhead on the other side of Martin's it hits Sweetwater at Alabama Road. You have four major creeks and all that water has to be filtered through Austell. So, it has to go somewhere. It just sits there until it can get out. The Corps. of Engineers says there is nothing we can do. I have thought about time after time and there is something we can do but it would be very costly. They are boring a tunnel the other side of Alabama for a sewage tunnel and it's thirty foot round and it will be going in the direction of Six Flags and that will be used for sewer storage which is waste water not creek water. That could be put in place if we did this and carried towards the Chattahoochee or bore a tunnel two or three hundred feet deep and it would carry the water towards the Chattahoochee. Now, this would cost a lot of money and no one has ever mentioned doing this before. I think it would work because it would relieve Sweetwater of some water and get it down to the Chattahoochee where it doesn't flood. Chattahoochee does flood but from I-20 down there is no flooding all the way to the Chattahoochee and it is four or five miles to it. What Austell has done we have stayed within FEMA guidelines. We require everyone to build three feet higher than the hundred year flood by doing this everybody can get insurance. If we were to let that go lower than that no one could buy insurance in the City of Austell. City of Austell goes by their guidelines.

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This has happened twice in a little over four years and maybe it will never happen again. Some people think we have built too many houses and that created the flood. This is not true that wouldn't raise more than a piece of paper. As many houses as you would want to build it wouldn't raise Sweetwater Creek that much. Another reason, the Mississippi floods it goes for hundreds of miles and there is farmland on both sides and this has happened thirty or forty years apart but it goes for hundreds of miles and flooding and into towns. When you get as much rain and more than you can handle and as we have had it doesn't matter how many houses you have. It will not soak in because when you get so much water it will be there and stay. There is not a whole lot we can do other than try to get that tunnel built. This would work but it would cost a lot of money. Pastor Moore asked Mayor Jerkins if this had been proposed yet on the tunnel. Mayor Jerkins stated this was something he had thought about in the last few days. No one has ever mentioned this to me. This is the only thing that I can see to make it work. Part of the way down Sweetwater say halfway in Austell and put the tunnel in and it would relieve that water when it gets to a certain height. It would never flood again because it would go into the Chattahoochee. Mayor Jerkins thanked Pastor Moore for coming. Mayor Jerkins stated he knew it was awful and people had lost everything they owned and it's bad. I know some of you didn't even get so much as a toothbrush out. It is sad to go through.

Mr. Mike Otten of Cureton Woods and Autumn Brook stated I have lived there for three years and the ferocity of this water has stormed through my neighborhood as well as Autumn Brook and it is outstanding. It is outrageous to me to believe that some planning hasn't been done or some decision not to build in those neighborhoods hasn't been made. The water that rushed through Autumn Brook was a like raging river like the Colorado River. In the last two weeks we lost the first floor of our house and it will cost about hundred thousand dollars, three years and no flood insurance? I heard that land was built up on a flood plain or an area that has suffered from floods in the past. To me this is criminal. Obviously, those neighborhoods are substantial tax revenues to the City and substantial losses to the owners and residents in both sub-divisions and many others in this area. Speaking independently with the gas company, mailman, and several others, vendors in this city and all stated the same thing. They all advised not to build in those areas. Mayor Jerkins stated the City went by FEMA rules. Evidently, you didn't because you didn't buy flood insurance. Mayor Jerkins stated when you have property the city can't tell you to buy flood insurance. Mr. Otten stated he did not have flood insurance. Mr. Otten stated his question, where are the dumpsters for the neighborhood?

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I went to Randy Bowens office everyday last week at least twice if not three times and received a different message everyday from his staff. They were all very nice and very friendly and it's obviously the City was overwhelmed and I am not complaining about that. The absence of dumpsters in our neighborhood has been horrendous. Again, people are losing substantial amounts of property as a result of that. I went to the city and I took the liability of release forms and took door to door in my neighborhood and had a number of people sign those and I was advised to take them back to that office and yesterday I was informed to put these forms on the doors of the homes that require a dumpster. Mayor Jerkins stated we cannot put a dumpster in someone's yard, this will not happen, but we will put one in the street and pickup off the street. Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Bowens if dumpsters were in these sub-divisions. Mr. Bowens stated dumpsters were in both Autumn Brook and Cureton Wood subdivision. A gentlemen in the audience stated no, sir, you do not have any dumpsters in Cureton Wood but you do have in Autumn Brook. Mr. Bowens stated as soon as the dumpsters are empty we will get some of these dumpsters in Cureton Wood today or tomorrow as soon as we get some empty and the equipment will soon follow that. Again, Mr. Otten like I said four or five days last week there were different messages from the department and that wasted a lot of time for us and the city. Mayor Jerkins stated we are doing the best we can and we cannot give each person a personal dumpster. Mayor Jerkins stated to the audience. All of you are aware of the Bible when Noah had the flooding and he had to build an ark and it rained forty days and forty nights. Mr. Otten stated what does that have to do with this situation. Mayor Jerkins stated you know that was about five thousand years ago, do we need to go back to that? It flooded then and there has to be a stopping point. Number one it was your responsibility to get you some flood insurance. Everybody should have it. Mr. Otten tried to speak again and Mayor Jerkins stated I let you talk now let me talk. It is your responsibility to get flood insurance even if you live on a hill or not. It is not our fault that it rained twenty-one inches and that has never happened here ever. You can blame us if you want to. Mr. Otten stated he was not blaming the City for it. Mayor Jerkins stated it's part your fault and God's fault for giving us the rain. We couldn't handle that much rain. We cannot control the rain. It may happen again next week and it may never happen again in our life time. We just don't know what it will do. Mayor Jerkins thanked Mr. Otten and asked who would speak next.

Ms. Jenna Yabuku stated my second home is 3100 Joe Jerkins Blvd. I just want to say thank you first for giving us the history of the area and the community. It is an excellent idea for the tunnel you proposed. We would like to know the next step and what can we do and who can we speak to.

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We would like to create a committee or a task force to address the next level of either finding funds, finding money, finding insurance companies or other vendors who can participate and contribute to the infrastructure of your idea. If there is some way we can establish a committee for that we are willing to be a voice for this community and so that we can address for the future. We know what has happened in the past. We want to make it better and stronger. We want the input from other resources and opinions. If there is anything we can do to become a voice and get together a committee, just please let us know.

Mayor Jerkins stated I think it is something we can do and let me tell you why. They proposed five hundred million dollars for this flood the federal government did. We can put a tunnel in and we have to get the Corps. of Engineers involved and the government too because we can't afford any of it. But, the tunnel can be put in place for less than a hundred million dollars. They will spend five hundred or will spend more than five hundred million on this flood. Possible this could happen and we just need to get with the Corps. of Engineers and this is feasible to work. I will be talking to the Corps. of Engineers. I have just thought of this in the last two to three days and it is the only thing that we can think about doing. It would solve the problem. Ms. Boyd stated, don't we need to get our commissioners and State Representatives involved. Mayor Jerkins stated, yes we do. Mayor Jerkins stated maybe it wouldn't take a hundred million dollars because we wouldn't have to be that long of a distance. We will start working on this.

Ms. Ann Turner stated her name and stated she was known as the lady with the orange mailbox that is now resting against the fire hydrant in my front yard. I am where Sweetwater Creek is the closest to Austell-Powder Springs Road. After Hurricane Dennis came three feet with its water in my back yard I bought flood insurance. Despite that, I have lost my business; I lost the contents of my house. SERVPRO is doing a fantastic job scraping it down to the lap work because my house had hair plaster in it. It was built in 1935 and it did not move on the foundation. My questions are who in the City or which organization is responsible for condemning the property. Who is going to tell me whether I must elevate my property or whether it must be demolished. I don't know where to go now. I don't want to rebuild that house knowing that flood levels are possible. We all know that it may never happen again but it very well may. Mayor Jerkins stated number one you have flood insurance and that would solve my problem. I wouldn't build back. Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Turner if they would pay her for the house. Ms. Turner stated, yes, in all likely hood. Mayor Jerkins stated wouldn't that solve your problem. Ms. Turner stated yes, that would, but I need to sell the property.

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Mayor Jerkins stated you will have the property left. Ms. Turner stated, she knew that but the question is how far away is Sweetwater Creek from the flood plain or flood field be moved back. Mayor Jerkins stated he didn't think FEMA would change their rules because this is something that doesn't happen. Two different floods and never happened before. (Someone in the audience asked the Mayor to please turn the volume up they couldn't hear. Mayor Jerkins stated they had no volume on the sound system. Mr. Bowens tried to adjust the sound and it would not work.) Ms. Turner stated FEMA has told her the flood plain is set by a combination of people. Each person I have spoken with today has given me a different answer. Mayor Jerkins stated we have a hundred year flood map and we require you to be three feet above that to build a house. Someone in the audience stated that map is being changed right now to thirty-four feet. Mayor Jerkins stated as I said before do you want to go back to Noah? If we go back five thousand years everyone will have to build a boat. Ms. Turner stated if this flood level was at thirty-one feet do we have to go to thirty-four feet and three feet above that with our houses. Mayor Jerkins stated then we will have people suing us because they have their land and can't use it. We are going by federal laws and we are doing what we are supposed to. If we didn't go by the rules FEMA has set you would not be able to have flood insurance. Ms. Turner thanked the Mayor.

Mr. Bernard Weston of Austell, Georgia and my wife Bernetta Weston we have been residents here since 2005. We have been in both floods and our house sits on ten feet stilts a smart man that built it. The first flood did not get inside and gave us a warning call so we purchased flood insurance. I don't mean to be selfish by posing but we are the only house on Shaddix Lane and have experienced two floods and have insurance. We are going to have to maintain Shaddix Lane and it is about the length of a football field. The two floods have caused the asphalt to buckle and have potholes. Just like to make someone aware of this and if we have to pay for it I would like to give it my name. Mayor Jerkins stated we will try to get this fixed for you and thanked Mr. Weston.

Mr. David George stated he lives on Sunlight Drive and I have been there since 2004. This is the second flood I have had in my house. The first flood was about 1 foot into the house. This latest one made into the second floor. What I am really here for to ask the council for your support with Cobb County, FEMA and GEMA for a buy back program in place for those of us who live in homes that are subjected to repetitive floods and asking to help break this cycle of destruction and rebuild and help us to get out from under these homes and make a new start.

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Mayor Jerkins stated he had already talked with Sam Olens last week who is our Chairman in Cobb County and we are putting this in place. We have never been involved in it but last time they bought one hundred homes in Powder Springs, Ga. I don't know of anybody that sold their homes here in Austell and we had a hundred and something homes that flooded last time. This time we have six hundred ninety six homes. We are putting this in place because they know how to do it. They are supposed to be in getting touch with Jim Graham's office and to get in place and work with FEMA. I quoted today in the newspaper that was so much money to do this and the FEMA guy contacted Ralph and said I misquoted. The FEMA guy said they had enough money to buy them all. I then asked him what Mr. David "Bo" Traylor who has a house four years ago and they haven't paid him. It's like Internal Revenue you call three people and get three different answers. We are putting something in place for FEMA to buy these homes and I don't know how much money is out there but if there is enough to buy everyone's home that wants to sell. If there is not, I just don't know what will happen. I am meeting with Chairman Olens again Thursday morning. It just takes time. Mr. George stated he would like to see this done in a timely manner as we feel our homes are worthless now but our mortgage company doesn't see it that way. Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. George if he had been to FEMA. Mr. George stated, yes, he had and personally they have given me a monthly check and they are reaching out once a month to send even more and the FEMA folks have been really good. Mayor Jerkins stated he didn't know. Mr. George stated FEMA had given him enough money to make it through up to today. As far, as what are we going to do with this situation with these house's that probably can't be sold and that need a hundred thousand dollars worth of work. Our mortgage company wants answers from FEMA and we want the right answers. Even if the answer is no, we need to know on a timely basis because we can't hold out six months to a year. Mayor Jerkins stated he agreed and stated he was trying to do this in a timely manner. The FEMA representative will be in my office in the morning at eight-thirty. I am working on all kind of things and it does take time when the buyout is longer than giving you the money. Mr. George stated he hoped FEMA would openly communicate as to their timeline. Mayor Jerkins stated he would try to find out. Maybe I can talk with some of the news people and put the information on television.

