

<b>CARL HARBERT</b> <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	<b>DAVID RUTLEDGE</b> <i>Mayor</i> 	<b>ERIC ANDRUS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
<b>KIRK ROCCAFORTE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		<b>TERRI GAUTHIER</b> <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
<b>TAMMI FISETTE</b> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>LUCY FIELDS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**  
**March 6, 2018**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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Mayor David Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor David Rutledge  
Council Member Carl Harbert  
Council Member Kirk Roccaforte  
Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette  
Council Member Eric Andrus

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:**

Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Lucy Fields

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Jerry D. Jones  
City Secretary Sherry Tisdale  
City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda  
Finance Director Karen Morgan  
Personnel/Purchasing Director Jeanie McDowell  
Chief Paul T. Davis  
Mike Lund, Utility Superintendent  
Mike Die, Asst. Utility Superintendent

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG**

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Following the invocation given by Mr. Fukuda, Mayor Rutledge led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and to the State of Texas flag. At the conclusion of the pledges, Mayor Rutledge thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette.

With no discussion or questions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

#### **4. REPORTS & COMMENTS**

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**(a) City Manager**

**City Manager Jerry Jones** had the following report for Council:

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): Sewer line replacement project – hearings going on now – should bid around mid-July – final number for residences served is 182
2. Update on financials: Copy has been given to Council
3. Workshop on financials: Schedule workshop for next meeting or so – 2<sup>nd</sup> page of report shows revenues are over expenditures by \$1.58 million – doing relatively well recovering from shortfall – any specific questions see Ms. Morgan or himself after meeting
4. Romero Well: Received information that TCEQ is going to send the City a letter probably by mid-April
5. Ms. Blacke’s trailer: It is gone and front yard is cleaned up – the guys did a good job
6. House on Darby: Operating Blessing removed the trash in the house to the ditch – the guys went by and picked it up and got it to the dumpster so it wouldn’t be all over the neighborhood
7. Old Police Department: Trying to get storage buildings moved towards end of week and will put notice in newspaper to sell that property

**(a) City Council**

**Council Member Carl Harbert** asked Mr. Jones where the City stands on the streets that need repairs. He said he went down Franklin and the whole thing needs to be done. Mr. Jones answered there are two ways in repairing the streets. One is the money the City has that relies on the County when they start doing their program. Normally, he said the City is usually near the end of the County’s list. The monies applied for through FEMA is another way, and he believes that this street is in this; but he has no idea when it will come in. Mr. Jones said FEMA is still coming in and inspecting these projects, which total about \$19 million. Mr. Jones stated he could get the guys out there to patch the holes for now.

Council Member Harbert stated that Ms. Saucier contacted him and said to tell the guys “Thank You”. They did an excellent job cleaning this up (W. Darby). She was very happy with the work.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fiset** asked about the travel trailer that has been parked on a lot where a house was torn down on Inwood. She said she called the City and reported it to Clarence. She was wondering what the status was on getting it moved. Mr. Jones said he did not know but would find out in the morning.

**Council Member Eric Andrus** stated he had something that might already be in the FEMA grant. He asked what about re-grading certain parts of ditches. He said his neighborhood was a prime candidate for that because of flooding. He asked when they could see re-grading of the ditches in the City. Mr. Jones answered that City crews are running everyday with the Gradall. He said the City has applied for five to seven miles of ditch re-grading, and the area Council Member Andrus was talking about is on that list. Mr. Jones said again, like the streets, he did not know when this would be available but it is on the application.

Council Member Andrus reported to Council, in regards to the Beautification Committee, that he has talked to the schools and the churches. Everybody seems to be “on board”. The only thing he thinks the City will need to offer is food (coming from the kids’ comments). He said if we feed them – they will do anything we want.

**(c) City Staff**

There were no comments from City staff.

