

On this the 3rd day of December, 2015, the City Council of the City of Marlin, Texas convened in a SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, at 5:30pm, the same being open to the public and having been posted as prescribed in Local Government Code, Section 551.041 with the following members present to wit:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Elizabeth Nelson
Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson
Rose Morin
Neddie Moore
Billie Jean Scaggs
Norman Erskine
Douglas Porter

STAFF

Kenneth Knight, City Manager
Danica Lewis, City Clerk
Mike Dixon, City Attorney

1. Call to Order by Mayor Nelson @ 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call by Danica Lewis.
3. Certify Posting in accordance with State Law by Sandra Herring.
4. Invocation by Scottie Henderson & Pledge by Douglas Porter.

Discussion among Council about position of Citizens Input on agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson made motion to move Citizens Input back to Item No. 5.

Councilmember Scaggs seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs,

NAYS: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Moore, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

5. Update on Water System/ Water Treatment and Delivery/ Water Shortage Issues, and Measures Being Taken to Address causes and to Return the System to Full Operation.

- In October Scott Fornash informed me that two of the three high pressure pumps that are used to deliver water from the plant to the system were not functioning. I authorized the repair of those pumps under my authority for the Health, Safety and Welfare of the City.
- On November 19th – after a 2 day inspection of the water plant TCEQ issued 13 major violations and placed the City on a boil water notice. Again, acting in my position I authorized Scott to begin the necessary repairs in hopes to have the boil water notice lifted by Thanksgiving.

- In conducting repairs of the clarifiers on Wednesday evening, motors used to activate the impellers, were turned on and, due to long-term maintenance failures, a plume of sludge was created and that plume entered the filters and clogged them.
- Scott immediately informed me of the situation by text.
- I received updates from Scott on Thanksgiving Day detailing how they were attempting to backwash the filter and restore full service. The water towers still had water in them at that point.
- By late Friday it became obvious that a catastrophic failure had occurred and water for the city would soon run out.
- The Mayor and I had been in regular contact and our contact increased as we began to mobilize support for Marlin.
- Water was being produced, but not in sufficient amounts to keep water pressure up and the towers and pressure in the system was drained.
- The Mayor made the decision to declare a water emergency on Sunday and a disaster declaration on Monday. HOTCOG and the Texas Division of Emergency Management were deployed to Marlin on Monday.
- Also on Monday, the failure of the water plant caused city staff to completely shut down the water plant and manually clean the filters in an attempt to begin producing water in sufficient amounts to recharge the system.
- On Tuesday, necessary materials were delivered to the plant to both fix the major violations that caused the boil water notice and to allow the plant to run properly and they were installed by city staff.
- Wednesday saw the plant begin to make water again in amounts that allowed staff to begin to fill the water towers. They were, however, valved shut to allow sufficient water to build up so the system could be recharged.
- After a day of putting water into the storage system on Thursday morning water began to be introduced into the distribution system. At this point most parts of town is receiving water at limited water pressure. The system is, at this time, producing enough water to keep the system pressurized.
- On Friday, the city anticipates the arrival of new water filters and skid 100 will be taken off line and fully repaired to operational levels. An update on these repairs will be issued at your Tuesday meeting.

Discussions included emergency meetings, costs, registering for HOTREADY.COM, fixing deficiencies, better communications, after action review, and operational policies.

7. Public Comment:

Tom Hamilton, 1019 Fm 712, Marlin – Backup filters, water rehab fee, audit.

Tom Sehon - Thank you, Independent audit, cemetery maintenance.

Carolyn Lofton - Contingency plan.

Pam Kelly, 208 Ward St – pamkelly@aol.com, How much does the city make on water sales each month? How many household are in Marlin? How many businesses? How many households are metered? How many businesses are metered? What is the average household usage per month? What is the average

business usage per month, including prisons, hospitals, schools, nursing homes? Is everyone metered? Would you be willing to sale your water plant to a private company?

Maggie Majors – where do we go from here. Find a game plan and inform the community. Don't hesitate to involve other agencies. Is there an alarm at the water plant? How many employees are needed to operate this system? What are the educational qualifications?

Milton Carter – 113 Neumann Dr. – When are we going to be updated on repairs, schools, etc. We fill like we are not being heard.

Aledia Daria – I was able to pull together over 100 people in two hours and six people could not.

Susan Trumbley – 721 Chilton – Annual maintenance agreement was recommended but not approved by Council. If we had that maintenance agreement this would not have happened. Had to fight to get a water bill. Called governs office and no one had called for help. CPS, this put children in danger being without water.

Terry Westmoreland – 423 Norwood Street – Why did the Mayor and or City Council not request grant money before December 2nd? Why did none of the Council or Mayor help with distributing water except for Ms. Moore? Someone needs to check on the elderly when in a crisis like this. If the lake is not going to be dredged, are the new filters going to clog those as well? Are we going to be prorated on our water bill?

Greg Garrison – Council should resign.

Scottie Henderson – Thank you to HEB and all the volunteers

6. Discussion and potential action on the approval of the acquisition of items, equipment, and/or services needed to identify and resolve current water system issues.

Working with TWDB, it has been determined that funding allocated for valve and/or hydrant repair that ultimately was not needed can now be used at the water plant.

Talking with USDA there are emergency water grant funds available that can be applied for and can be used to reimburse some of the expenses for the repairs. We have to spend the money now to get the water where it needs to go and Senator Corrin's and State

Representative Flores's office will support Marlin on those efforts. We can't apply for fund if you don't know how many funding dollars you need to request. The filters will begin to be replaced tomorrow.

At this time, it is not foreseen that we will certainly need a portable processing plant, but the Council may consider steps that if that were needed in the near future, action can be taken now to prevent any additional delays.

Councilmember Morin made motion to approve, if necessary, the City Manager have the authority to order the portable water treatment plant in the event of another catastrophic event.

Councilmember Moore seconded the motion and added the necessity to notify all of Council at that time.

AYES: Councilmember Morin , Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

8. Adjourn.


Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson made motion to adjourn, all in favor said I:


AYES: Councilmember Morin , Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 10TH DAY OF MAY, 2016.




Elizabeth Nelson, Mayor


Sandra Herring, City Secretary