Mr. Joe Bowen stated his name and stated he is the property owner on Pine Grove Court. Mr. Bowen stated he just needed to know what agency and I have asked five or six and they say well we don't know. At this point and time we would very much like to know a contact point. Mayor Jerkins stated we are working on this right now. Number one Austell has to be involved and the county is going to help put it together.

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FEMA is the one that does the paying and we are putting this together now and as soon as I can get something worked out and get some guidelines. Mayor Jenkins stated they will contact Mr. Jim Graham's office. More than likely there will be an office in the Threadmill. I know it's hard to deal with because someone will tell you one thing and the next person will tell you something entirely different.

Mr. Dan Gordon introduced himself and stated his mother-in-law's home is in Mulberry Creek and it was totally destroyed. I just found out tonight there was a flood in the 1990's. She didn't have flood insurance. Had we all known before hand it probably would have made plans to get flood insurance. Obviously, the second time it happened this time she didn't get flood insurance. I guess my thing is in Florida it is mandatory to buy flood insurance. Going forward will it be mandatory to buy flood insurance when you purchase a home. Mayor Jenkins stated it would be something we would consider doing. Let's use California for example, the fires. There is one burning out there right now and occasionally the fires go through and burn the homes down. Five years later it happens again. I don't know what their rules are out there but most people will say why do I have to pay for flood insurance. I should have bought it for my mother's house. My daughter actually lives there and the house belongs to me and FEMA won't pay anything. If I lived there I would actually get something. Mr. Gordon stated the issue here is if people had known of the history of the floods way back then they could have made a much more informative decision about where to live. Mayor Jenkins stated we had floods in the 1990's and we had very few houses that were flooded. Mr. Gordon stated one was too many. The homes back then were built back before any of these guidelines were put in place and these homes are older homes. The flooding kept going but just like I said you want to go back to Noah's Ark? Make everybody get flood insurance. It's possible the whole world will flood. Mr. Gordon stated he gets that, but what I am trying to say is as the consumer and we are looking to purchase a home and we have families and trying to raise a family. This occurred sometime ago and either the builders are able and willing of hiding information in terms of us as the consumer purchasing a home. If I know there is no history of flooding to me it is ridiculous to buy flood insurance. However, on the flip side if I am getting the information to make a informative decision, yes, I would or my mother-in-law would have bought the flood insurance. But, again the issue is this thing has happened and everyone is scrambling and no one wants to take responsibility. We the homeowners, we got hurt. My mother-in-law is eighty-two years and an invalid. Thank God, we got her out but again, it's like what is the recourse. FEMA is great, but against those that spent one hundred eighty to two hundred thousand dollars in homes.

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Thirty or forty thousand dollars is not going to cut when we have lost our livelihoods what do you do. What responsibility is the city going to do for the tax-paying citizens of Austell. Mayor Jerkins asked what about FEMA. Have you been to FEMA. They have set the rules. Mr. Gordon stated his other relative had been on the phone with FEMA.

Mr. Norman Robinson another son-in-law. Mr. Robinson stated FEMA had been helpful and gave us some money to tide us over. I am very grateful to hear the possibility of a buyout. In my opinion, I blame you the Mayor and City Council for building some of these homes where they should not be. Mayor Jerkins stated some of this is not in the flood area. Mr. Robinson stated, yes he knew that. City Council had to give some of these contractual builders permission. You, Mr. Mayor have done your part, on the cleanup you have done real well. You and the council gave permission to some of these contractors to build like Sunlight Drive and this was tax revenue and we have to stop this. Mayor Jerkins stated it's kinda like what if we get one next time and it's thirty foot high and this one was fourteen feet high above that mark Austell will go away and we can't build anymore houses. Mr. Green asked if he could speak. Mr. Green stated let me try to tell you in comparison in twenty-four hours we had twenty-one inches of rain. If you go to the coast and you have a hurricane how much rain do they get? If you take that twenty-one inches of rain and dump it into different places in America how many of those neighborhoods would be flooded. It is something unforeseen. The water came up fast and it came up hard. It took a lot of houses no one had planned on. We were blessed because it came up during the day. You have to imagine this was unforeseen and no one could control it. Mr. Gordon stated, yes, I agree. But, what I am saying if we knew as consumers the history of the flooding before we could have made a much better decision. Mayor Jerkins stated, flooding, but not fourteen feet high. Don't you think if I have thought it would have flooded my mother's house I would have bought flood insurance, I didn't think it and I was raised here. On the creek and I know it from one end to the other. I would have bought insurance too and I am out of a lot of money because FEMA is not going to help me because I didn't live there. All of my loss is my loss. Mr. Robinson stated to the Mayor, you are promising us that you are going to persist with the battle. Mayor Jerkins stated we will stay within FEMA laws and I will tell you why. What if we decided your property is twenty feet above the flood level and we tell you that you can't build a house on it. What are you going to do? You would sue us and you will win. There is no reason for us to do that because the rains and the flood came and just because it flooded fourteen feet higher than it has ever been. If we do what you wanted to do, it would keep people from using the land. Then we would have to pay them for that property. The City doesn't have that kind of money.

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Mr. Thomas stated how could we foresee this kind of flood and it has been recorded in history and of this magnitude. Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Robinson why he thought we could foresee a flood of this magnitude. Mr. Gordon asked if the flood in the nineties was recorded. Was it recorded somewhere. Mayor Jerkins stated it didn't get up high enough to be recorded but it did flood our park in March of 1990. Mr. Gordon asked were homes affected as a result of the flood in the nineties. Mr. Green stated it was only three feet high. Mayor Jerkins stated if any of the homes were flooded they were bought out. Mr. Gordon stated that's history so according to what you just told me I would have bought flood insurance. Mayor Jerkins stated well, you are probably smarter than me but I will buy flood insurance now. When I get the house fixed back I will buy flood insurance. Mr. Kimbrough stated he would like to answer Mr. Robinson question earlier. The Mayor and Council will be doing all they can to put pressure on all the agencies regarding the reimbursement, the buy back, to assure all the citizens of Austell get everything they deserve. Whether we want to believe it or not everyone in this room is on the same side. We have all been surprised by this and we are doing everything we can administratively up here, physically working in the homes. Mr. Thomas has been working, the Firemen, the Fire Chief, the Police Officers have all been working diligently over-time spending the nights up here and in the offices in order to do that. So, we all need to be together moving forward and we are, obviously there are different opinions as to how we got here to this place but everything was done properly. According to the rules and regulations of the laws, State laws, Federal laws, up to this point and time by the council by the department heads, and by all of the employees of the City of Austell. Some of those rules and laws make change as a result of this flood. Flood plains may be different now. If the Corps. of Engineers decides to take another look at this, this might be something that happens so rarely, the Mayor said last week it was a one in five hundred flood and it might be the Corp. of Engineers may not want to deal with it that would be up to them. We have to operate within the boundaries and the confines of the law that the Federal government sets. Especially with running water in streams and waterways that effect not only this area but areas downstream. Everything has been done properly and we are all on the same side here. We have to make sure we maintain our composure and work together. We have some people here who will speak later on what is going on and we will get from Point A to Point B.

Ms. Patrice Stevenson stated she lives at 4983 Lazy Hollow Lane it was part of the Sweetwater Valley Condominiums. I know Mr. Bowens attended our meeting yesterday and informed us about a lot of stuff. Three buildings were heavily flooded and two buildings were gutted down to the studs and it was devastating.

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I was coming in tonight to suggest and I didn't know if the city was going to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Program and I was happy to hear you are getting connected with the buyback program. And that Mr. Graham is going to be a big part of that. I wanted to know for us that are displaced any information that becomes available would you please put on your website. We can't get to our mailboxes all the time so this would be very helpful. Mayor Jerkins stated we will have the information and there will be an office set-up for that. Ms. Stevenson stated the residents in her community were very interested in the buyback program. Mayor Jerkins stated the condominiums had been there since the seventies and they have never flooded. Ms. Stevenson stated it was unreal right now because of the flooding and the value of the property in my information, we have run the numbers with FEMA, and it is a hundred thousand dollars worth of repair and our property is worth thirty thousand. It puts such an undue strain on all of us and it is so hard. All of us are very current on our mortgages, a very nice reasonable place to live and something we can afford. It is basically driving a lot of people to make decisions like I am going to have file bankruptcy and walk away. We feel like we don't want to do that because we are not walking away from our responsibility because we are already walking away from our homes that we love. We are extremely happy that the city will participate in this program. Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to tell how the hundred year flood works and the five hundred year flood works and the way they rate it. One percent chance out of a hundred percent that you will have a hundred year flood every year. A five hundred flood is a fourth of one percent chance and we got it this time. So, that is the way they rate it. So every year you have a one percent chance you will have the hundred year flood. We had more than that four years ago. This time we had five hundred or a thousand year flood because it got so high.

Mr. Brooks Moore stated we have determined we have had a flood and we have determined we have had a flood in the past. We have determined that Noah experienced the greatest flood. As a resident of the City of Austell what are we going to do about the abandoned homes that are mold infested and we have one in our subdivision and he packed what he could and left and said he had no plans on coming back. Mayor Jerkins stated he could not answer that question. Mayor Jerkins stated the bank would have to be involved and FEMA would get involved as well. Mr. Moore asked Mayor Jerkins does the city have any responsibility in condemning it or does the bank or the owner have responsibility to demolish it. This will affect other homes and our living environment. Mayor Jerkins stated we will do everything we can. We have never been confronted with this problem before. Mr. Moore asked, if it can be put on the agenda and discussed among you and the council members as to what we are going to do with these homes.

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Mayor Jerkins stated we will get in touch with the bank and at that point if they don't want to do something we will have to condemn it if it's not taken care of properly. Mr. Bowens stated the city has actually started a list of all the vacant homes in the subdivisions and we are cross-referencing that with the MSL to try and get addresses. We are referencing the tax map to find out who is paying the taxes on those properties. We will then send a letter out to that owner to contact us in regards as to going into the structure and removing debris, drywall, insulation and etc. I talked with the guy with FEMA and he told me if we were unsuccessful contacting the owners we would have to go through normal unsafe building abatement procedures. I have also talked with Cobb Environmental Health to actually inquire what we can do because it does get to a point where it becomes a health issue. Cobb Environmental Health had a meeting on that and I haven't heard back from them as of yet. We are in the process of listing all those homes that are abandoned, foreclosed or vacant so that we can address these. Because a lot of times when you repair your home and the house next door has not been seen after that concerns me and Cobb Environmental Health. Mr. Moore asked what about someone that is current on their mortgage now. It takes three months for the bank to start their foreclosure procedures and it takes another three months for them to take possession of the home. It takes six months while this home is festering with mold and disease and rats. It is going to be our responsibility to contact the Mayor and let him know that this home has been sitting here for six months because I can smell it. Mr. Bowens stated fortunately our process doesn't take six months for an unsafe building abatement to do something. We do have to follow through with the process in doing something and classifying the home as a health risk for neighbors surrounding that structure. I think it takes about three months. Then we can declare it unsafe and we do whatever is necessary for contact and back charge the actual lien holder for the property for the services to bring it up where it is not unsafe. Mr. Moore stated so a home that looks great on the outside, I take it the city officials are going to drive around and inspect every home in the City of Austell or will you still need our help to notify you. Mr. Bowens stated we will need your help because we don't know which homes are vacant in the subdivision. If you know of some that are vacant or has been foreclosed on and a lot of the homes don't have furnishings in them but they still need to be gutted. So if you can call Public Works we will take that information and that will give a starting point and to find out who actually pays the taxes on the home. Mr. Moore asked what is the time frame and can you put in the water bill or put it in the Newsletter saying if you know of a home that is one week abandoned, two weeks, three months. Mr. Bowens stated, please do it immediately and at least we will have an area to start and we will come back out and verify.

