**Dakota County Minutes of the Emergency Meeting**

**held Friday June 20, 2014**

**Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Emergency Meeting of the City Council, City of Mendota, Minnesota**

**held at 1:00 pm at the Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy Mendota, Minnesota**

**Present –** Mayor Brian Mielke, Council Members; Joan Perron, Melody Rasmussen and Erick Lehet, State Representative; Rick Hanson, Dakota County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Dan Carlson, Water Manager; Brian Watson, Chief of Police; Mike Aschenbrener, City Attorney; Tom Lehmann and City Clerk; KimberLee West.

**Absent:** Councilmember Alan Ralston

**Mayor Brian Mielke called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Mayor Mielke presented the agenda as follows:**

**1. Assessment of the infrastructure**

**2. Mitigation**

**3. Public Aid**

**4. Public Comment**

**5. Council Comment**

**6. Staff Comment**

**7. Adjournment**

**Agenda –** **Motion by Councilmember Perron, seconded by Councilmember Lehet to approve the agenda as presented. Passed 4-0.**

**Assessment, Mitigation and Public Aid –** A mudslide has occurred on Upper D Street in the City of Mendota. Mayor Mielke said by 11:00 a.m. the road was completely covered with trees and mud from the slope. Since 11:00 a.m. there appears not to be any more erosion and the area is not getting any larger. Water is running over the dirt from the slope above.

Further down on D Street the road way has cracked in the shape of a half moon and is in jeopardy of sliding down the bluff toward Lower D Street. Water is running under the road in this cracked area.

Chief of Police Aschenbrener said the bluff is unstable above and below Upper D Street. Chief Aschenbrener said that police marked the roadway at midnight at 3 inches at the east end of the crack and 5 to 6 inches at the west end of the crack on Upper D Street.

1. One of gate blocking off 2nd Street is sliding away from the road on the north side.

2. There was a tree down on E Street.

3. On 2nd street trees are touching power lines.

Clerk West will contact ACE Blacktop and put on the road overlay hold because of the emergency situation in Mendota.

Dan Carlson, Dakota County Emergency Coordinator said Dakota County needs to have a combined total 1.4 million dollars in damage to qualify for disaster relief. Carlson said he won’t know for a couple of weeks if Mendota’s disaster is cover by county funds. Carlson added 1.4 million is a large threshold and Dakota County could have a hard time meeting it. Mayor Mielke told Carlson that Mendota is a low to moderate income city.

Dakota County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dan Carlson said FEMA won’t pay unless homes are threatened. Carlson said the city needs to get experts in to determine if it’s safe to inhabit homes on Lower D Street. The first step is to contact Brian Miller City Engineer from MSA. The second said Carlson is to do any emergency repair and make the area safe. Determine what the total cost will be. When FEMA comes in, it will be quickly and you need to be prepared with dollar amounts and photos. The third is to get dollar amounts to Dan Carlson. Fourth is mitigation, hire a contractor and fix the issue.

Mayor Mielke said Bituminous Roadway laid the asphalt on Upper D Street and a year later the road cracked and Bituminous came out to fix it. Mayor Mielke added that’s where it’s cracked now. The City of Mendota operates on a budget of $160 thousand dollars said Mielke. Carlson added that the city should contact B.J. Battig Dakota County Risk and Homeland Security Manager.

State Representative Rick Hanson asked if there is any risk to historical sites. If there were said Hanson that could help draw attention to the city. Hanson handed out a pamphlet about how to prepare and respond to a major storm. Hanson added that generally private homes are not reimbursed. Dan Carlson said that FEMA wants private insurance to pay first.

**Public comment –** opened at 1:36

Councilmember Perron said this is the first time that she has had water in her basement since she moved into her house in the 60’s. Perron added that storm water is not running to the ponds like it should.

Public Comment closed at 1:39 p.m.

**Council Comment –** opened at 1:39 p.m.

Councilmember Lehet said there are some tree limbs touching power lines in the city.

Council Comment closed at 1:40 p.m.

**Staff Comment –** opened at 1:40 p.m.

City Attorney Tom Lehmann said the League of MN Cities should be notified that the city may put in a claim.

Police Chief Aschenbrener said the fire department has been updated on the situation in Mendota. And that officers will keep a close eye on Upper D Street and the slope.

Clerk West no comment.

Staff Comment closed at 1:42 p.m.

**Motion by Councilmember Perron, seconded by Councilmember Lehet to continue the meeting while walking out to look at Upper D Street and the slope. Passed 4-0.**

While on Upper D Street, Water Manager Brian Watson walked the slope and determined that the road and the slope was compromised. Watson said trees are at a 45 degree angle if left alone the road and slope will go.

After looking at the road and slope everyone met back at the VFW.

Because of the damage the Dakota County Emergency Coordinator Dan Carlson advised the council to declare an emergency in the City of Mendota. **Motion by Councilmember Lehet, seconded by Councilmember Perron for the City Council to Declare a State of Emergency in the City of Mendota and Resolution 14-05 Relating to the Emergency Declared by the Mayor because of the Slope/Bluff condition. Passed 4-0.**

Clerk West will write a letter to residents effected. For homes immediately below the slope failure: Upper D Street has a slope failure that has continued to move. This slope failure is due to heavily saturated soils and continues to be unstable. This type of slope failure can move suddenly. The volume of earth that is involved could cover, crush or push the buildings in its path off their foundations. Your home is in the immediate downhill zone of the slope failure.

Homes below Lower D Street:

Upper D Street has a slope failure that has continued to move. This slope failure is due to heavily saturated soils and continues to be unstable. This type of slope failure can move suddenly. The volume of earth that is involved could cover, crush or push the buildings in its path off their foundations. If the slope suddenly moves, it could continue beyond Lower D Street and impact your home. It could also create a slope failure in Lower D Street. Clerk West and Mayor Mielke will hand deliver notices to those resident effected by the slope/bluff failure.

An Emergency Meeting will be held on June 27th, 1 p.m. at the Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy Mendota, Minnesota to update the city and councilmembers on the slope/bluff condition.

**There being no further business, it was motioned by Councilmember Rasmussen, seconded by Councilmember Perron to adjourn the Special Meeting at 3:56 p.m.**

Respectively submitted:

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KimberLee West, City Clerk