

CITY OF CROWLEY

EXTRA-ORDINARY
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2002

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Louisiana, the governing authority of the City of Crowley, met in an extraordinary emergency session at 3:00 p.m. Saturday the 5th day of October, 2002 at the regular meeting place of said Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the City Hall, 426 North Avenue F, Crowley, Louisiana.

Mayor de la Houssaye assumed the chair and presided with the following Aldermen present: James Buatt, J. Elliot Doré, Tiger Istre, Greg Jones, Vernon Martin, Mary T. Melancon, Laurita D. Pete and Steven C. Premeaux. Alderman Ira Thomas was absent.

Alderman Buatt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and:
Alderman Doré and Alderman Martin gave the invocations.

EXTRA-ORDINARY EMERGENCY MEETING:

Mr. Regan stated that Mayor de la Houssaye called this meeting pursuant to the statutory provisions for extraordinary public safety emergency meeting. The purpose was to discuss the disaster of Hurricane Lili.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Premeaux, seconded by Alderman Buatt, and duly resolved and adopted.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF
THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA

PARISH, LOUISIANA,
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO
NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR
REMOVAL, CLEANUP AND
DISPOSAL OF HURRICANE
DEBRIS

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2002, the effects of Hurricane Lili were felt by the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley was directly in the path of the eye of the storm and suffered some of the most intense wind and rain effects, as well as tornadic activity; and

WHEREAS, the sustained wind gusts and the shifting wind patterns caused tornadic vortexes and driving torrential rain, which caused the loss of all electrical power within the City and the loss of all normal communications; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley was particularly vulnerable to high winds and tornadic activity due to the large number of trees throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a 4 year drought only recently broken by the rains in the summer of 2002, significantly weakened trees, including root structures, causing them to be susceptible to windstorms; and

WHEREAS, the number of trees and damages caused by trees have left an overwhelming amount of vegetative waste, estimated to be in excess of 100,000 cubic yards, plus construction, debris, damaged white goods, furniture, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley's street maintenance crews are overwhelmed by the sheer size and volume of the debris; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that immediate action be taken to begin the removal, cleanup and disposal of vegetative debris, including large stumps, and to fill in depressions and holes caused by the removal of large stumps, and to fill in ruts and holes which have damaged rights of ways, medians, drainage, etc.; and

WHEREAS, an extreme health emergency already exists due to the mosquito-borne virus, West Nile Virus, as per the emergency declaration of the Governor in August, 2002;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in extraordinary, special, emergency session, that they do hereby authorize and direct the Honorable Isabella L. de la Houssaye, Mayor of the City of Crowley, to solicit quotations for emergency clean-up, removal, disposal of vegetative debris, and restoration work in the City of Crowley, immediately; and to select and negotiate the best price available under the circumstances and to include all necessary services and requirements as may be necessary and proper due to the damage and the conditions in the City of Crowley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honorable Isabella L. de la Houssaye, Mayor, is hereby charged with immediate response time and availability and to select the most qualified contractor in her sole discretion.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED unanimously in extra-ordinary, emergency session on this the 4th day of October, 2002, at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

ISABELLA L. DE LA
HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Istre offered a motion to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Lake Charles to provide emergency services to the City of Crowley. Seconded by Alderman Premeaux and duly adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Premeaux, seconded by Alderwoman Melancon, and duly resolved and adopted.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF
THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA
PARISH, LOUISIANA, DECLARING
AN EXTRA-ORDINARY
EMERGENCY AND THE CITY OF
CROWLEY A DISASTER AREA
DUE TO HURRICANE LILI; AND
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY
ACTION TO PROTECT AND
INSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, LIFE,
PRESERVE AND PROTECT PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND
RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2002, the winds and rains of Hurricane Lili were felt by the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley was directly in the path of the eye of the storm and suffered some of the most intense wind and rain effects of the storm; and

WHEREAS, the sustained wind gusts and the shifting wind patterns caused tornadic winds, vortexes and driving torrential rain; and

WHEREAS, the storm destroyed, interrupted or severely damaged all electrical power within the City and all normal communications; and

WHEREAS, numerous large trees were sheared off, broken apart, or toppled from their root base, falling onto power lines, businesses, commercial buildings, streets, roadways, highways and homes; and

WHEREAS, many streets, roadways and highways are completely blocked and impassible due to the enormous volume of trees, limbs, parts of buildings, including roofs, walls, and metal; and

WHEREAS, the extreme damage to the electrical power grid and systems in the area will prevent the restoration of normal service will hamper the ability to provide police and fire protection, sanitary wastewater treatment, and other public needs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen having met in special, extra-ordinary, emergency session, pursuant to notice thereof to consider the devastation and the effects thereof on the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Crowley;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia, Parish, Louisiana, in special, extra-ordinary, emergency session, do hereby declare an extra-ordinary, public emergency and the City of Crowley a “Disaster Area” due to the effects of the storm or “event” known as Hurricane Lili; and do hereby authorize and invoke all emergency powers and necessary authorizations as

may be required to insure public safety and health; restore communications systems and electrical power; continuation of vital City services, including but not limited to wastewater collection and treatment, provide emergency power to public facilities; to provide assistance to all other public bodies to maintain essential public services as may be necessary, meet and proper under the emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honorable Isabella L. de la Houssaye, Mayor of the City of Crowley, be and she is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to take all necessary action, in her sole and complete discretion, and direct all department heads, employees and agents of the City of Crowley as may be necessary to preserve and protect public and private property, to negotiating contracts and services for immediate emergency repairs to buildings, facilities and equipment; for restoration of services, and to protect public and private property from further damage; and to expend necessary funds to accomplish same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all acts, actions, contracts, and expenditures by the Mayor, be and they are hereby fully authorized, ratified and approved by this Board.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED unanimously in extra-ordinary, emergency session on this the 4th day of October, 2002, at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

ISABELLA L. DE LA
HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Doré offered a motion to amend the budget for expenses for the cost of fuel, clean up etc., until reimbursement from FEMA. Seconded by Alderman Jones and duly adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned.

ISABELLA L. DE LA
HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Presented rough draft to Mayor on October 7, 2002 at 3:30 p.m.

Presented for Mayor signature on October 10, 2002 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor signed & returned to City Clerk on October , 2002 at .m.