

Hurricane Ian Press Conference

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Chairman Chester Ellis 00:02

Good afternoon. Let me welcome everyone. And thank all of you for coming and being with us today. All right, today is about giving the public the information they need for what's to be expected. And the next coming days as we deal with the hurricane and what the watches and things were. The majority of your questions will go to Director Jones. All right, who will do all the technical things and then the fifth is the mayor and the rest, who will come and they can have their say as well. Let me say this before we begin. Mayor Sessions was on the call with us this morning. But she can't come because she is recovering from COVID she and her sister have COVID And so she wanted to be here but she conveyed to me that their their quarantine now they locked in place. Okay, because of COVID. So with that, let me call Director Jones, who will give you all the technical information that you would need to know that the public needs to know. And let me just end by saying please, ladies and gentlemen and the public. Let's be safe as we go through these changes that we're about to go through in the next 40 to 72 hours. Director Jones.

Dennis Jones 01:32

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, everyone today, welcome the viewing audience to talk about what our potential impacts could be for hurricane II. And I do want to recognize several people who are with us today we have translating for us in American Sign Language, Miss Sandra Batista. We also have someone translating for us in Spanish. Her name is Leydy I don't see her right now. She will be here in a minute. We also have the mayor of Savannah with us today. We have the city manager of Savannah with us today as well also chief Hadley with CCPD. And we also had the Board of Education, Police Chief Chief Enoch. We also have several other people behind me. I'm sure you recognize many of them. And they are here to support the overall message going out to the general public. So as we get into the statistics of the particular storm, these are based off of the 11am advisory from the National Hurricane Center at 11 o'clock hurricane em was a very strong category four storm, almost a Category five storm. It had 155 mile per hour winds and it was moving north northeast at eight miles an hour. Em was 233 miles from Chatham County. Chatham County is currently under a storm surge warning, we are under a tropical storm warning. And about 30 minutes ago, 45 minutes ago, they put us into a hurricane watch, which was a new watch for us. I did get in touch with the National Weather Service in Charleston. And he indicated that because of the uncertainty of the path of the storm, they wanted to go ahead and lean forward and make sure that they had this watch in place just in case. So as the storm is coming across the peninsula of Florida, it has a tendency to do a variety of different things. The forecast models for this storm are not as tightly converged as we would like for them to be, which is why the uncertainty exist. Some of these models have it coming back into Georgia. Some of them haven't going out into the Atlantic, some of them haven't accelerating way up into the northwest part of the Atlantic. So we will continue to watch every advisory that comes out. And we will take seriously those watches and warnings that are affecting our particular area. In Chatham County, we can expect to have tropical storm force winds. This is something that we have been talking about for a while we've

