

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Gretna met this day on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 1:00 PM, in an Emergency Special meeting due to the threat of Tropical Storm Nate with all members present as follows: **Mayor Belinda C. Constant; Council Members present: Wayne A. Rau, Milton L. Crosby, Michael A. Hinyub, Mark K. Miller and Jackie J. Berthelot.**

Absent: None

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Crosby offered a prayer upon the opening of the meeting (Moment of silence in memory of Mr. WJ LeBlanc's (City Prosecutor) mother. Mayor Constant requested of everyone to please keep Marty Schmidt and his family in prayers for peace and resignation in his passing this morning. He was a retired officer with the Gretna Police Department. His brother Cleaver is a city employee; and the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.



Discuss Plan for the City of Gretna, due to Tropical Storm Nate.

Mayor Constant informed this was a special emergency meeting and there is only one order of business relative to the emergency that has been declared by the Parish of Jefferson.

Consideration and Adoption of an Ordinance:

On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, the following ordinance was read and adopted section by section and then as a whole by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Rau, Crosby, Hinyub, Miller and Berthelot**

Nays: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCE NO. 4794

An ordinance acknowledging a state of emergency declared by Jefferson Parish President Michael S. Yenni, in accordance with LA R.S. 29:272 and effecting the City of Gretna, authorizing a curfew and authorizing the expenditure of emergency related funds.

WHEREAS, it is important that we advise all City of Gretna residents that based on the current forecast for sub-freezing temperatures, the City of Gretna could lose public utilities such as water, sewerage, electrical and fire services causing residents to be without these services for an undetermined period of time; and

WHEREAS, there are several distinct decisions which have to be authorized as it relates to public health, safety and welfare during this state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is strongly recommended that citizens have the following items available to for the duration of the freezing temperatures: water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, tools and emergency supplies to prepare themselves with necessary supplies to sustain life because city services may not be available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council, acting as legislative authority for the City of Gretna, that

A state of emergency having been declared by the Jefferson Parish President and effecting the City of Gretna, the following will be enacted retroactive to and in ratification of the Parish declaration and remain in effect until determined by the governing authority all as pursuant to LA R.S. 29:737:

A mandatory curfew is hereby authorized as directed by the Gretna Police Department and when declared by the Gretna Police Department shall remain in effect during the times established by the department until further notice.

The Finance Director is hereby authorized to expend funds necessary to provide for the welfare of Gretna residents and to expend funds for payment of part-time personnel during this state of emergency and that the current purchasing policy shall be suspended and enactment of an emergency purchasing policy shall be in effect.

Anyone who violates this ordinance shall be subject to the general penalty provisions contained in the Section 1-8 of the Gretna Code of Ordinances which provides a maximum penalty of 60 days in jail and/or a \$500.00 fine.

Provided that a majority of the City of Gretna Council has voted in favor of this declared emergency ordinance, this ordinance shall have the full force and effect immediately upon adoption.

Mayor Constant stated that this was the only matter to be considered because of the authority that is given to the city relative to finances and the Gretna Police Department, was the purpose for this emergency meeting. Received a call from Mr. Chad Calder, Advocate reporter, stating he would try to make the meeting on such short notice.

Chief Lawson stated that the Gretna Police Department concern is to keep in direct contact with the Mayor. The EOC will not be activated at this time; will be working 2-man units on Saturday; and have added additional EMS personnel as well as 911 Communications personnel. The biggest concern is that since not a lot of people will evacuate; and should we have water event and down power lines down, is the elderly citizens who are home without power and are on oxygen, and those are the major concerns for the department. The department will have additional administrative staff, but no EOC at this time.

Mr. Danny Lasyone, Public Works Director informed that the department is prepared and ready and there are dump trucks in the warehouse and ready to go.

Mr. Mike Baudoin informed in preparation for this type of event, there is always preparation in the water and sewer facilities and will have extra personnel to work if needed.

Mayor Constant recapped on the last report given on Tropical Storm Nate; hopefully it will continue that path, is a good sign for the New Orleans metro area. As Chief Lawson, EOC will not be activated at this time. All directors will report to work in the morning and will continue to monitor and communicate through e-mails and text messages as information is received. The next call is scheduled by Jefferson Parish tomorrow. Keep everyone in prayer and hope that it will not be a bad impact.

Fire Chief Mike Labruzzo sent message with representative that this department will be adequately manned and ready for emergencies.

Mrs. Raylyn Stevens, Finance Director not to forget to fill out the EDAR forms; and making sure to attach the information on the equipment to be used; so that when the time for reimbursement comes, the city will be able to be reimbursed.



On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Crosby**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to adjourn the October 6, 2017 Emergency meeting at 1:16 p.m., and the same was unanimously approved.

/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA

/S/ BELINDA C. CONSTANT
MAYOR
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA

A TRUE COPY:

/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA