

RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2025 – 8:30 AM

Commission Chambers

PRESENT: Frances Robustelli, City Manager
Luke Curtis, Building Official
David Hubbard, Planning Board Chair
Dan Rothenberger, Beach Stewardship Committee Chair
Bill Loughery, Historic Preservation Board Chair
Lisa Reich, Coastal Wildlife Advocacy Group
Herminio Afanador, Corey Ave Business Owner

STAFF PRESENT: Adam Poirrier, Interim Assistant City Manager; Camden Mills, Public Works Director; Amber LaRowe, City Clerk; Denise Sanderson, Community Development Director; Ariana Wilson-Romo, Admin. Assistant Clerk's Office

City Manager Robustelli called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

She thanked all present and stated the City Commission wanted them to have three meetings total, scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. If the Committee needs more time, accommodations will be made. The goal is to bring a proposal to the City Commission for the next response prior to hurricane season starting in June. She announced the Fire Chief is currently doing the internal post disaster assessment with staff. She provided a handout that came directly from the Comprehensive Plan with the scope for the Recovery Task Force (RTF). This is made part of the record. She noted that one of the responsibilities of this Committee is to take necessary steps to seek financial assistance and announced that is in the process, however there will be financial updates every meeting.

She reviewed the handout and gave the following updates:

- Assess Preliminary Damage Reports – Will be reviewed today.
- Financial assistance – In progress.
- Authorize Clean-up/Repairs – Completed by staff prior to the establishment of the RTF.
- Identify minor, moderate, and major damage in community – Completed.
- Recommend appropriate hazard mitigation policies to the City Commission – Will be discussed at the March meeting.
- Prepare a report evaluating post disaster redevelopment response and make necessary recommendations for change to the Comp Plan – Will be discussed at the April meeting.

Member Reich would like to identify what the City currently has in place to use as a base and make changes as needed to move forward.

Camden Mills, Public Works Director, reviewed a presentation, regarding the Preliminary Damage Assessment, which is made part of the record. Topics covered included:

- Damage Assessment Scope
 - Facilities – Public & historic buildings, City owned assets
 - Damage Estimate: \$5,661,236
 - Marine Structures – Seawalls, docks, piers, boat ramps
 - Damage Estimate: \$988,685
 - Operations – IT equipment, vehicles, heavy equipment
 - Damage Estimate: \$622,841

- Parks & Rec – Pavilions, parks/playgrounds
 - Damage Estimate: \$367,076
- Stormwater – Drainage inlets, outfalls, conveyance system
 - Damage Estimate: \$750,908
- Streets – Pavement, sidewalks, signs, parking lots
 - Damage Estimate: \$5,115,837
- Wastewater – Pump stations, air release valves, conveyance system
 - Damage Estimate: \$7,619,030
- Data Collection Process
- Damage Assessment Summary – Total \$21,125,612
- Funding Assistance Process
 - Insurance – Claims submitted, currently coordinating scope of work and cost estimates.
 - FEMA Public Assistance – Request submitted, on-site scoping meeting with FEMA 12/19/24. Currently conducting site inspections for damage which is phase 2 of 7.
 - Alternative Funding Sources – Appropriations, grants, bonds, loans etc.
- Storm Recovery Priorities
 - Wastewater System
 - Pump Station 1, lift station rehab/mitigation, conveyance system
 - Stormwater System
 - Conveyance system, outfalls, tide check valves
 - Critical Facilities
 - Fire Station 22, Community Center, Public Services
 - Seawalls
 - 36th Ave, Pass-A-Grille Way, Fisherman's Park, Sunset Park

Discussion regarding the demolition of Fire Station 22 ensued. Mr. Poirrier stated this facility was in phase two of the design process with the variance being approved in November. This facility will be demolished and rebuilt.

Discussion regarding the restoration of the dune walkovers and bid processes ensued.

Member Reich questioned if the City is or plans to challenge any of the assessments received since there have been discrepancies.

Mr. Mills stated the city has received preliminary estimates from insurance, and they are being reviewed internally based on the damage assessment from the contractor and the engineer consultants. The City is challenging those assessments and updating as needed. Mr. Poirrier touched based on the lengthy process since some of the money comes from the flood insurance, then property insurance and then FEMA. These are all steps taken before drawing from the General Fund.

Mr. Poirrier discussed mitigation efforts and provided background on some of the projects that have been completed since the storms. He stated the Warren Webster building had flood issues in the past and when they rebuilt it, they made it flood resistant. The City is in the process of seeing how more of this can be done throughout the community. The City is currently working on putting together a request for proposals so that we have a contract ahead of time with a substantial damage company, since we are currently relying on the County. Debris management and debris monitoring was already in place prior to the hurricanes and that helped the City in the recovery stage. The City has a goal of putting more of those contracts in place so that the contractors are already secured.

City Manager Robustelli exited the meeting at 9:29AM and returned at 9:31AM.

Mr. Poirrier touched on some of the infrastructure that was not insured and stated the City will pursue FEMA reimbursements. This is a step that is currently being conducted as every facility has to have a FEMA inspection and this can be a lengthy process.

He also noted that from a Federal Government perspective, they prioritize historical structures, such as the shuffleboard court, the Don Vista Building, the Warren Webster Building etc. since historically designated structures typically have a longer recovery process. He stated the Community Center and Public Services buildings are some priorities as these are critical facilities to restore to help generate revenue.

It was noted that any questions/concerns or items that Committee members would like to see should be routed to the Clerk's Office for dissemination.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 AM.