been talking about them in the terms of Tropical Storm gusts. With this latest shift that does present a challenge for us as far as sustained tropical storm force winds. It looks like the predominance of that major threat is going to be throughout the day Friday as of right now. So the conditions should start deteriorating throughout the day Thursday with it getting worse Thursday night, moving into Friday, Friday night as well. And then in the early hours mornings of Sunday. We are Chatham County is under a local state of emergency the chairman signed a local state of emergency at 8am this morning. That also put us into operating condition to which allows us to begin wrapping up any preparedness efforts for the storm. Governor Kemp has also issued a state of have emergency for all 159 counties in the state of Georgia. And what this allows, it allows the government local governments to reach out to the state for any resources that the state can provide. So it opens up Emergency Management chains at a local level, all the way to the state level. So anything that we can't procure or get locally, including staffing, we can then work up the food chain to the state and ask them to provide staffing or any other resource that we are having trouble sourcing here. So our emergency operations center, as I mentioned, we are under not going to so because of that we have a level two activation of our Emergency Operations Center. This is our storm readiness phase. And we are operating in this building. And we have a variety of staff downstairs who are making Situational Assessment summaries of various partners throughout the community just to make sure that they are ready to go for the storm. And also to make sure that we are addressing any unmet needs that they may have. We've been in contact with the command policy group, which is composed of mayors, city managers, the superintendent of the Board of Education, the sheriff, the chief judge, and also Department of Public Health. So all of those have been that I mentioned the Board of Education superintendent, okay. So we have a we've been having calls with them in the morning to talk about storm threat. And I give them what my recommendations are. We talked that through and then we make a determination as to which way to go as a county. For this particular storm, there are several things that I would like to pass along for the general public. As far as safety and security goes, we've been in touch with all of our law enforcement entities, we've been in touch with fire service and EMS providers. And they all assure us that they are ready to go. They don't have any unmet needs at this time, and they're ready to respond to the storm. For transportation, we reached out to the savannah airport, and the airport is open. There is a possibility there could be some airline or flight changes, or cancellations as the storm gets closer to us. But the airport is intending to remain open right now. As far as our roadways go, we have looked at what the potential impacts could be to our road network, our bridges and making sure that we are coordinating with Georgia Department of Transportation, as well as law enforcement entities to close bridges should they become unsafe. And also with the amount of storm surge that's associated with this event, there is a possibility for flooding to create isolation issues, especially on the east side of Chatham County. So we're watching that closely as well. The Talmadge bridge specifically, we get a lot of questions about that. And as to when the Talmadge bridge is going to be closed. We don't make that determination. That's the Georgia Department of Transportation, they will make that determination when to close. However, law enforcement can also make that determination if they deem that the bridge is unsafe to travel. So those are the two entities who will make those decisions in closing that bridge. As far as the Georgia ports authority go standard operations for them. They have activated their teams to make sure that they are covering all the pre storm needs for that facility. And they will have any any issues that they may have. We will address those independently. We do have a member of Georgia Power with us today and I will bring her up in just a few minutes. And she will talk about power outages and power preparedness from Georgia Power standpoint. We've reached out to the hospitals

to talk about their readiness status. They are all operating normally with no plans for modification, and this is St. Joe Candler and Memorial. As far as sheltering NGOs, we have had numerous conversations about sheltering. We've talked with Salvation Army with Union Mission, we've talked with the homeless authority, and there are a lot of brilliant people who are putting their minds together about sheltering. So we're still working on that. And I think as a community, we'll be ready to go should it be needed from the pets standpoint, it is encouraged that you have all of your veterinary records together, make sure your pet is wearing a collar in case they get lost from you or displaced from you for whatever reason. We are also encouraging the general public to go ahead and put your emergency kit together if you don't already have one. We want you to have those supplies readily available to you should you need those. And this isn't something that we're saying just for this storm. This is what we advertise all year long to have an emergency plan and to have an emergency kit. So if you don't have a kit, go ahead and start putting one together. There are a ton of resources online where you can get the basics of a kit and then throw other items in there that are specific to your family. If you have small kids, you may want to put some books in there to read some small games just to keep them occupied. If you have pets, maybe put their favorite toy in there. So tailor that kit to meet the needs of yourself and your family. We also encourage everyone tonight to go through your yard and secure anything that could easily be blown around. You know, we do have the potential for high winds coming in Thursday night and into Friday. So you don't want to create any kind of wind-blown hazard for yourself or for your neighbors. So go ahead and secure those items. I would encourage you also to take documents of those things that are around your house that you feel are valuable, whether they have sentimental value, or whether they have monetary value. We encourage you to take photographs of those so you can document that for insurance purposes. Also all government entities I see the city of Savannah is here to address city of Savannah issues. We have had a conference call again with command policy group where all the municipalities were represented and they are all prepared and ready for the storm. City of Savannah has issued their own operating condition and Mr. Mayor, we'll talk about that in a minute. Tybee Island. They have secured their structures today and they are looking at providing sandbags to their citizens. Chatham County Health Department they are looking to suspend operations on Thursday and Friday of this week. Public and private schools no decision has been made on public and private schools as of yet. That is the one question that we get asked the most. We have been in conversations with the school board. We talked to them several times a day, they have not made a determination as of this press conference as to what they are going to do with the school system. So stay tuned for that they will make a decision with prudent time for us to put that in place. We've also reached out to our cell phone providers to see if there were any challenges with our cell phone providers. We reached out to Verizon, and AT and T just to make sure that we were covering everything XFINITY also, none of the cell phone providers have provided us any challenges. They don't have any unmet needs. They feel pretty confident and being able to support the communications network as we deal with this storm. So that is my update. In a nutshell.

