

BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
Fargo, North Dakota

Special Meeting:

Monday:

March 1, 2010:

Agreeable with a call for a Special Meeting issued by Mayor Walaker, the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, convened in a Special Meeting in the City Commissioners' Room at the City Hall at 4:00 o'clock p.m., on Monday, March 1, 2010.

The Commissioners present or absent were as shown following:

Present: Mahoney, Piepkorn, Williams, Wimmer, Walaker.

Absent: None.

Mayor Walaker presiding.

Consent Given for the Emergency Declaration Issued by the Mayor on February 22, 2010:

The Board received a communication from City Attorney Erik Johnson stating the Mayor issued his Emergency Declaration on February 22, 2010. He said part of the purpose for the declaration is to begin advance preparation work for what is to be a very significant flood. He said the anticipation is for the Mayor to extend the declaration in two-week increments as called for under the current Ordinance and to extend the Emergency Declaration for a period of up to or in excess of 30 days under the recently amended "State of Emergency" Ordinance once that takes effect. He said at the same time, state law regarding Emergency Services calls for the Mayor to issue declarations regarding the "State of Emergency". He said in order for there to be conformity with both the City and State statutes, consent should be given by the City Commission for the Emergency Declaration that was issued by the Mayor on February 22, 2010.

Commissioner Piepkorn moved to give consent to the Emergency Declaration issued by the Mayor on February 22, 2010, as the same may be amended or extended as allowed by City Ordinance.

Second by Williams. On call of the roll Commissioners Piepkorn, Williams, Mahoney, Wimmer and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the motion was declared carried.

General Discussion on Flood Protection Measures and Schedule:

City Administrator Pat Zavoral stated there will be 7:00 a.m. staff meetings and 8:00 a.m. live broadcast meetings again this year.

Emergency Services Coordinator Leon Schlafmann stated during last year's flood fight communication seemed a bit hard to come by for some people. He said all the facilities will be tied together with video conferencing and no matter if you are at the EOC, Central Garage, City Hall or Public Safety Building, a person can partake in

a meeting that may be going on at a different location. He said the EOC is ready to be activated and they are just waiting on the County to kickoff their operations.

Senior Engineer April Walker stated neighborhood meetings have been setup to begin Tuesday, March 2 in Centennial Hall at the Civic Center. She said the general schedule for the meetings is 5:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. and staff assigned to each neighborhood will be on hand after the meetings for questions.

Planning Director Jim Gilmour stated for the next couple of weeks buses will be running between the Coliseum and Sandbag Central from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and from NDSU Student Union to Sandbag Central. He said when sandbagging needs to be done in the field, buses will run from the Assembly of God Church in south Fargo and the Fargodome on the north side. He said in areas of town where sandbagging will be needed there is not a lot of parking, so it will be very important for people to park at the designated locations and bused to the neighborhoods.

Enterprise Director Bruce Grubb stated last year a consultant was brought in to come up with a contingency plan for both water plants. He said last year when contingency protection was started along the river, contingency plans for the plants began. He said they will use that same guideline this year.

Finance Director Kent Costin stated time sheets have been enhanced from last year's flood event and all departments are using the same forms. He said about 80% of costs have been recovered from last year's flood event.

#### Advanced Flood Control Measures Approved:

City Engineer Mark Bittner stated when the latest flood predication was announced Engineering staff looked at what was done last year during the flood and what could be done better during the flood event this year. He said the proposal is to increase the amount of earthen levees that are erected, which would lessen the amount of sandbags needed in neighborhoods. He said he would like to take the proposals to the neighborhood meetings for discussion and if approved, staff would need to move forward with these recommendations in the next week or so.

Senior Engineer April Walker stated the levees would be a temporary measure at this point, but post-flood engineering could work with the Corps of Engineers to make the temporary levees permanent by having them certified.

Commissioner Wimmer moved advance flood control measures be approved.

Second by Piepkorn. On call of the roll Commissioners Wimmer, Piepkorn, Mahoney, Williams and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the motion was declared carried.

#### Engineering Department Authorized to Hire Outside Engineering Firms for Additional Assistance:

City Engineer Mark Bittner stated during last year's flood event most of the Engineering staff was working out in the field. He said he would like more coverage and visibility out in the neighborhoods this year and to do that, additional staff would need to be hired.

Commissioner Piepkorn moved the Engineering Department be authorized to hire outside engineering firms for additional assistance.

Second by Wimmer. On call of the roll Commissioners Piepkorn, Wimmer, Mahoney, Williams and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the motion was declared carried.