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At this point, if it's a vacant home that has been flooded no one will be moving in that home and we need to know that. Mr. Graham stated to the audience to please not call him about the buyback program because he has to be notified by the county and needs some time. Mr. Kimbrough stated FEMA has not named as a contact although it has been a national disaster and has been declared a national disaster by the Office of the President of the United States. We do not have a true contact person from FEMA that has been named yet. When this happens everything will starting falling into place as quickly as it can with the Federal Government.

Ms. Charlene Gordon stated when her husband spoke he was inquiring about the history of the floods. I would like to talk about 2005. In 2005 my mother's home was hit also with the flood and I just wondered if it could be raised about five feet with the construction and everything we have gone through. I am curious as to 2005 what Corps. of Engineers or individuals or whoever they were that engineered the area and said this hundred year plain I have been hearing about and said it would never happen again in the City of Austell and in fact did four years later. What type of plan or discussion and planned for 2005. It may not happen again and by history here it could happen again in a year, two years, three years. Mayor Jerkins stated it could happen tomorrow or the next day. Unless, FEMA changes the flood plain level and their rules, we will stay the same. Ms. Gordon stated this was her concern. This has happened within a four year time period. FEMA doesn't even have a contact person yet. The gentlemen here speaking about abandoned homes, and ours is one of them, and I know this is an on-going problem but what has FEMA done. I don't know what FEMA is doing. All I know there is a process and pattern and hardly any answers. I think to be pro-active is to get the Engineers together to talk about what to do moving forward. Did any discussion take place in 2005 as to how to prevent a catastrophe like this in the future. Here we are four years later and we have major problems it was lower last time and higher this time. Mayor Jerkins stated it keeps getting higher every time. When it rains as much as it did it will get that high again. Ms. Boyd stated after the flood in 2005 FEMA didn't change anything they left it the same and we have no control over that. Ms. Boyd stated she has been in Austell for a long time and even if we knew areas that might flood and you own that piece of property and you meet all the qualifications to develop that piece of property the only thing the Mayor and Council can do is make it the best it can be. We can control the square footage, we can control the setbacks, the size of the lots, we can control all kind of things on the outside of the house. We can't tell you if you own that piece of property we cannot stop you from developing that piece of property. It's your God given right to own property and develop that property.

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What we are trying to do is raise the standard in Austell to where it was at one time; and it was eight hundred feet and twelve hundred square feet and we have raised it to eighteen hundred square feet since I have been on the council and you can't build anything smaller than that in Austell. We have worked on the size of the lot and worked on all kind of things. We cannot stop you as citizens of Cobb County, Austell Georgia from developing your property. The only people that can do that and stop you is if you own property and FEMA says it cannot be developed. We have no control over this we wish to God we could have some control. When Mulberry Creek came in Austell I personally didn't want it developed. I couldn't stop it but I made as nice as it could be. I made them go back and do a lot of stuff. But, we can't stop those people from developing we do not have that kind of power. Someone in the audience asked who does. Mayor Jerkins stated FEMA and the Corps. of Engineers they have the power not us.

Mr. Willie Smith stated you put guidelines on the developer for the property in Austell. Who allows them to develop? Mayor Jerkins stated as long as they are three foot above the flood plain. The Corps. of Engineers says because you can get insurance and if it's below that you cannot get insurance. If we were to say you got to put six foot above the hundred year flood plain you would sue us and win. I have already explained this one time. Mr. Smith stated he understood and we have been around and around with this. I spoke with you Ms. Boyd in 2005 and it seems now the council would require the developer since you know that area and people who are sixty and seventy have said Mulberry Creek has always been a wetland. If you all knew that then why did you let the developer come in to Austell? Ms. Boyd stated she had never seen the upper area flood but she had seen the lower area flood where the horse farm is. Ms. Boyd stated the Corps. of Engineers had not changed the flood plain and I can't stop the man from developing it and I can't stop you from buying it. Mr. Smith asked if you could put pressure on FEMA to change the flood plain. Ms. Boyd stated we also tried to get the Corps. of Engineers to do something about Sweetwater Creek. My dad was on this council back in the fifties and sixties and he tried then to get the Corps. of Engineers to do something to Sweetwater Creek. They tried every so many years and they will not do it. Mayor Jerkins stated even at that it wouldn't help. Ms. Boyd stated maybe not but something has to be done. Mr. Smith stated it seems like we want to develop Austell to be a nice place and it is a nice place to live but it seems like we are spinning our wheels. But, two floods in four years something has to be done. Mayor Jerkins stated both of them set records. This is what you don't understand. Mayor Jerkins stated the tunnel will solve the problem. If the Corps. of Engineers don't change the flood plain it will remain the same. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had a question a little different.

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Mr. Vernon Chandler stated he lives in Cureton Woods and it has been repeated over and over that this is about FEMA and the Corp. of Engineers. I as Joe citizen can't go to FEMA or Corps. of Engineers and say hey, can you consider this. Is there a way that the Mayor and Council can put more pressure on FEMA and the Corps. of Engineers because it has happened in four years. Ms. Boyd stated you can also get in contact with your Commissioners, your State representatives, Congressman and we need their help too. You can put pressure on the politicians who have control because we don't have any control. We are with you and we want to work with you. Mr. Chandler stated well, the Mayor and Council would have more contact with these people. Ms. Boyd stated the Mayor is putting in twenty hour days and working day and night since it has happened. Ms. Boyd asked what more do you want us to do? Mr. Chandler stated, nothing. Mr. Chandler stated to Ms. Boyd since we are on this I see your passion but some of the comments have been condescending. You even mentioned Noah and that is really not relative. Mayor Jerkins stated I was just giving you an example and we all know it did happen.

