

**MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEETING
ENOCH CITY COUNCIL
August 3, 2021 at 6:00pm
City Council Chambers
City Offices, 900 E. Midvalley Road**

Members present:

Mayor Geoffrey Chesnut
Council Member David Harris
Council Member Jolene Lee
Council Member West Harris-Zoom
Council Member Katherine Ross
Council Member Shawn Stoor-absent

Staff present:

Julie Watson, Recorder-Zoom
Ashley Horton, Treas.
J. Wayment, City Atty.
Hayden White, PW Dir.
Robert Dotson, City Mgr.
Jackson Ames, PD Chief

Public Present: Chief Mike Phillips

1. **CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-**By Mayor Chesnut at 6:00 pm for an emergency meeting.
 - a. **Pledge of Allegiance-**Led by Council Member David Harris
 - b. **Invocation-**Audience invited to participate-Given by Council Member Ross
 - c. **Approval of Agenda for August 3, 2021-Council Member David Harris made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ross and all voted in favor.**
 - d. **Conflict of Interest Declaration for this agenda-**none stated

2. **DISCUSS EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND FLOODING MITIGATION**

Mayor Chesnut said he called this emergency meeting because he wanted to have time prior to the regular meeting tomorrow night to discuss the State of Emergency which he declared Sunday evening based on the flooding that occurred. At this point he said he would like to go through an update of the current status and then discuss the actual events that occurred as we have gathered data to give to the community about what happened and what we have done since. City Manager Dotson said we don't yet have an exact count, but hundreds of homes have been damaged. They are in the process of being gutted and are being worked on to clean up and disinfect. Chief Phillips is here and has been heavily involved. The Red Cross has set up at the LDS Church on Midvalley Road by the Family Dollar and has items available for the public to have at no charge and they are taking donations. He gave many more details about the massive amount of help that has come from the LDS Church and others in every way you can imagine. The City has been inundated with volunteers from everywhere including, SUU, high school kids, businesses and those donating food such as Fosters and Papa John's Pizza among many others. The LDS Church has given two tractor trailers full of all kinds of needed things from tools to food, clothing and sanitary cleaning kits. Most homes west of Pioneer Drive received damage from the sewer being overwhelmed by massive amounts of rainwater that fell in a short period of time on Sunday afternoon. The number of manhours put in can't be described. We had over two (2) inches of rain Saturday and one (1) inch on Friday. There have been eight (8) storms since the last two weeks of July. At this point over 15 inches of rain have fallen in one month. They met with the State Emergency Management team and he asked Chief Phillips to explain more.

Chief Phillips said we received a lot of rain in a short period of time. Southern Utah, especially of Enoch, received about four (4) inches in one 24-hour period. Compared to last year

that is 600% of normal confirmed by NOAA. He gave details and said as the damage assessments go up the chain there is a probability of assistance for public infrastructure and funding for low interest loans for homeowners and businesses. Emergency teams are doing damage assessments on homes. Now it appears about 294 homes were damaged which is about 14% of the population. They need to go to each home and use a percentage of damage to calculate the assessed value of the property to meet thresholds to receive aid. Meeting thresholds is very important so documentation is essential. The Church Stake President is calculating volunteer hours at \$13.58 cents of value per hour for that purpose. The Enoch West Stake on Sunday got over 4000 hours of manpower donated. That is just one Stake and other Stakes were assigned wards to go help so there are many more hours to add to that. The SUU football team, cheer leaders and the Red Cross are trying to calculate their hours. The website is where to report damage to homes and we need to encourage all affected to do so. City Manager Dotson showed the site and the two links to for storm damage reporting saying this helps us to do our assessment and to understand what type of damage was done. Every person who helped needs to record their hours for FEMA even though many prefer to remain anonymous volunteers, expecting no thanks. A name and the hours are what FEMA requires. We are sending this out through the media, the Church and every avenue we can to get people to report the hours they helped. Volunteers are counted at \$13.68 per hour for the FEMA threshold. Mayor Chesnut said so far with all disasters taken into account, we are at four (4) million statewide. The Governor and others will tie all events together to meet the threshold for the whole State to bundle that in and they think we will meet the minimums to go to FEMA to get funding for citizens in the form of low interest loans to help with repairs. Most people do not have flood insurance and regular homeowner's insurance does not cover this type of disaster.

Chief Phillips said it is better to be robust and accurate for who was actually there in the form of volunteers and not let things drop off in order to avoid falling below the threshold. We need people to report and we need to get the word out to do that and why. Public infrastructure has a separate threshold and he gave more details of what money goes to what projects. Essentially there are different pots of money for different things. The damage applications will go into the State in two weeks and then there will be two weeks to review the data. Council Member Ross asked if this only started with the Sunday flood or if time counts for the previous filing of sandbags for the other storms that happened before. People were asked to show up and start helping and we don't know who was there and the number of hours worked. Chief Phillips said a lot of people don't want to be given credit but we need to encourage people to sign up for what they did and explain the thresholds we need to meet so they understand the necessity. City Manager Dotson said they put a new form online after the first form was posted so people need to fill it out again for the hours as that is so important. Council Member Ross asked if they can put in hours each day or should they report the total? She was told there should be a separate report for each storm. We had 7 or 8 storms. We are trying to add those together. It was a series of storms and it all comes together at the end so do it for each day.

Mayor Chesnut said he and City Manager Dotson have been working diligently with the press to keep the message consistent and to direct them to the problem areas that caused the flood. City Manager Dotson and Becki Bronson have been wonderful to help and to handle the PIO job with the media. Mayor Chesnut said he and City Manager Dotson discussed not having the press all over town so we just gave them the basic "show and tell" and it led to an outpouring of support. The support has come from far away and it is amazing. They got a video from drone with the help of Andy Lossee who knows how to do that. Chief Phillips coordinated a helicopter to do a fly over to see the damage while we still had daylight. Our system is robust and what failed was not the system. The sewer was overwhelmed by water that did not originate in Enoch. The video from that night demonstrated that. City Manager Dotson showed the video they took from the helicopter. From Hwy. 91 and heading north by NE and they flew in the evening so they could

see where all the water came from. Traveling NE there are numerous culverts that go under Hwy. 91 and collect in irrigation surface ponds owned by farmers. Those were quickly overwhelmed. The damage and storm water flow were discussed noting it came from the various alluvial flows out of the hills. More details were given as the video was shown. More details of the various storms was given as they all contributed to the end result. There were two storms on Sunday that occurred further south. The second storm is what got us. That went as far west as Garden Park. City Manager Dotson gave details as he explained what they observed. When the hail came on it was four feet deep in some areas. It was dime to quarter size hail by the freeway and closed it. City Manager Dotson explained how the water flowed in various areas and where the detention ponds, made for a 100-hour event, were overwhelmed. This storm was off the charts. Engineers look at it as over time, for a 100-year event there is a 1% chance of that happening any one time in 100 years. The night we are looking at is a 1000-year event. More numbers and explanations of how this is calculated were discussed. We went beyond that for the Sunday storm. Council Member Lee said it is hard to explain to the residents where the water came from. They blame the City. City Manager Dotson continued with the video. More water came through than the NRCS project could have stopped. He told about the 2012 storm and the NRCS project we started after that. He showed the basins planned and that they would not have handled this much water. He gave details of the parts of the project that have been completed. The 60 inch pipes were overwhelmed by the storm intensity. Homes were damaged all the way up into the north eastern area to the top of Heather Hue Road. He showed more video and explained all the water shown in the distance is the water our system did move. Chief Phillips said they pumped about 60,000 gallons an hour out of the Iron Mountain pond for six (6) hours. This is a culmination of several storms one day after another, Sunday being the worst. Water just ran and the sewer was overwhelmed. There was no way the sewer system could not have been overwhelmed with the rain totals. He showed the Iron Mountain pond saying that helped stop some of the water and hold a lot of it in that pond. City Manager Dotson showed the freeway and said water filled up the whole berm areas on both sides and closed the freeway. City Manager Dotson said we sandbagged the City Office to keep it from flooding. There was discussion of traffic issues that came up during the storm with people trying to get around to help others. It was noted no one knew the extent of the storm at the time it was occurring and there was no way to stop or divert traffic with the lack of information we had at the time. Problems did occur but there is no way to plan for that in advance. There were abandoned cars stuck on the roads but if people choose to drive through deep water when they have been counseled not to do so, that is what happens. No one understood how bad it was, Council Member Lee said. There was discussion of anecdotal stories of what everyone went through that day. It all happened so quickly there was no way to tell from the ground the extent of what was happening. The event was so huge no amount of prevention or preparation could have changed the outcome when that much rain falls in a short period of time on top of what had already come down in previous days.

City Manager Dotson said that leads to the next discussion. There is word out there on social media that Enoch does not do anything. They have all seen it on Facebook. The EA required for the NRCS money did slow the project down. City Manager Dotson gave details about what is happening regarding the grant we received and how it is going. He showed the culverts on 91 and what water it did stop. He showed where the basins would be in the concept to apply for the grant for the continuing design work for this project. The scope of work has now changed with these storms. The engineer who is over this project at NRCS is working with us. They had a whole crew of engineers come in to reassess the plan. They will expand the scope of the work and the money to do it. They now see how bad it can be and he showed the adaptive changes. It will take more than a year and a half to do it. Now we see what can happen and so the other issue is our response. There will be emergencies and how we deal with the public and processes, procedures and paperwork that should have been done throughout the whole thing is

