

PLATTEVILLE COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 17, 2014

The special emergency meeting of the Common Council of the City of Platteville was called to order by Council President Pro-Tem Barbara Daus at 11:00 AM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dick Bonin, Barbara Daus, Mike Denn, Ken Kilian, Amy Seeboth, and Barb Stockhausen.
Excused: Council President Eileen Nickels.

President Pro-Tem Daus expressed appreciation to all those who have been involved in helping out during this emergency situation.

UPDATE ON CITY-WIDE STORM DAMAGE

City Manager Larry Bierke updated the Council that as a result of a “high wind” event during the middle of the night, at 2:23 AM he declared a State of Emergency for the City of Platteville. At this time, there were 12 homes identified as destroyed, 20 other homes damaged, and damage to UW-Platteville facilities. The good news is that as a result of this emergency there was an outpouring of volunteers – a credit to the people of Platteville. In addition to the residents of Platteville, an incredible response from emergency departments from surrounding areas was received. At this time, the National Weather Service hasn’t declared that it was a tornado, but expects that it will be classified as such.

Police Lt. Jeff Haas reported that there were two police officers on duty at the time, within a few minutes of the event six more came in, and once the EOC was established they were able to get even more help in at 7:00 AM. Much of that they were dealing with access to the sites.

EMS Director Brian Allen reported that EMS had non-related storm calls that started out the night, with one ambulance crew being trapped by downed power lines while on a call. The rest of the night was attending to storm related injuries – most as a result of debris to the face –with one severe injury who was transported for a higher level of care. Numerous ambulance services from surrounding areas assisted.

Fire Chief Ryan Simmons reported that the Fire Dept was staffed at full capacity in anticipation of the severe weather. Once the storm came through they immediately started search and rescue operations to assess needs and requested aid from surrounding agencies. Within a short amount of time they had Fire and EMS units from 15 communities, Grant County Emergency Management, Grant County Tech Rescue, HazMat to deal with the Shell station, and had most things contained within a short period of time. Staff continue to assist City and residents with cleanup efforts.

Public Works Director Howard Crofoot reported that the full Public Works crew responded and began with clearing streets to provide access to emergency vehicles. Now they are into debris and tree cleanup mode. Water & Sewer have been in with staggered crews, operations ongoing, wells are in good shape, and the wastewater plant has its power back on. Power has been restored to the northwest corner of the city. As Alliant Energy gets areas ready, they will turn the power back on. Unfortunately, at this point they do not anticipate that the power will be on in all areas by dark.

UW-Platteville Vice Chancellor Dennis Cooley thanked the City, Alliant Energy, UW staff, and everyone who responded to this event, stating that they were grateful for not only the speed, but for the thoroughness of the response. He reported that campus was without power (generators for some areas), closed to the public, and a number of events have been cancelled, such as basketball camps, etc. Damage to the campus included Bridgeway Commons, Rountree Commons, Southwest Hall, Engineering Building, and Pioneer Stadium.

City Manager Larry Bierke noted that the City has a lot of resources that have been appropriated, a lot of emergency staff trained and ready to go, and so far it has been a very successful recovery effort.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker stated that he was here to see things and to work with the City, County, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), Emergency law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders. He came with additional WEM staff and General Anderson from the National Guard to tour the City and work with the County and City to get things back on track. Noted that any time there is a tornado/occurrence such as this, he was thankful that that no lives were lost – everything else can be replaced.

State Representative Travis Tranel reported that when he got the text from Larry Bierke about the tornado, he immediately informed the Governor and then proceeded to thank him for coming to Platteville.

Council Questions included:

Number to call for volunteers – If you are looking for volunteers because you have damage or need help, call City Hall at 348-9741 and dial 0 to talk with Kim Lowery. If you are volunteering your services, please go directly to the Platteville High School.

Hot weather concerns – Cooling Centers throughout the City (Senior Center, Police Station, City Hall), and for this situation there will be a cooling center tent at Harrison Park.

Emergency Shelter – Platteville High School at 40 East Madison Street.

RATIFICATION OF DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

In accordance with WI Stats. 323.14(4)(b) and Section 2.31 Emergency Management of the Platteville Municipal Code, the Emergency Management Director (City Manager) declared a State of Emergency for the City of Platteville at 2:23 AM on June 17, 2014. This proclamation is subject to ratification, alteration, modification or repeal by the governing body as soon as that body can meet, but the subsequent action taken by the governing body shall not affect the prior validity of the proclamation. Motion by Bonin, second by Kilian to ratify the State of Emergency as declared by the City Manager at 2:23 AM on June 17, 2014. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bonin, second by Denn to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Martin, City Clerk