Ms. Chrystal Watson stated she was a member of the New Birth Community Church and is new to the area. The thing that bothers me the most is that you referring to FEMA like they will solve all your problems. If you look back at Hurricane Katrina which was a few years ago New Orleans is still devastated. FEMA was supposed to come in and rescue these people. I work with a young lady who was a victim of Hurricane Katrina and she still has not recovered. I know several people who have relocated and they had homes and they had businesses who have not recovered. Now they live in apartments. You have people who are losing one hundred eighty to two hundred thousand dollar homes and even more and FEMA is capping out at thirty thousand dollars. For us to sit up here and think that FEMA is going to solve our problems we are kidding ourselves. You are saying put pressure on our Congressman and State representatives and we don't know how to do that we are seeking you as our leaders just as we seek our pastors for guidance in our own lives. We are seeking you because you know who to talk to and what needs to be done. Show us what we need to do and we will do it as a community. We don't have a clue and we can't rely on FEMA. Mayor Jerkins stated insurance. Ms. Watson stated what if they didn't have insurance. Mayor Jerkins stated you need to make sure you have flood insurance. Ms. Boyd stated four years ago FEMA bought out about a hundred homes that were flooded in Powder Springs. This year we are hoping and the Mayor had just announced he is meeting with them in the morning. You talked about the thirty thousand dollars to some of you and what we are trying to do is to get FEMA who will buy you out and that will be more than thirty thousand dollars. They bought out over a hundred homes in Powder Springs.

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We are hoping they will do this and this is what we are working on. We don't have the answers right now. But, the Mayor is trying to get the right answers for us. I agree, with you there is a lot of people still hurting from Hurricane Katrina and there will be a lot people in Austell that will be hurting for a long time. Ms. Watson stated that everyone wants to help, Ms. Boyd stated, she knew that. First thing I would do is call my Cobb County Commissioner's you have one here named Woody Thompson. You have David Scott, your Congressman and your State Representatives and all those people can put pressure on the right folks at FEMA. All of these names are available and you put pressure on them and we will put pressure on them. The more phone calls you make the better it will be. Mayor Jerkins stated he didn't mean to rush everyone but he needed to leave as soon as possible as his wife needs to go to the hospital. She has pneumonia and has had it twice already. Mayor Jerkins stated we have been are going around and around in circles and does anyone have a different question so we can get this meeting ended as quickly as possible.

Ms. Juanita Crowder stated I live in Mulberry Creek subdivision my question is I heard you say if you are in the flood zone the homes would be three feet elevated. I remember that policy when it took effect about the three feet elevation. My home is surely not three feet elevated. So, I don't know, when did that policy that you mention go into effect. Mayor Jerkins stated it should have been three feet over the hundred year flood plain. At this point, it got fourteen feet above the flood plain. This water got fourteen feet above the hundred year flood plain. Mainly because we go three foot and that is what we require and you need to get flood insurance. Ms. Crowder stated after 2005 and after being in the house for two months I didn't have it the first time but now I do. Let me explain about flood insurance it doesn't cover everything and thirty thousand people keep mentioning from FEMA is for thirty thousand if you have flood insurance and the home has to be elevated. For people that do not have flood insurance the thirty thousand will not be given to them. You know when your home has to be rebuilt especially for Mulberry Creek and I am going to speak for my home and it is one level and my whole home had over twelve feet of water in it. So, therefore the insurance I do have I thank God that no one in my subdivision lost life. Possessions can be replaced. So, flood insurance will not cover everything and the thirty thousand will not cover everything. I can speak for what flood does because my family was in Katrina in New Orleans and I can see Austell as being a mini Katrina. When you speak of the policy, and you speak of the elevation and you speak of what FEMA will do I haven't received anything from FEMA. They do say you have to wait seven to ten days.

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They do talk about the thirty thousand if you have flood insurance and that is to elevate the home and nothing to do with rebuilding your home. When you speak of that policy when did that become effective. Mayor Jerkins stated it has been like that since I have been here. Mr. Kimbrough stated it's not raising a home three feet. Mayor Jerkins stated if you build a new house we require you to build that home three feet above the flood plain. Then you can get insurance. Ms. Crowder stated when she first bought her home she could not purchase flood insurance. Mayor Jerkins stated no, that's wrong the Federal government says anyone can buy flood insurance.

Ms. Priscilla Wright stated she owns Wright Realty on Austell Road. It breaks my heart, and my concern is I have seen people who have come into my office and they have nowhere to go. They have been staying at the Civic Center and they are being kicked out this Wednesday if this is true. Where are these people going to go? Do we have a listing of homeless shelters in Austell or anywhere around where these people can go. Mayor Jerkins stated the Red Cross would help. Ms. Wright stated she had spoken with the Red Cross and they told her they would pay the rent. Mayor Jerkins stated we don't have any facilities to accommodate housing. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army could help.

Ms. Aubrey Jordan asked about the map of streets and subdivisions and wanted to know why her street was not on the map. Mayor Jerkins stated this is a map Public Works has made up where areas were flooded. Some of the areas are not in the flood zone and flooded anyway. Mr. Bowens stated the map is not complete and we are missing some side streets.

Mr. Wayne Ivey stated he lives on Old Marietta Road and luckily we were not flooded out and a lot of people around us were. Yesterday for the first time I was able to walk down the Sweetwater Creek runs along the back edge of my property. I wonder what we would be doing about cleaning the debris in Sweetwater Creek. Mayor Jerkins stated when we get with FEMA about some that stuff to clean the cardboard up and other things. As far as trees and stuff they will not clean this up.

Ms. Shandra Williams stated she has a question and there have been lots of questions tonight. There have been a lot of comic answers and I think the situation is being taken very lightly. We want to find out about FEMA and you said you would meet with FEMA and we need some answers. How will that be relayed back to the citizens of Austell?

