

City of Englewood  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2012

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A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held in the Municipal Court in the Public Safety Building commencing at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Present: Council member Marc Forman  
Council member Michael Cohen  
Council member Eugene Skurnick  
Council member Wayne Hamer  
Council member Lynne Algrant  
Mayor/Council President Frank Huttle III  
City Attorney William Bailey  
City Manager Timothy Dacey  
City Clerk Lauren Vande Vaarst

President Huttle called the meeting to order.

The City Clerk stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by the posting, filing and distribution of the notice as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Lifting of the State of Emergency Declared October 29th:

- Mayor Huttle officially lifted the State of Emergency effective November 14, 2012 as per a letter to the City Clerk to be placed into the official record.
- The Mayor listed all of the storms that have effected Englewood since he became Mayor in January 2010; March 2010 Nor'easter, Hurricane Irene August 2011, Blizzard October 2011 and Hurricane Sandy October 2012.
- The key issue to be discussed tonight is how to improve communications.
- An Emergency Plan for the City is required by the State and the City is to have an Emergency Committee comprised of 15 members.
- Current appointees include Deputy Chief of Police Larry Suffern (and OEM Coordinator), City Manager Tim Dacey, Councilman Wayne Hamer and Board of Education Facilities Manager Mike Hunken. The committee will be coordinated through the City Clerk.

Town Hall Discussion- Englewood Emergency Response in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy:

- Presentation by David B. Hollenbeck, PSE&G Regional Public Affairs Manager, Bergen County:
  - Stated that this storm was the largest to date with 1.7 million of PSE&G 2.2 million customers out of power. An estimated 41,000 trees came down.
  - All customers were fully restored by the target date of November 9, 2012.
  - Since 2009 PSE&G has made major investments in the power supply infrastructure in Englewood.
  - Mr. Hollenbeck outlined the power delivery system and explained that transmission lines to substations have to be restored first. PSE&G works "hot" (live power lines) but many of the other utilities companies that came in to assist do not work "hot" and power had to be shut down so they could work which took extra time and effort.
- Presentation from Office of Emergency Management by Deputy Chief of Police Lawrence Suffern, Director of the Office of Emergency Management.
  - Explained the OEM and how they coordinate with the Bergen County OEM.
  - The City's Emergency Plan is prepared and then approved by Bergen County and the State of New Jersey.
  - Outlined how OEM operated during the storm:
    - Basic preparations began on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and were in place by Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - OEM began staffing office on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and started warning residents in low lying areas.
    - Partial opening of OEM office on the morning of Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> with staffers from Police, Fire, DPW, Health and Administrative offices. The City's social network sites and website were continually updated. The OEM office was fully operational by Monday afternoon.
    - 911 storm related calls began coming in at 6PM on Monday.
    - All public service notifications were sent to the Bergen County OEM Center in Mahwah through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Updated lists of outages and downed power lines were faxed on a continual basis to BC OEM.
    - The City's OEM Center closed its operations at 6PM on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with lingering problems handled by City departments.

- Deputy Chief Suffern then recognized staff members and volunteers such as Asher Forst for donating computers and his labor to set up the OEM Center.

### Public Session:

- Cornelia Rogers Humphrey Street:
  - Why does Humphrey Street always lose power?
- Elizabeth Schwartz:
  - Also lost power for 6 days, but wanted to say thank you to everyone who worked during the storm. Asked if PSE&G is preparing for future storms?
- Deborah Cloud Grant Street:
  - Feels that customer service and communications are poorly handled by PSE&G and they need to improve.
- William Satterfield:
  - Can a system be put into place to have extra crews in place before the storm hits?
- Jane Kirsch Murray Avenue:
  - Who in the field confirms to the central office that power is actually restored?
- Cindy Stadilus Dwight Englewood School:
  - The school did not receive accurate estimates as when power would be restored and they needed this information so they could determine whether or not to cancel classes.
  - Could the school be a critical priority in the future?
  - There were issues with the snow on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and Palisade Avenue needs to be sanded earlier.
- Rosemary Byrne Chair, Board of Adjustment:
  - Thanked Mr. Hollenbeck for coming and for his willingness to answer the Public's questions.
  - Asked about PSE&G's relationship with the cable companies.
- Chris Gagliardi West Street:
  - Wants protective devices for people put into place.

### Communications from the Mayor/Council Members:

#### **ADJOURN: 9:33PM**

Motion: Skurnick

All in Favor

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Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC  
City Clerk