

**RESOLUTION 2005-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING A REQUEST FOR A NEW TIDE ATLAS STUDY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY BE FUNDED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FEMA BASED UPON CURRENT GROUND ELEVATIONS AND TOPOGRAPHY; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Katrina was one of the strongest storms to impact the coast of the United States during the last 100 years; with sustained winds during landfall of 140 mph (a strong category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale) and minimum central pressure the third lowest on record at landfall (920 mb). Katrina caused widespread devastation along the central Gulf Coast states of the US, responsible for 1,302 deaths and over \$130 billion in damage and was the costliest Hurricane of all time and with cities such as New Orleans, LA, Mobile, AL, and Gulfport, MS bearing the brunt of Katrina's force; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005; the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season was notable as one of the deadliest and costliest Atlantic hurricane seasons on record, with at least 3,132 deaths (mostly in Haiti) and roughly \$42 billion (USD) in damage. The most notable storms for the season were Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, all of which struck the U.S. state of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mary Esther located in Okaloosa County, FL is a coastal community and has been severely impacted by 4 major hurricanes in the last ten years; Hurricanes Erin and Opal in 1995, and Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Dennis in 2005 causing major property damage, severe coastal beach erosion and massive inland flooding; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:***

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.**

The authority for enactment of this Resolution is pursuant to the powers for the City of Mary Esther, provided in Section 166.021(1), Florida Statutes.

**SECTION 2. FINDINGS OF FACT.**

The City of Mary Esther finds the following:

- a. Accurate ground elevation is vital in determining the extent of flooding associated with a particular storm surge; and
- b. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers study entitled "Northwest Florida Hurricane Storm Tide Atlas Jurisdiction Okaloosa County May 1998" was based upon 10-foot contours, pre-Hurricane Opal, to determine storm surge limits; and
- c. Subsequent tropical systems since Hurricane Opal in 1995 have significantly altered dune heights and inland topography; and

**SECTION 3. REQUEST A NEW TIDE ATLAS STUDY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY BE FUNDED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FEMA, BASED UPON CURRENT GROUND EVELVATIONS AND TOPOGRAPHY.**

- a. The need exists to update the Tide Atlas of Okaloosa County, based upon current ground elevations, which is essential to protect and preserve the health and welfare of all residents of Okaloosa County; and
- b. Only the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Florida have the funds, ability and expertise to undertake this study.

**SECTION 4. DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION.**

Request that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following:

- a. Okaloosa County
- b. All Cities of Okaloosa County
- c. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- d. The Federal Emergency Management Association
- e. The State of Florida.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the City Council and signature of the Mayor Pro-Tem.

ADOPTED IN SESSION THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2006.

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Ronald Stearns  
Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

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Lynne Oler, CMC  
City Clerk