

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

May 24, 2010

Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio called the Council-Manager Briefing to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Mike Oler, Tim Abbott, Tim Meyers, Mitch Rhodus, Mike Snyder, and Terry Senger. Staff present: Carol Mayhall, Angie Johns, Dennis Stuckey, Don Bennett, Arthur Pizzano, Mike Dickey, John Clemmons, Dave Butsch and Dave Crouch.

Butler County Emergency Management Update

Butler County EMA Director Jeff Galloway displayed and discussed Phase I of the Emergency Operations Center at the old agricultural building across from the Board of Elections office. He commented before he came, the county had a \$242,000 grant. He stated the existing EOC is on the 6th floor of the Government Services Center and is 580 square feet. Mr. Galloway commented on the problems with cell phones and no emergency generator on that floor. He briefly discussed the layout for the temporary EOC and the rest of the building including dispatch for the Sheriff's office. Mr. Galloway stated the County has awarded the bid. He further discussed the 350 KW generator being purchased to power the entire building. He stated the County has a \$337,000 stimulus block grant and there will be a new HVAC installed. He stated they should be in there mid to late August. He commented there will be 18 desks with computers. Mr. Galloway explained only the EOC is moving and they will remain in their offices because there is no office space right now. Mr. Galloway displayed and discussed the long term project layout and commented there is no funding yet for this addition. He stated you cannot use federal grants to build a building. Resident Keith Davis, 1853 Vernon Place, asked if anyone has mentioned if you build a monolithic crenosphere which has been recognized by FEMA as designed to withstand up to even the greatest strength of tornados; they were paying 70% of the construction costs if you build a critical facility as a crenosphere. Mr. Galloway commented the plans have already been approved at the state level. He commented the EOC will sit 49. Mr. Galloway commented there is a twelve county region called SOSINK, Southern Ohio Indiana and Northern Kentucky. He stated we are the second largest county in resources, manpower, size, and population and we are the back up for the one in Hamilton County. He commented Butler County has a super server and two of those can handle every radio system in the State of Ohio. He further commented Hamilton County doesn't have it and they want to push all of their radio frequencies to this center. Mr. Galloway stated in a real emergency he takes direction from the County Administrator although he works under an EMA Advisory Board under the State of Ohio statutes. He discussed a project in which he, Chief Bennett and Lt. Hall have been working on a mass casualty full scale incident exercise in the City. Mr. Galloway briefly discussed his background and qualifications, noting he retired from the fire service in South Florida in 2005. He briefly mentioned his experience including being part of a NIMS Type II team. Mr. Galloway discussed Emergency Management includes hazardous mitigation, facilitating all the hazardous material sites, overseeing the Homeland Security Grants, and NIMS. He briefly discussed training for city EOC's. Mr. Galloway discussed the plan to build a consistent policy for setting of weather sirens and invited someone from Fairfield to join that group. He discussed the plan to build a maintenance policy or agreement and obtain bids for having all 109 sirens in the county serviced to get better pricing, instead of each city or township doing this on their own. He discussed the need for upgrades to the live weather update system in August. Mr. Galloway explained the POD or point of distribution, which will be located at the Fairgrounds in case of no electric and no power this will basically be a coordinated drive thru to hand out water, ice, blue tarps, MREs and baby formula. He commented to do a level three pod it takes about seventy eight people a day to run it. He explained his staff consists of one grant writer, a Finance Director and a secretary. He stated he has advertised for a one year internship that is off a grant and they have another grant to support a full time emergency planner. Mr. Galloway explained that he would like the City EOC to work in tandem with the County EOC, but if it is an overall County thing they will open theirs anyway. He stated he is the one in the county that gets us declared for any emergencies. He explained the reason the County EOC is there is because you have exceeded your resources in your city to handle something. Police Chief Mike Dickey stated our theory of operation is if it's something we are handling; we handle it here with City resources if we have to go outside, rather than us calling everybody, that's when you go to Mr. Galloway. Mr. Galloway explained they will know who has been hit and where the resources are or are not because they are talking to the whole region. He briefly discussed a program called IRIS, which is a national incident resource management tool. Mr. Galloway discussed that radars from Wilmington, Ohio are monitored as well as Louisville and Indianapolis radars to see what is coming. He further discussed the County communicator system they use to put out alerts that come from privied information that comes from the National Weather Service in Wilmington. He explained the staffing for the EOC and the three stages of activation for the EOC including monitoring, partial and full. Resident Keith Davis asked what integration system is in place to bring in the churches and the private sector. Mr. Galloway explained they work with Red Cross, VOAD – a state volunteer organization, the CERT program and First Link. He stated there is a lot of coordination there, but it is being done.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council