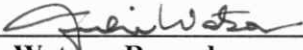
what we will analyze and get a plan for how this should take place and who would do that. We were all out doing other things during the flood. As we grasp it, most all that was done for clean-up was donated and we don't know who all of the volunteers are. No bill will come for the majority of what was done. Even the professional cleaning companies donated their work. There are things that will come up like bills we will work through. The County will defer some landfill costs. There will be costs for the sandbags, some landfill fees and the like. We bought some food to give to volunteers but much was donated. We are working with George Colson from the County Emergency Management to mitigate things but there will be bills coming. Chief Phillips and his crew have been invaluable. We can't thank them enough. He helped with crisis management and how to handle things including food. Our crew was amazing. Hayden said five employees hit 40 hours at 8:00 am this morning but still would not go home. They wanted to stay to help. The PD were also amazing as were the Office staff fielding phone calls all day long. Twin D came in to help with flushing the manholes and they were enroute Sunday night. More anecdotes were shared of those who came to help from all over to pump out homes and do whatever they could. We had great partners and this is a miraculous response, City Manager Dotson said and Mayor Chesnut echoed. We will be spending some money so we have to build the budget up and make changes when the bills start to show up.

Council Member Lee asked if there is any more we can do to stop the water from coming on us. City Manager Dotson said the Trust, our insurer, said there is no liability coverage for sewer back-ups. This was so large and water came over the surface of the ground. We can't promise anyone anything. There may be a "no fault" payment for under insured people. That is only for those who had water come in from the sewer but not for water from outside. If it came from outside through the windows they do not qualify. This does not cover a lot. They have to file online for what happened to them and it will be a careful process. They have to supply the declaration page from their policy and it is for the uninsured or under-insured only. Their deductible is still in place. Most will not qualify with the restrictions. They will have 30 days to make application. Most people did not call disaster recovery companies. They just showed up to help. We may get sheetrock donated from others and more building materials like that. Financial donations are coming. It can't come to the City however and we will need to figure that out. We are not allowed to manage or distribute any funds. The Interfaith Alliance has raised \$60,000 already. There is also a "Go Fund Me" account set up by the country radio station. We can't take money but can direct people to where to get it. Government has to stay out of the money part for people. Others are taking care of that. The City is taking care of the City infrastructure but not the residents. Private companies are pitching in from all over. The community resources like the Red Cross and the LDS Church are involved and we just coordinate. Council Member Lee said we need to get the word out about what is available. City Manager Dotson said he is doing that in every way possible. Council Member David Harris gave information saying the County is letting people know to file the application form to get property tax adjustments to lower the property taxes to help out. This is through Dan Jessen, the County Auditor. Area leadership and the Church will help get information out through their ward phone/email chains. Hayden said our employees are doing the best they can and choosing to stay on the job to help. One employee's house flooded and he stayed to help others. Council Member Lee asked about trash cans. If residents can't find them will we replace them without charge? Hayden said he has a stack of work orders and they are looking for the cans. Staff is advising residents of their can number so they can look. We have not have had a chance to think about it yet. We will try to find them and have residents try to find them. If they are not able to be located and we need to give them a new one we will probably consider that.

Mayor Chesnut said communication is the keyword now. As leadership we need to give the community information to get residents to understand what happened and the circumstances of why it happened. This was a weather event beyond the scope of anything normal. Reporting

volunteer hours is not a bad thing if it helps to reach the necessary thresholds that may provide some funds to defray costs. It is a good thing to allow your neighbors to help you. No government or insurance is coming to help so we need to encourage people to take donations. Most prefer not to do that. Chief Ames said in law enforcement they see people at their worst and this was the opposite. They had lots of welfare check calls from those unable to contact older folks. All were okay. City Manager Dotson said one other issue was people were digging trying to help and utility companies came in to say we have to stop that. They barely stopped someone from hitting a four-inch gas line. We sent out an Everbridge call to remind folks to call Blue Stakes before digging. They are onsite so the regular wait time to be marked is not in effect. Mayor Chesnut asked Chief Phillips if he had anything else and thanked him. City Attorney Justin Wayment said he is impressed with our community. City Manager Dotson said we don't have much equipment but so much came in from the outside to help to do all this. We don't have a mobile trailer with emergency equipment such as pumps, shovels, vacuums and the like. That is a need we have to consider very soon and should have as a permanent thing. Mayor Chesnut said we are getting quotes for that. Our neighbors brought in equipment and we need to be able to do the same to reciprocate. That is something government can do. We need to have the resources on hand to use here and to help others. City Attorney Justin Wayment said tomorrow night there could be bullets flying. We will have to talk to the people to tell them what happened and what the City does and can do or cannot do. We are all grateful for all the help rendered. Council Member Ross said her cousin's house flooded and she was on the SLC news. Her cousin, in talking to the reporter, said no one could have done anything with that much water. She explained it in a very non-accusatory way and hopes people saw that newscast. We can see the blessings rolling in and all agreed we are filled with gratitude for the countless unnamed helpers.

3. ADJOURN-Council Member David Harris made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and all voted in favor. The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

 8-18-21
Julie Watson, Recorder Date

Meeting ID: 835 6554 6572