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Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Williams if she had spoken with FEMA and she stated she had. Mayor Jerkins stated once more he would put the information on the internet, in the newspaper as well as the television stations. We can put in the water bills as well.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated we had the meeting last week. The gas rate schedule was adopted and implemented at the meeting.

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT
BEVERLY JAMES BOYD, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

- A. Financial Report
For information only the auditors are in-house completing the audit.

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

- A. No Report

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT
DAVID "BO" TRAYLOR, CHAIRPERSON
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

- A. Police Report
B. Code Enforcement Report
C. License Plate Reader – Information Only
Mr. Traylor stated the License Plate Reader will cost \$20,880.00 and as of right now we cannot purchase the License Plan Reader due to funds that are not available. We would like to postpone this item to a later date. We will look for grant funds to be purchased at a later date.

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- D. Work Permit Waiver Request – Johnnie Griggs
- E. Work Permit Waiver Request – Stephanie Roebuck
*Mr. Traylor stated he would like to table both work permits at this time.
Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*
- F. 5 Year Pins to given to: Jason Burton, Adam Moody, Christy Norman and Randy Henson.
Mr. Traylor stated the pins were given to the above at the beginning of the meeting.
- G. Rotary Club Donation – Information Only
Mr. Traylor stated he did not have any information at this time.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

- A. Fire Report
- B. Unsafe Building Update
Mr. Thomas stated he would like to turn this over to Chief Williams. Chief Williams stated the first property located at 5575 Old Marietta Road. Mr. Bill Braswell is here tonight to give us an update. Mr. Braswell was given a 90 day extension and Mr. Braswell was told to attend the council meeting to give us an update. Mr. Braswell stated part of the windows are being replaced and the others are being worked on.

Chief Williams stated there a couple of other properties that in question. The property at 6016 Pine Street that property was due next month and that property has been removed and I will follow up this next month for removal.

Next month the Mulberry Street property is due and the owner of that property will be summoned to appear before the Mayor and Council for the second hearing concerning the property located at 5706 Mulberry Street.

In July of 2009, the Mayor and City Council reviewed the recommendation to abate two properties in the City of Austell. The most current status of each property is as follows:

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The property owned by Ms. Lynda White Williams, was given 60 days to repair and replace the roof of the structure. Also, an added on portion to the side of the structure was to be removed within the 60 day period. The City Council approved a total of six months to complete renovations bringing the structure to all code(s) compliance.

The roof has not been replaced. Some work has been done to the added on portion. In speaking with Ms. Williams this past July, she advised that the contractor had not made very much progress towards the required repairs. Ms. Williams added that he had been cleaning up in and around the property. It appears most of the work has been done on the outside of the structure and the roof has not been replaced. I will continue to follow-up with Ms. Williams.

The property owner, Eric Eugene Key located at 5157 Lakeview Court failed to appear at the City Council meeting. The Council voted to demolish the structure due to its dilapidated condition.

They ask that our City Attorney, Scott Kimbrough, send Mr. Key a certified letter informing him of the City Council's decision. Mr. Key has failed to respond to this letter.

Mr. Kimbrough stated according to all the tax records, property deed records, in Cobb County Mr. Eugene Key still owns the property. We have sent several certified letters to him. The Chief is to begin this process. I have even done an additional search and found no address for him. This property is deemed unsafe and ready for demolition. The only issue I have, is we have not received any notification from Mr. Key that he has received any of our certified letters. We will continue to exhaust all possibilities in the hopes that we will be able to move forward at the next council meeting.

C. Civil Emergencies Ordinance and Adopted Amendments

Mr. Thomas stated please review the attached Cobb County Civil Emergencies Ordinance. The ordinance has been reviewed by City Attorney Scott Kimbrough. If you have any questions please see Mr. Kimbrough.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation to adopt the Civil Emergencies Ordinance and Adopted Amendments. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

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11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DAVID "BO" TRAYLOR, CHAIRPERSON
Randy Bowens, Director

- A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director

- A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director

- A. No Report

14. CITY ATTORNEY – DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

- A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. CMA MEETING

DATE:	October 13, 2009
TIME:	6:30 P.M.
LOCATION:	SMYRNA

- B. Beck Disaster Recovery

Mayor Jerkins stated he would turn this over to Mr. Jim Siciliano, Director of Client Services with Beck Disaster Recovery. Mr. Siciliano stated we have completed our first week of operation in the city. We have been procured by the city to assist in the recovery process for the infrastructure repair and the debris management as it relates to FEMA Public Assistance Program and the mitigation

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of Federal programs that may be available for reimbursement for the City. Approximately about a week of operations and we have some preliminary numbers as far as infrastructure for the City and we will report to you afterwards. We have had many meetings this week with the City and training with the City and thank you all for your attendance to that training as far as FEMA Public Assistance training as far as what your responsibilities are. We have collected documentation from Finance Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, Community Affairs Department and Parks Department and even taken photos. Plus we have done inventory and a list of damages on the Public Works building. We have done numerous site visits and photo documentation at Legion Park, which is the largest disaster project we are looking at for the community. We will continue examining your insurance policies and investigating damages and continue meetings with the different departments and site visits to help you with the numbers. To date since you started the dumpster program the city has removed 559 tons or 3,660 cubic yards of debris from the streets. Our initial estimate on debris generated from this storm, not including the park, is about 70,000 cubic yards. You have already picked up 3,660 cubic yards. Estimated total to be picked up is 70,000 cubic yards. With the current program you have in place you are looking at approximately seventy (70) days to get the work done with the current dumpster program. As far as your infrastructure repair we have identified ten projects that should be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement. Assistance where money will come into the City to help repair the infrastructure and help the City recover it's incurred cost as a direct result of the storm. Pet projects, we have your debris projects which include your containers, your monitoring, your debris haulers, Fire Department force account labor, Police Department force account labor, Public Works force account labor, and Community Affairs. Road damages are about a hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) and this may go up and actually this is a first week estimate and typically it will not go down. Looking at two hundred thousand dollars at least at the Filter Plant Road Complex and approximately six million dollars at Legion Park for a total of 7.9 million dollars. This should be reimbursed through the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Those pet projects that we have already identified will probably be broken up into smaller projects as we get a better scope of work and a better damage description. That is what we have so far in the summary. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Boyd stated, yes, she did. Ms. Boyd asked Mr. Siciliano if they were providing the dumpsters.