Mayor Johnson 24:14

Thank you, and good afternoon. I want to definitely thank Chairman Ellis, Director Jones, manager, Kaigler and all of our partners. When a storm comes, we're all in the same boat. And so we act collectively we work collaboratively. And so therefore, we were pleased for the partnership. I'm going to have a city manager Jay Melder. talk more specifically about some operational things, but I wanted to lift a few things. A first thing is that I solicit the thoughts and prayers of this community, for our friends.

And on the west side, Southwest in the Florida Who are staring down a hurricane four or five and Dennis would know the difference. But the fact is a bad storm is a bad storm. And this is a storm of historic proportions. That by all accounts will devastate that community. Any impacts we will have will pale in comparison to what they're facing. So certainly, I hope and trust that we will as collective community be able to find ways to assist them. Once this has passed. I've heard and spoken to Senator Jon Ossoff, and Senator Raphael, Warnock personally, over the last day or so both extending their knowledge, best wishes, but their offer of assistance for federal assistance, should we need it or any loopholes, any loopholes, but any barriers that we find ourselves in, so we're glad to have their assistance. With us, I signed a declaration of local emergency. Eight o'clock, concurrent with Chairman Ellis order for the city of Savannah with authorizes us to activate our emergency operations plan. It authorizes the city manager to take actions on behalf of the city of Savannah to make sure that we are prepared, the city manager will talk more about some of the work that they've been doing, particularly in and around our city. I've been particularly concerned about those in our city that do not have roofs over their heads and Dennis has alluded to that. The Salvation Army is the primary shelter for women families and children. While the Union Mission and oh Savannah City Mission are available to provide additional inclement weather, bed space for men. The the homeless authority, street outreach and path teams are spending the day canvassing our community to disseminate this information to those who are unsheltered particularly in those areas that we know are low lying and camping areas, give them an opportunity if they wish to be transported to local shelters that have available inclement bed space. I think finally, before I turn it over to Mr. Melda, I want to remind our citizens on that which we know, we have, we are a city that has been protected by God's grace over all of these years. Secondly, we have the best team in the business on the field, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, are nationally renowned for what they do. And this is what they do all of the time preparing for days like this. And now they are executing, we are executing what we have prepared for all of this time. I like our chances. I like our chances. What we do need, though, is that a plan is not effective, unless everybody is in line with the plan. And so for our citizens, and I've gotten a lot of calls and inquiries about this, if we asked you to evacuate, we would ask you to evacuate. It has been the consistent decision and advice of CEMA that that is not within the plans for this particular event. And so we're asking you to stay where you are. But make sure you're prepared. Be prepared, you know, House event is, you know that there are places that flood. Unfortunately, some of those things we can't do anything about because that's how our low lying land is. But if we know that it floods, then let's avoid those places advance of the areas that we know are particularly challenged, then please again, let us know we'll be moving to 24 operations to include our 311 service, to be able to take those calls and address those in real time. We will have a rough couple of days. And then we will assess where we are in and I predict it will be okay. But please use common sense. Please look after your neighbors. Please look after those who are elderly or those who am firm. Those that we should be checking on anyway. And know that certainly your city and I'm sure the chairman will say that to county. We're here to be able to assist where we can. We're all in this together. We're all going in this together. And we're all going to come out of this together. Mr. Melder.

