

Westmoreland City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2024

The Westmoreland City Council met for a special meeting on May 7, 2024 at the City Hall at 5:15 PM.

The purpose of the special meeting to be answer questions regarding the Recovery Team.

Governing Body members present: Mayor; Mark Jack, Councilmembers Waide Purvis, Jim Smith, Ashley Rice, John Coleman, and Bruce Meininger.

City Staff present: City Clerk; Julie Wren, City Treasurer; Mandi Reese, & City Maintenance Supervisor Robert Krohn,

Others present: Fire Chief; Kevin Umscheid, Recovery Section Chief with Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Devan Tucking and Pottawatomie Co. Emergency Management Director; Jennifer Merrow.

President of the Council Waide Purvis has been acting as point of contact during the initial hours of cleanup, while Mayor Jack has been attending to his County job responsibilities. There being a quorum present, President of the Council - Waide Purvis called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Pottawatomie County Emergency Management has declared Westmoreland is now in "Recovery" stage, and the Council needs to decide on who will guide the City for the next year or so through this stage. This individual will need to make decisions for the City. Devan stated the person chosen will need to be someone who knows the community well and will know what the community needs with no judgement. Residents want to see the money so they can begin the rebuilding process. Everyone is underinsured which is how the situation is being viewed at this point. The group would help residents not only in terms of replacement of physical goods but mental health as well.

Councilmember Purvis stated FEMA and State are not options. Even if the State was an option, there wouldn't be any funds. However, we have Devan and the emergency management to help create this recovery team for Westmoreland.

Jennifer and Devan stated this group could last one to two years until fully completed. Something they've seen towns implement is having town hall meetings. Have a Questions/Answers session. There are two options for the City to decide on to use as our leader for the recovery stage:

- 1- Wildcat COAD & VOAD leaders, who have not been in the disaster recovery yet.
- 2- Holly Tapley, who have been here already and is who Jennifer and Devan highly recommend we use.

Councilmember Purvis motioned to go with Holly Tapley as leader of the disaster recovery group. Councilmember Rice seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Purvis added he'd like to be added the point of contact for the City. Councilmember Meininger motioned Councilmember Purvis be the point of contact for the City. Councilmember Coleman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Purvis asked that Jennifer and Mandi talk with Tara through United Way and set up a meeting with any organizations that opened a fund and ask how funds are going to be distributed.

Fire Chief Umscheid asked Jennifer and Devan if houses outside of town would fall within these guidelines. Devan said anybody in rural areas that were affected are covered and included.

There being no further business, Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jack declared the special meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.
Approved by the Governing Body on June 13th, 2024.

Signed:



Mark Jack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Julie Wren, City Clerk

