

August 29, 2021

MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION

The Mobile County Commission met in emergency session via Zoom Video Conference, on Sunday, August 29, 2021, at 1:00 P. M. The following members of the Commission were present: Merceria Ludgood, President, Connie Hudson and Randall Dueitt, Members. Also present were Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator/Clerk of the Commission, and Jay Ross, County Attorney. President Ludgood chaired the meeting.

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AGENDA #1

ADOPT RESOLUTION/  
DECLARE EMERGENCY/  
HURRICANE IDA

**Commissioner Connie Hudson:** Is this the first emergency resolution? Are you finished with this one?

**Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator:** Yes, ma'am.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Okay. Basically this is all based on Alabama State statute allowing counties the legal authority to declare this emergency. I didn't get this in advance, so I just wanted to make sure I understood exactly what we are doing here. I know we're declaring a state of emergency; but we still have essential personnel that are operating and that allows for all of that to go on as usual as what has happened in the past, correct? Is there anything new or different about this one?

**Jay Ross, County Attorney:** Commissioner, can you hear me?

**Commissioner Hudson:** Yes, I can.

**Jay Ross:** I am driving as well. This is the same thing we have done before. The perhaps slight twist is that anything else that may have to be voted on this wording gives the Commission President the option to do that without calling a further meeting.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Okay. We have actually done that before as well.

**Jay Ross:** We have.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Okay. I just wanted to make sure. It was a lot read and I know it's based on statute. I wanted to make sure I understood it all and that it was basically what we have done in the past.

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Commissioner Hudson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dueitt, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Mobile County Commission is authorized by law to take certain action to protect the safety and welfare of the public upon a determination that an emergency or disaster has occurred or is imminently likely to occur; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, there is an existing and increasing possibility of an emergency or disaster in that the National Hurricane Center has advised that Hurricane Ida, a dangerous Category 4 or Category Storm, will make landfall to the west of Mobile County on August 29, 2021;

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that:

1. The Mobile County Commission determines that an emergency or disaster is imminently likely to occur as a result of Hurricane Ida and declares a local state of emergency.
2. The Mobile County Commission closes Mobile Government Plaza and all County offices which are open to the public on Monday, August 30, 2021 until Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 8:00 A.M.
3. The Mobile County Commission does hereby waive procedure and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to the performance of public work, including but not limited to procedure and formalities set out in Section 11-3-8, Code of Alabama (1975), and the Alabama Open Meetings Act, related to calling and conducting its meetings; entering into contracts; incurring obligations, employment of temporary workers; utilization of volunteer workers; rental of equipment; acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and appropriation of public funds.
4. The Mobile County Commission requires that all department heads remain in Mobile County for the duration of the emergency.
5. The Mobile County Commission places all employees on "Emergency Alert" status in accordance with Policy #200-04, the Mobile County Commission Disaster or Emergency Days Policy.

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6. The Mobile County Commission appoints the President of the Commission to take such other and additional action related to the emergency as she, in the exercise of reasonable judgment, deems necessary.

**ADOPTED** this 29th day of August 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF MOBILE**

I, Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mobile County Commission in an emergency meeting convened the 29th day of August 2021.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Mobile County Commission on this the 1st day of September 2021.

\s\Glenn L. Hodge  
Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator  
Mobile County Commission

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AGENDA #2

APPROVE THE TAKING OF ALL OTHER  
ACTION RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY  
AS THE COMMISSION MAY DEEM PROPER

**President Merceria Ludgood:** I think we need to discuss what will happen tomorrow. Before we do that, can we get an update on the weather and what to expect from Hurricane Ida for our community?

**Sharee Broussard, Public Affairs Director:** I saw that the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) folks were on. Let me see if I can find them.

**Ronnie Adair, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director:** Can you hear me now?

**Sharee Broussard:** Yes.

**Ronnie Adair:** This is Ronnie Adair, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director. I'm here with Mike Evans, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Deputy Director. It appears from the 11:00 A.M. reports we

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have been getting from the National Weather Service in Mobile that there will be rain bands and gusty winds. They will be forthcoming through tomorrow, Monday, August 30, 2021. It should slack off by noon or by 4:00 P.M. There is no way to judge it at this time. I related to what they told the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) was it would be a stormy day all day. I hope that helps.

**Commissioner Hudson:** My question is about flooding. I think that is probably as big of an issue for us as anything since we have so many low-lying areas. What is the outlook there?

**Ronnie Adair:** The potential is there. So far, the rain bands have been separated enough that run-off has been pretty good. The only roads we know of right now that are closed are Shell Belt Road in Coden, Alabama in the south part of Mobile County and part of the Causeway going up to Africatown Bridge. Hurricane Ida is making landfall now on Grand Isle, Louisiana. When it starts to make a right-hand turn, we will have to wait and see how much effect it'll have on us. So far, the breaks in the rain bands have been enough that the water does not seem to be puddling. It has been getting off of the roads. That can change at any moment.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Okay. On agenda item #2, is this a separate resolution? Can you read it again? What did it say?

**Martha Durant, Chief Staff Attorney:** Commissioner Hudson, we don't have to adopt it. We put this on here in case something of concern came to any of the Commissioners that you thought should be addressed.

**Commissioner Hudson:** It really did not make a lot of sense to me. It is so open-ended.

**Martha Durant:** It was meant to be that way so that you could add something if you felt like we should. If nobody feels like we need to add anything further and that we have covered enough, then we could remove it.

**Commissioner Hudson:** We have already given the Commission President authority to make decisions without calling a meeting.

**Martha Durant:** Correct.

**Commissioner Hudson:** I was wondering the necessity of doing this resolution.

**Martha Durant:** I think you could go ahead with a motion to adjourn.

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**President Ludgood:** Before we do that, since we are here together and we have convened an emergency meeting, although I am empowered to order the courthouse closed tomorrow, this would be a good time to address it here.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Did we not do that in the motion? Was it not coupled in with that?

**President Ludgood:** Not closing the courthouse. It was not a part of the resolution.

**Martha Durant:** Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator, hasn't someone conferred with Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Youngpeter about that?

**Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator:** I conferred with Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Youngpeter. I conferred with the City of Mobile.

**Jay Ross, County Attorney:** I have conferred with Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Youngpeter during the last hour and half and he confirmed he is going to close the courts for tomorrow per his conversation with me around 11:30 A.M. today.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Okay.

**Jay Ross:** All District Courts and Circuit Courts will be closed tomorrow.

**Commissioner Randall Dueitt:** I think we've already addressed the courts being closed in the number two section of the first resolution. It says the Mobile County Commission closes Mobile Government Plaza and all County offices which are open to the public on Monday, August 30, 2021 until Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. I think we have already approved this.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Yes. If we need to take an extra step regarding the courthouse specifically, we can; but Government Plaza is closed based on that resolution. I agree.

**President Ludgood:** Also all of the County offices.

**Commissioner Hudson:** Right.

Upon the request of Commissioner Hudson, this item was removed from the agenda.

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AGENDA #3

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hudson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dueitt, that the Board approve a request for motion to adjourn until September 13, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Merceria Ludgood, President

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Connie Hudson, Member

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Randall Dueitt, Member

ATTEST:

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Glenn L. Hodge, County Administrator