Manager Melder 29:54

Thank you, Mayor Johnson. Thank you Chairman Ellis. I'm Jay Melder. City Manager for the city of Savannah, thanks to the coordination collaboration with the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, the city of Savannah is well prepared for this event. We have been working since Friday to

clear our stormwater conveyance systems to make sure that they are optimal for the rain event that we're expecting later this week and optimizing our pump stations to make sure that we can move water effectively off of our streets and off of our system and into the river as it comes down. Savannah police in Savannah fire are in full force, and will be until the conclusion of the event. Along with the county the city has also fully activated its emergency operations center and we will be operating 24 hours beginning tomorrow morning. And that includes 311 So for Savannah residents. If you see an issue please call 311. We will be answering the phone 24 hours a day. You can also use the 311 app, which you can download from your smartphone at sav 311. Those are highly effective tools and we asked residents to please use those to alert us to issues that might be happening in our city so that we can address them. As a as it relates to city services. We fully expect that all city services will be fully operational for tomorrow Thursday for the entirety of the day to include our rec and leisure our senior programming and all city offices will be open and operational tomorrow. A decision about Friday will be made between this evening and tomorrow morning. We want to let you know that your sanitation pickups for tomorrow will happen as scheduled. And after your pickup occurs tomorrow. If tomorrow is your pickup date. Please secure your waste bins and protect them from becoming debris for your home and for your neighbors. And other than that we ask you to please follow all the guidance that CEMA provides. Sign up for their text alerts and for their emails. It's the best way to get information from Chatham County and from the city of Savannah regarding this event, thank you

Mayor Johnson 32:14

and I would be remiss Alderman Dietrich Leggett from the second district is here on his 50th birthday. So just had to recognize him.

Dennis Jones 32:26

All right, thank you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Melder. You know, two things that we get asked all the time, is what is the school board doing? And is the power gonna go out? So to wrap it up, I'd like to bring up Miss Swann Sieler from Georgia Power to talk about power.

Swann Sieler - Georgia Power 32:44

Good afternoon, I'm Swan Siler in external affairs with Georgia Power. Locally, Georgia Power remains in a state of readiness. We have secured and re secured our staging areas for incoming resources. We are finalizing our logistics which is our hotels and meals for incoming crews as well as our own where are we are reviewing our personnel plans. As you know if you work for Georgia Power Company, everyone has a job. during a storm. We are postured to remain flexible until we know what we need to do. And I do want to emphasize that we do have the necessary equipment and supplies to get through the storm. If customers need information, I want to recommend that they go to w w w dot Georgia power.com/storm. That way they can report their outages and they can check the outage map to see specifically how it's affecting their area.

Chairman Chester Ellis 33:54

We hope that you have given the public all the information they need. And as we ride out the storm, let me just say this because all of us have been receiving calls asking us should we evacuate? This is not a stone that we should evacuate. And if you evacuate, where are you gonna go? Because this thing is stretching from the top of Georgia to the bottom of Georgia. The whole entire county. As mayor said,

we have been in touch with oh five senators office and just before I came out, I got an email from the governor's office. He's coming tomorrow. All right, and he's gonna have his own press conference tomorrow at the airport. And so the statewide all all 159 counties are included in this. All right. And so if there are any questions from the media this time we'll answer those questions specifically. Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

34:59

A question regarding, I guess, safety plan when it comes to first responders. And it might be for Dennis, is it anticipated at any point as the storm affects our area impacts our area that first responders won't be able to get out? Because conditions will be too unsafe for them? Should somebody have an emergency?

Chairman Chester Ellis 35:20

Well, we will make that determination as we go. All right. But we know now that what we're expecting is 35 to 40 miles per hour winds, and we expect it to be some flooding, a lot of places, all right. So as the need arise, if we have to hunker in our first responders, then we will make that determination. But again, a whole lot of things will come out tomorrow morning, when we will have our briefing again. Okay. And in the morning. Things of tweeting and getting down to the last I in the last tea, probably will be waiting till tomorrow, because we are we are being advised by the National Weather Service. Plus, we are being advised by our embedded members of FEMA, and GEMA and CEMA. All right, and we've taken all those things into advice. But that's a call that the county will make when it needs to make it. Let me say this now, Mayor Johnson was the only one who was able to come. But only on our meeting this morning, all municipalities were represented either by their mayor or by their manager. So we're all on the same page, making sure we do the same thing. The school board, I think now it's in meeting at this present time, okay. And they will make determinations about the school. But I think what we're looking at now is things will start to deteriorate sometime after six o'clock tomorrow, Thursday, and get worse as we go into Friday. So I think we all are leaning to our Friday. But understand this. The school boys gonna drive a lot of what we do, because if they if the school the kids are not in school, and that means that the governmental entity is gonna have to make adjustments to that to

37:17

Edward Moody from WSAV. Is anyone here from cat? What What's the situation was public transportation into tomorrow? And of course, probably I'm sure shutting down as a Friday, right?