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Mayor Jerkins stated no they are not providing the dumpsters. Mayor Jerkins stated we have put a proposal out on and do like we usually do and run the ads in the paper for someone to bid on what is left after this comes in. Ms. Boyd asked how many dumpsters do we have and who ordered the dumpsters. Mayor Jerkins stated he ordered the dumpsters and asked Mr. Bowens how many the city had out there. Mr. Bowens stated the city has about sixty (60) out there. Ms. Boyd stated if it is going to take seventy (70) days. Mayor Jerkins stated this is the proposal we are putting out so that it will be accomplished. Once we get the proposal back what is the date? Mr. Bowens stated it was October 16, 2009. Ms. Boyd asked if we could get more dumpsters. Mayor Jerkins stated when the bid comes back we will hire someone at that point to come in and get the stuff.

Mr. Siciliano stated he would like to introduce Mr. Bryan Fike who is the Director, Post-Event Programs. Mr. Fike stated he and Mr. Bowens had discussed this at length and I have some real concerns about the on-going dumpster collection program. Having been in this position over some of the largest disasters that has happened in this country and I am very familiar with how FEMA could use the debris collection programs. The dumpster collection program was a phenomenal program as a stop gap. As an initial measure to provide an outlet for debris for the citizens. Unfortunately, long term I am afraid FEMA will view this as an ineffective debris management method. I think a good bit of the debris that is collected by this method will be in danger of de-obligation of funds down the road. It is important for you to understand FEMA views this thing in a very sickly fashion. The dumpster collection program could be viewed as having your vehicle in first gear and you can't drive cross country in first gear and at some point you have to shift into second gear and get more momentum. This is what we are recommending, that the City, under your emergency powers that you were granted recently, engage a debris hauler immediately. While your RFP is out for selection of a contractor for primary debris operations you can bring in a debris hauler on board. Who can address your debris problem in a much more effective and expedited manner than the way it is being done now. It would be better for the citizens because they will not have to carry as far and they will have to put on the right-of-way. That debris can be deposited of from the right-of-way in front of their homes. Mayor Jerkins stated we are doing this now and it will not change. Our recommendation would be that you bring a debris hauler on immediately. While that RFP is running it's course, and I believe it has to be advertised for a two week period.

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Mr. Kimbrough stated, yes, no longer than noon on October 16, 2009. Mayor Jerkins stated I realize you want to get the show on the road but I had rather wait until the RFP comes in. We do not want to be sued. We need to wait the eleven days and go from there. Mr. Fike stated we will follow whatever the City would like to do. Mayor Jerkins stated this is what we normally do. If we have the proposal out there and I think we need to look at this. If we don't get paid we don't get paid. Mr. Fike stated as long as you understand this is a reality and a possibility. Mayor Jerkins stated this is why we hired you to keep up with the paper work. FEMA will usually call in the authenticity of the placement of the dumpsters and they can't be watched twenty-four hours a day. Mayor Jerkins stated so would the other company watch them twenty-four hours a day. It would be the same thing would it not? If another company comes in are they going to watch it twenty four hours a day? Mr. Fike stated, no sir, but if people from other areas place things in the dumpsters this would be a problem. Those are the questions that would be asked and I have worked as a project officer in the State of Florida and I have worked for FEMA and asking these very questions. I would have called myself and asked questions had it been bought to my attention as to the authenticity of the debris in the dumpsters and the additional weight of the rainwater in the dumpsters. That may be a issue down the road but if you are comfortable with waiting until the RFP comes in to make your contractors selection and we will move forward at that time. We just need to know how to prepare the documentation properly so that we can fight those fights down the road. Because we do anticipate more fights with FEMA down the road. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Siciliano stated he just had one thing to say the City of Austell we have looked at all the different cities and the City of Austell was the first to react to this flood. The first ones to go out and put up debris program and the first one to help with recovery and my hat is off to everyone. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had any questions of this group. No one did.

Mayor Jerkins stated Red Cross will stop delivery goods according to Chief Williams. Mr. Thomas stated on a lower level the Red Cross is going to continue to get the items out to get to the people. Mayor Jerkins stated that C.A.M.P. would like to help. We have our staff down there and our inmates working and I think we need to close it and let C.A.M.P. handle it. They are equipped for that. Mr. Thomas stated he would close it tomorrow. Mayor Jerkins stated he didn't know if it needed to be closed tomorrow but soon.

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The Parks department has not been able to work because they have been working there. Some more of our staff is staying down there and it is putting a strain on us and FEMA will not reimburse us. So we have a money problem here and we have things not being done. This is why I am saying let's turn it over to C.A.M.P. Unless you have enough volunteers. Mr. Thomas stated, yes, he did have a lot of volunteers but if council wants to go ahead and close it that's fine. Mayor Jerkins stated I am just telling you that we will not be reimbursed. Mr. Thomas stated he understood but we have helped a lot of people. Mayor Jerkins stated C.A.M.P. will do a better job than we can. We have helped a lot of people and there are still a lot of people that need to be helped. Mayor Jerkins stated, he agreed but C.A.M. P. is setup for that. Mr. Thomas stated they are only opened certain hours of the day and I met with C.A.M.P. today and we talked about the distribution of what we have in stock and transferring over to them. They don't have enough volunteers and they are only opened certain hours of the day and these people who are flooded who have to work on their homes have to work during the day and when they get off from work and have to come home and do the clean up on their house. Mayor Jerkins stated we need to pull our staff immediately. Mr. Thomas stated he would stay open till next Sunday and close it at that time. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had anything else. No one did.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).