Temporary Storage Sites Approved: Resolution Adopted Establishing the Sandbag Incentive Program:

Enterprise Director Bruce Grubb stated sandbagging efforts this morning were light and as of about 3:00 p.m. today, 20,000 sandbags have been produced. He said last year there were no heated facilities to store the filled sandbags and this year 6 warehouses with over 20,000 square feet of storage each have been rented. He said one of the warehouses, which is adjacent to Sandbag Central, has been designated as an overflow sandbag production site. The other 5 sites are within a half mile of Sandbag Central, he said, which makes controlling the filling and dispatching of the sandbags easier.

Commissioner Wimmer moved temporary storage sites be approved.

Second by Mahoney. On call of the roll Commissioners Wimmer, Mahoney, Piepkorn, Williams and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Wimmer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF FARGO:

WHEREAS, During the Spring Flood of 2009 at great personal effort of the residents of the City of Fargo and surrounding area approximately 3.5 million sandbags were filled during a very short period of time and during a state of emergency in the community; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists that a flood of equal or greater proportions than 2009 may occur during the spring of 2010; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the probability of a substantial flood event occurring during the Spring of 2010, it is necessary and appropriate that the City of Fargo begin filling sandbags before a crisis is upon the City; and

WHEREAS, It is valuable, appropriate and necessary that the City of Fargo create an incentive for citizens to mobilize for such early sandbag-filling efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota:

1. There is hereby established a program called "Denny's Bucks for Bags" which will be administered under the direction of the City Administrator.
2. This program will commence March 1, 2010 and will extend until terminated by direction and order of the Mayor. It is the goal and expectation that this program will result in the filling of a minimum of one million sandbags and potentially as many as 1.5 million sandbags. The program is anticipated to extend until at least one million sandbags are filled and stored or until a disaster declaration has been established for this anticipated spring 2010 flood

event and once terminated, the incentive contributions by the City will terminate.

3. In order to incent citizens to mobilize for this sandbag-filling effort, the following incentive compensation will be provided:

a. The City will contribute \$75.00 to a qualified organization that provides 100 hours of sandbag-filling effort under this program and will provide an additional \$75.00 for each 100 hours provided by said qualified organizations. Any qualified organization that contributed 500 hours or more under this program will receive a \$50.00 bonus. Therefore, for example, a qualified organization providing 500 hours of sandbag-filling effort will receive a contribution of \$425.00 from the City of Fargo. Payments will be for whole 100-hour increments only and will not be pro-rated.

b. Qualified organizations will include non-profit corporations, 501(c)(3) organizations, civic or community organizations, high school football, basketball or other teams, high school key clubs, DECA clubs and similar organizations. An eligible organization must have been organized and in existence on or before January 1, 2010 and the City Administrator shall approve those organizations that are eligible under this program. Contributions to student-teams or organizations will be made to the school, or applicable school district, and the school will administer or distribute the funds to the school organization. Eligible organizations will be required to register in advance (before organization members begin contributing hours of sandbag-filling efforts) and provide the name and address of the president or chairman of the organization, tax identification number of the organization, and so forth. The registration will also require the organization to identify the number of members of the organization.

c. Eligible organizations will be grouped in categories by the number of members of the organization as follows:

Category A	15 or fewer members
Category B	16 to 30 members
Category C	31 to 50 members
Category D	51 to 75 members
Category E	76 or more members

As to each category, once the “Denny’s Bucks for Bags” program is ended, the eligible organization in each of the above categories with the greatest number of sandbag-filling hours contributed will receive a \$100.00 bonus in addition to any other contribution or bonus.

- d. Individuals may elect to contribute their sandbag-filling hours toward a registered, eligible organization and those hours may be included in this incentive and bonus program.

Second by Mahoney. On the vote being taken on the question of the adoption of the Resolution Commissioners Wimmer, Mahoney, Piepkorn, Williams and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the Resolution was adopted.

Update on Plans for At-Risk Population: Draft Evacuation Procedures Approved:

Public Health Director Ruth Bachmeier stated last year during the flood event 3,000 vulnerable citizens needed to be relocated. She said this year those individuals are being looked at again and relocation plans are being established. She said that a vulnerable population registry will be launched soon. She said hospitals are also looking at how to meet the needs of acute care during a flood event and what the capabilities are locally.

Fire Chief Bruce Hoover stated looking back on last year's flood event, there needs to be a more consistent message going out to the residents and staff has been working on a comprehensive evacuation plan. He said it is impractical to do a mandatory evacuation plan.

Commissioner Mahoney moved the draft evacuation procedures be approved.

Second by Wimmer. On call of the roll Commissioners Mahoney, Wimmer, Piepkorn, Williams and Walaker voted aye.

No Commissioner being absent and none voting nay, the motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Wimmer moved that the Board adjourn.

Second by Piepkorn. All the Commissioners voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

The time at adjournment was 5:25 o'clock p.m.