Chairman Chester Ellis 37:29

Well, they didn't they didn't come but but cat is a part of what we do, too. All right. And also, we will being in contact with them, as well as let me say this as well. Just before I came in, I was in a meeting with the President from Georgia Southern. And I was in a meeting earlier this morning from Dr. Bala Washington from Savannah State. She too has COVID. Right? So we're communicating over the phone. But the President was here. Okay, he couldn't stay for the press conference because he had another engagement. But we're also looking at those students on campus on both places, as to how we take care of them, as well as what services cat will win, it will dumb down your services and when folks will need to get from one place to but yes, they are part of the command group that knows what the plans are.

38:24

And the joint local emergency declarations and Mr. Melder, you touched on this, but can you just give us some specifics of what that allows you all to do? Now, this just brings everybody together

Chairman Chester Ellis 38:40

that will respond? Okay, let me give you let me give you the beginning of it. And then I'll ask the director Jones to get into the specifics of it. Okay. The governor sets out a declaration of emergency following the governor, then the chairman does then fall in the chair and all of the municipalities do. And what that does is that puts everybody on the same page, and exactly what's on that page. That's what I want director Jones to tell you. What do we mean by we're going to go and we're gonna go up to two or we move down to two.

Dennis Jones 39:16

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As chairman mentioned, the governor has issued his local state of state of emergency that covers all 159 counties. And what that allows is state resources to be available to local governments to be able to bring in resources like Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Colin hall here to come and work in our emergency operations center, to be there to be as an IRS and also to report back any challenges to the state. It allows us that opportunity to streamline coordination efforts at the state level. It also frees up the opportunity for us to get guard resources from the state as well. So we have maximum support from the state with the issuance of that emergency declaration. When the chairman issued his declaration that puts into place a variety of different things that are relevant to local government, such as emergency building licenses, price gouging, making sure that if there are any laws that are in conflict with what we're trying to do, the chairman can temporarily suspend those laws. So it's a wide range of flexibility that is given to the chairman when a state of emergency is issued for a county, because it allows that Chairman to really do what is necessary in order to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to mitigate the effects of that disaster. So that that declaration is covered county wide. And then municipalities also have the opportunity to implement additional measures through an emergency order. And I'll let the city of Savannah talk about this.

Mayor Johnson 40:52

Thank you is very similar process. It allows the signing, it allows us to implement procedures on the city level, it allows us to, in addition to price gouging and building licenses, emergency issues allows us to set a curfew. Sure, we need to be able to do that. And it bypasses the normal bureaucracy that would be required to do so you're very familiar with those things. Because we went through a lot of that and COVID. Having emergency orders allowed us to take emergency actions as we see fit. So although the government could do it for the County, the county can do for the county, the city has to do it for the city to allow city resources and city procedures to be used. So again, this is a part of the plan. This is how we work to plan and we work together to be able to make sure that we are are acting expeditiously i In the interest of our citizens

Chairman Chester Ellis 41:53

are before we before I go to the next question, let me ask some chief Enoch from the school board. All right, a few come and he can tell you what they have given him directions

Chief Enoch 42:02

for. Yes, good afternoon. I want to thank everyone for your patience. As you know that safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority. from Dr. And look at our superintendent and Dr. Joe Buck, aboard president. We are meeting as we speak a pre notification went out to parents on yesterday. So they are familiar with the options that we have for tomorrow. And for Friday. That decision as I'm speaking will be made so I don't want to get ahead of my skis. Just know that we're taking all those considerations in mind, we've activated our emergency operation plan, a part of that is to ensure if there's any damage that we respond appropriately with collaboration from all of our partners to make sure that we get our schools back up and running as soon as possible. So that's the update. You should be getting something shortly. If you'd be patient with us. Thank you so much.

Chairman Chester Ellis 43:04

Okay, question.

43:06

Hey, Zoey Nicholson, Savannah Morning News. Do you have any idea about how much storm surge we may see whether it coincides with the tide charts or anything like that?

Chairman Chester Ellis 43:16

Well, the the one thing we do have in places that we're expecting, whether it's 10 feet, am I correct? One eight 10.8 ties, okay? Which means now, especially if you live on time, but you know, that's gonna cover highway 80. Right. But besides highway 80, there are streets in Chatham County, MLK at a victory drive 37th at MLK. On the east side, you're talking about Henry Street. You're also talking about Drayton street around 36 37/35. Those places that normally have water, expect water to be there. It's just that we don't know how much water will be there because the projection is anywhere from four to eight inches of rain. All right. So that's a lot of water. We know the water is coming. But we also know we need to be saved because if you getting 35 to 40 miles an hour gust of wind, we know some trees gonna fall we know some powerlines gonna fall so folks need to be careful. All right, as we ride out the storm expects some power to go out. That's why we asking you to get your emergency kits in place so that you have your medicine so that you have your bottled water. All right, so that you when that electricity goes out your refrigerator that to stay close, so to stay cool until after all this has passed but we hope to get everything back up and running. But the first thing will happen after the storm has passed is that we will do an assessment our teams will do an assessment of what is where is it Okay.

45:01

And then I noticed yesterday on the east side, there were some trees getting cut down. Is that something that the city or the county just does?

Chairman Chester Ellis 45:08

That's for many measures? Okay. And what we have asked now is just wasn't the city on the east side of the west side? I just went in the county, but all the municipalities check their bases. All right, they check their properties, they check those trees and other things, that leaning, alright, to kind of get that in order. So that so that's what you saw, is and let me say this for the entire county. Okay, because

we've had this at the third day that we've had command policy meetings to talk about how we prepare for this.

45:44

Just to kind of follow up a little bit on storm surge. I don't know if Dennis wants to answer this or whoever again, I guess preliminary reports are could be three to five feet of storm surge. How concerned are you guys for that, you know, with Tybee Island, especially in some of the low lying areas for that.

Chairman Chester Ellis 46:06

Alright, let me begin by saying extremely. Alright. That's why we are in constant communications with Miss sessions and the city manager to know what effects it will have on them because if it affects them, it affects the whole county. Okay, so now he can give you the specifics of what's been the data that has been given to us about the storm surge.

Dennis Jones 46:29

You are correct, our current storm surge threat is three to five feet, and what is exasperated beyond that is a very high task sequences coming about. So overnight Thursday, we could be expecting upwards of a 10.8 tide, which will cause isolation issues going out to Tybee Island and some of the other island areas on the east side of the county. So the good news with that is it will come in and it will go out. So as the tide draws out, it will draw the storm surge out as well. And hopefully this system if it keeps tracking a little bit further to the east, than our storm surge potential decreases. So we'll keep watching it with every advisory we have several more advisories before the actual storm surge threat actually gets to us. So we are hopeful that that storm surge will track its way further east with the track. But we'll have to keep watching that with every advisory, but we are concerned about it. That is something that we have been watching for the last several days running storm surge models taking a look at what areas could potentially flood and communicating that with the city managers as well as the county officials who work in those areas.

Mayor Johnson 47:44

Oftentimes, storm surge is the most the scariest and most dangerous. Part of a storm couple of storms ago Mike Kaigler and I were down on River Street, just checking out things. And there was the water had risen to the point where River Street, the recycles Plaza was underwater. absolutely terrifying. And so therefore the timing of all of this, as Dennis has said is extremely important, not only in those areas, but also areas downstream.

48:19

So we've got a couple of questions coming in from Facebook Live first what what should someone do? They are in their home and it begins to flood not sure who wants to take that?

Chairman Chester Ellis 48:31

Well, I think the first thing you would do is let me let me prepare folks, okay, charge your cell phones. All right, and charge your tablets so that you have a means of communication. And if your home starts to flood, dial 911 in case we need to send somebody in to get you out of that particular place. Is better

to be prepared and we've prepared for those things with our emergency services. That's what our first responders in those will do. All right. I'll fire departments rather we are talking about in the city of Savannah throughout Chatham County. Okay, those first responders would be the one that would respond to that first.

