

Belhaven Town Council Emergency Call Meeting

Thursday, August 25, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.

Minutes

Call to Order/Invocation

The Belhaven Town Council met in an Emergency Call Meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall in order to declare a State of Emergency due to expected landfall of Hurricane Irene. Mayor Adam W. O'Neal called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Steve W. Carawan, J. Nelson Guy, Howard D. Moore and Robert L. Stanley. Councilman Pigott (Mayor Pro-Tem) was not present. Town Manager, Dr. Guinn Leverett and Town Clerk, Mrs. Marie J. Adams were also present.

Invocation – Councilman Robert Stanley

Mayor O'Neal asked Councilman Stanley to give the invocation.

State of Emergency – Hurricane Irene

Mayor O'Neal stated that the forecasters are stating that Hurricane Irene could be Belhaven's worst Hurricane in History due to the size of the storm, the proposed landfall at the Pamlico Sound and the duration of 115 mph winds for approximately six hours and 90 mph winds for approximately 12 hours with flooding at 6' to 8'. Mayor O'Neal warned that those homes which had been elevated may get flood water. Mayor O'Neal stated that the reason the Town was calling for a mandatory evacuation was for the safety of the citizens and that the declaration should be made in order to apply for assistance after the storm. Mayor O'Neal explained further that mandatory evacuation means if you stay there will be no rescue and no hospital as Pungo District Hospital was closing at 5 P.M. on Friday, August 26. Mayor O'Neal stated that White Oak Rescue wanted to move out of Town for the storm but he was working on keeping them here in Town so they would be available as soon as the storm receded. Mayor O'Neal stressed for citizens to leave and stated that electrical power could be lost for days.

Mayor O'Neal stated that in this probably dire situation Belhaven was declared as a State of Emergency with mandatory evacuation and again urged all citizens to leave for their safety. Mayor O'Neal stated that shelters would be open at PS Jones Middle School and Washington High School in Washington. Mayor O'Neal reminded those going to shelters to take medications and bedding with important documents and have a picture ID.

**TOWN OF BELHAVEN
STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING TOWN OF BELHAVEN STATE OF EMERGENCY
FOR HURRICANE IRENE**

SECTION 1. By the authority of the North Carolina General States (GS 14-288.12 Attached), Municipalities have the power to enact ordinances to deal with states of emergency.

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- SECTION 2. THEREFORE, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF BELHAVEN DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BELHAVEN, NORTH CAROLINA.
- SECTION 3. THEREFORE, it is ordered that all law enforcement and emergency employees are to enforce and cooperate with this proclamation and emergency plan of the Town of Belhaven during the time of emergency for Hurricane Irene.
- SECTION 4. It is determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of the Town of Belhaven to evacuate using evacuation routes. Evacuation is in coordination with Beaufort County Emergency Management and will be controlled through the Belhaven Police Department, Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and the NC State Highway Patrol. Beaufort County will provide shelters as a safe environment during the evacuation periods.
- SECTION 5. It is also determined that in the best interest of public safety there will be no travel within the Town limits except for emergency vehicles when winds exceed 25 mph and until flood waters recede.
- SECTION 6. Those ignoring the travel limitation and times may be fined \$100 plus cost of court.

This Mandatory Evacuation is effective upon signing, this the 25th day of August, 2011.

Adam W. O'Neal, Mayor

Attest:

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk

Mayor O'Neal stated there would be "NO Looting" in Belhaven as the Police Department would be in Town, the fire equipment would be in Town along with Electric Department Personnel with contractors and three additional utility trucks and Water and Sewer employees. Mayor O'Neal stated there would be no work during the high winds. Mayor O'Neal also informed citizens that following the storm contractors were already contacted to come and start debris removal. Mayor O'Neal asked that citizens spread the word of evacuation. Councilman Carawan asked that the citizens heed the warnings. Mayor O'Neal stated that should any

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citizens have any ideas on the storm or needs that should be taken care of to contact Town Manager Leverett.

Mayor O’Neal closed the meeting with “God Bless - See us safe through the storm”.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk