

Brookville City Council
Emergency Meeting
May 28, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 5:00 p.m. on May 28, 2019 in the Brookville Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Fowler, Schreier, Swabb, Wilder and Zimmerlin; Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome, Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton, Law Director Stephan, and Clerk Wheeler were present.

Roll Call by Clerk Wheeler.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to approve the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner informed this Emergency Meeting is to provide an update on the tornado and cleanup efforts. He stated he has lived in Brookville his whole life and to see the community pull together the way they have is simply amazing.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported we are 20 hours into operations. He informed emergency crews have been through several hundred homes both in the Townships and the City. He informed we are eagerly awaiting for our water system to come back on. He stated contingencies are in place in the event of a fire. He stated he is very pleased with the Fire Department operations, they do train a lot for situations like this. He informed there has been a tremendous outpouring of donations and the firehouse is the receiving and distribution point. He stated plenty of water has been donated at this time. Food has also been donated for the first responders and cleanup crews and food is also being taken to those in the Terrace Park area. He suggested anyone wanting to donate items to check back in 24 hours after the needs have been re-assessed. He stated this is a testament to what a great town does when there is a challenge. Chief Fletcher stated we are very fortunate there were no fatalities based upon the destruction we experienced.

Mayor Letner asked Chief Fletcher to report on the number of injuries and what CERT does in an event like this.

Fire Chief Fletcher informed they received multiple reports of buildings collapsed with people inside of them. He informed there were minor injuries, approximately less than 10 that were as a result of debris or lacerations and only one was transported to the hospital.

Fire Chief Fletcher explained CERT, which stands for Community Emergency Response Team, are citizen volunteers trained to help. He informed the Program is designed for major events when public safety is overwhelmed. He stated this region was challenged with having enough emergency personnel after the tornado. He stated we have a tremendous presence from our CERT team, they are coordinating the food and water donations and their service is invaluable to our community.

Mayor Letner stated everyone has been here all night working.

Police Chief Jerome stated we are progressing from the event that occurred to what needs to be done in the future. He stated he thinks everyone did a good job last night, and he is glad they did what was done and decided to lock down Terrace Park. He stated he is unsure how long Terrace Park will be closed down. He described the volunteers have been unbelievable including the high school students who were out of school, and were handing out water. He stated the volunteer efforts have been overwhelming. He informed a 10:00 p.m. curfew will be in effect and enforced tonight. He stated the areas have to be locked down after dark and we may be a small City, but if someone thinks they can do something stupid, they are wrong. He stated there will be a zero tolerance policy.

Police Chief Jerome thanked neighboring townships and the City of Centerville for their help with clearing the roads. He stated there has just been an amazing turnout of volunteers. He described this morning Terrace Park looked like a bomb went off, but thanks to the hundreds of people helping out today, it looks much better now. He stated we could not have handled this type of event without the new fire station. This was a big event and hit other areas pretty hard as well. He reported our school was hit and the school year is now done. He informed engineers were out the entire day today and feel it will be a challenge to have ready by August when school start back. He described the damage was very bad, the whole roof of the High School is gone. He stated the damage on Charlie Court was bad and the surrounding roads. Chief Jerome stated some areas are coming back up with power, but we are still working through water issues.

Police Chief Jerome reported the media was locked out of Terrace Park today. He informed at noon they were escorted through. He wanted to ensure it was safe and the gas was off. He stated there are a lot of emotions right now, some experienced total devastation in Terrace Park and he is glad the call was made and thinks the residents were happy with that decision too.

Service Superintendent Homan reported the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) was in the direct path of the storm, and hit very hard. He informed the generator immediately kicked on and the plant never stopped. He informed the insurance claim adjuster did come out today and did a walk through. He stated the WWTP and surrounding area on Wolf Creek sustained significant damage and it could be seen just by driving along Wolf Creek. He reported Montgomery County came in to help clear out the creek of debris with a track hoe along with Ritter Plumbing. He stated the creek is now cleaned up and flowing. He informed port-a-johns were delivered at the fire station and City Offices until water is up and running. He stated crews are hoping water pressure will be back in a few hours. He advised there will be a boil advisory for 24 hours after the water returns. He informed the City of Dayton is having power issues and are hoping to bring a generator to be used at the Westbrook Pumping Station in order to help us get water. He stated a number of electric poles need repaired in order to get Dayton back online.

Bruce Garber, of 434 Sycamore Street stated there are poles down everywhere. He asked if there is any pressure in the water towers?

Service Superintendent Homan stated no, they are empty. He informed other cities, including Centerville and Union have been helping run routes to chip limbs. He stated it is beyond measurable the amount of limbs to cleanup. He stated they will keep chipping away at them, but it will take a while. He informed his crews will work until dark tonight and then be back at it again tomorrow morning.

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs, Service Superintendent Homan and the Mayor.

Law Director Stephan thanked the Service Department and emergency crews for all their work throughout this emergency. He informed he had family go through this on Charlie Court, and there was a tremendous response.

Mr. Garber asked what about food and water that will be needed a week for now. He asked if there is any plan to coordinate the needs?

Acting City Manager/Finance Director Keaton stated Staff is working on a plan.

Member Swabb reminded Chief Fletcher suggested earlier that people could check back in 24 hours to verify what the needs might be.

Mr. Garber stated the Hyper Reach calls work very well.

Police Chief Jerome stated there will be more calls to go out. He stated everybody's resources together have made this what it is, it's everyone working together and relationships that have been built over a long period of time.

Member Wilder informed a truck came in earlier today to donate dry ice and it is available in the McMaken's parking lot for anyone in need.

Fire Chief Fletcher stated he would like to determine the Hyper Reach messages to push out for this evening. He stated Staff can put together an appropriate list of messages to go out.

Tonya McKown, of 226 South Wolf Creek Street, asked if Mayor Letner is enjoying his new position as Mayor?

Mayor Letner stated we are making it happen, thanks to the group we have, he has never been so impressed in his life. He stated this group made a plan and is sticking to it and it's working beautifully and everything is working out as it should.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Meghan Wheeler, Clerk of Council



Charles Letner, Mayor