49:15

Thank you. The second question that we're getting quite a bit is where can people find sandbags?

Chairman Chester Ellis 49:20

The sandbags I know you can find the sand at Tybee and port Wentworth for their residents for the yeah for our residents. Yes.

49:32

Wonderful. Thank you.

Dennis Jones 49:38

So we do get that question quite frequently. Where can I get sandbags? As of right now Tybee Island and the city of Port Wentworth. They are providing sandbags and sand for their residents. For other residents throughout Chatham County. We encourage you to go to his commercial source to find sandbags that are suitable for your family and your Europe your property. There are no other sandbag distribution sites around the county other than those two.

50:09

Just curious in case we aren't able to get a hold of folks in Port Wentworth, do you know where those will be? Or did they say where those will be distributed?

Dennis Jones 50:17

Yeah, fire station number one, fire station number two in City Hall. Perfect. Thank you.

Chairman Chester Ellis 50:27

Alright, anything else?

50:30

This is I guess more for us, but like decisions on like, I know there's an NPC meeting tomorrow. I don't think their City Council this week, like agency meetings, will that just come from the particular board or commission? Well, those are canceled.

Chairman Chester Ellis 50:45

No one has no one has told us that they are canceling meetings for tomorrow. Okay, we don't have that information. So if MPC is having a meeting tomorrow, they have not let us know whether they're canceled or not. I know one meeting that the chamber was having. Okay. They've canceled that for tomorrow. But I think the majority of where we are concentrating is from six o'clock tomorrow on into Friday and Saturday.

51:13

Okay, we've got another question coming in from Facebook. How is en different than hurricane Irma? Which we evacuated for and caused flooding?

Chairman Chester Ellis 51:23

Position number one. All right. And then I'll let I'm telling you, I'm gonna lead director Jones going all that technical stuff. All right. I know.

Dennis Jones 51:38

We talked about this this morning, actually. So with Hurricane Irma, that storm approached Chatham County from the south, directly from the South that actually hit South Florida. And the center of circulation traveled up the state of Florida Overland. But the major convection and the high energy of that storm stayed off into the Atlantic. So as Irma was coming up, it stayed really, really intense. It allowed that storm surge to build off the coast of Florida, it came right up and brought all that storm surge into Chatham County, because it had a lot of opportunity in order to build that and sustain that energy. Because even though the I was over land, the energy of the storm was over the Atlantic. So with this particular storm, it's a gulf approaching storm. At some point, the entire storm is going to be overland, in which it will start to die down considerably. As it enters into the Atlantic, it has that opportunity to intensify again. However, there's very, there's right now there is a very short period of time where it is over open water to where it is very limited as to how much intensity it can build. So right now, the forecast track also has us just to the south west of the center of circulation, which means that most of the storm surge is to the front right quadrant. So unfortunately, for our partners in South Carolina, the storm surge threat there is much greater than what it would be here on its current forecast track. If that track shifts a little bit further to the east, it'll even looks better for us. So that's the difference between the two storms.

Chairman Chester Ellis 53:38

right? Yeah, I just got the info. I just got the email. And I read it. And then I and that's when they came and told me you late. So I was getting out early. I was doing that. And I was wrapping up the conference I was having with the president from Georgia Southern. All right. If there's any changes, we will make sure that the public knows we will make sure you know, but what we know you know now. Okay. So we'll go from there. All right. Thank you all for coming. All right. And thank all of them for being here. Mr. Mayor, Mr. Haldeman. All right, all members, especially now, he doesn't say much. But we've got a GEMA friend, he's right in the mix with us. Okay. So the state is getting our information just as you are getting our information. And as I said this morning, we were able to get senators staff in on on and they listened in on our briefing this morning. So they are quite aware of what's going on. They haven't lived it. All right, both of them being in Georgia having lived they're just as concerned about our citizens as we are and then the governor will be here tomorrow. All right. Thank you and have a great day.