**(b) Mayor**

**Mayor David Rutledge** had the following comments:

1. Thank everybody for the very successful Region 16 meeting that was held the other night. He received a lot of compliments on it. He thanked Mr. Jones for the work that had been done on the Community Center and thanked Nathan Noyola for setting up the table and chairs. The Chamber did really well on getting everything decorated. He thanked staff and Ms. Tisdale for all the work that had been done on it, and thanked Council for their attendance.
2. Jefferson County Association Veterans Legal Initiative will be 9 to 12 noon on April 7 at the Senior Citizen’s Center.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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Kenneth Prosperie  
819 Sunnyside

Mr. Prosperie said he wanted to remind Council that there is a drainage issue on Sunnyside (Guest Sheet No. 1). He said they have some serious problems, and it has been going on for years. He said he has done everything he can do. He has sent pictures and videos and even

showed them where the water is slowing down. Mr. Prosperie said he is asking Council for help again and not to forget Sunnyside if they start working on the ditches. He said one of the biggest problems they have is 12-inch culverts put where they aren't supposed to be. Maybe some people put culverts in without the City's permission. He said he had no idea. At 920 Sunnyside, they put culverts in their yard and he thinks they put them in too deep, and then covered them up. They City had to have inspected them before they covered up or pulled a permit. He stated he didn't know how this would be fixed but they have a major problem in Sunnyside. He asked Council not to forget them, and then thanked Council.

Joseph Henry  
350 Austin, Space #34

Mr. Henry said the biggest thing he wanted to bring to Council was a serious speeding and running stop sign issue at the corner of Osborne and Bower (Guest Sheet No. 2). There is a 3-way stop sign there, and they are not just running the stop signs. They are blowing through the stop signs, and doing 40-50-60 mph down Osborne. He said he has called the Bridge City Police, and they are doing the best they can. He stated he just doesn't think they are able to do enough to slow this down. He said the dispatcher even asked if it was being a problem again. Mr. Henry said it's never not been a problem – it's just gotten worse – especially since the hurricane.

Mr. Henry also told Council that he is a disabled veteran, and he lost everything in the hurricane, except his truck and the clothes on his back. He stated he is trying to get housing and unfortunately, he is not qualifying. He explained he is on Social Security Disability. He said he tried to do the income-based thing, and the first one he found was over \$750/month. This is right at one-half of his income. He said he's not sure what Council can do, but if they can do something, he would appreciate it.

## **6. ORDINANCES**

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**(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2018-02 amending Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bridge City identifying new boundaries for livestock***

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2018-02, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-02 (Attachment No. 1), as read. Motion was seconded by Council Member Harbert.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2018-03 restricting the construction of barndominiums and beach houses unless a variance is first obtained from the Board of Adjustments**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2018-03, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Andrus made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2018-03 (Attachment No. 2). Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetete.

Mayor Rutledge said he had a question – Do we want to include slab elevations three feet above the normal grade or something. He said he knew they had talked about setting a minimum. Council Member Roccaforte and Harbert said it states in the ordinance that a beach house is defined as a residence elevated greater than three feet above the Base Flood Elevation. Mr. Fukuda pointed out that Mayor Rutledge had said slab elevation, and this is not a slab. Mayor Rutledge said that raised another question he had. Some of these are elevated by pier and beams and/or pylons, and some are raised by a huge mound of dirt. He asked if there was anything Council needed to include about the dirt – has everything been included. Mr. Jones answered he doesn't think they will have to worry about the dirt. Normally people aren't going to spend the money to raise it much over three feet. He said if the City sees somebody that is going above that they will require that they have a variance on that, too. They have to get elevations they are going to start at when they come in with the plans. If they are going to be above that three feet, they will require it on the dirt because they push water over on the neighbors. Mr. Jones said if City staff runs into any problems with this they will come back to Council with an amendment. Mayor Rutledge said that was one of his questions. Do they need to require this as one of the conditions – he wants to be sure they cover all the possibilities. Mr. Jones said normally building that property has to go to Court under normal circumstances. The City doesn't have the right to tell somebody that they can or can't build their property up two or three feet. He said he doesn't know where they want to go with this because if anybody comes and builds up even a foot – it will push water over on the neighbor. He said he doesn't know if the City wants to get in that battle. This is normally handled by the Courts – one way or another.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was decided to pass the ordinance as is.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetete, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2018-04 prohibiting persons from parking in an unimproved area**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2018-03, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2018-04, as read, (Attachment No. 3). Motion was seconded by Council Member Harbert.

Council Member Harbert stated he spoke to Mr. Jones, and under "Offenses" front yard of any residence was added. Mr. Fukuda stated that recreational vehicle was also added to "Offenses."

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2018-05 prohibiting the use of portable buildings for commercial purposes**

Council Member Harbert made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2018-05 (Attachment No. 4). Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mayor Rutledge said his question is do we need to define portable building. Mr. Fukuda said that is a good question; however, this is not a criminal provision. This is more of a building provision, and that would be under Mr. Jones' bailiwick and whether he feels he needs it. Mr. Jones said the City very seldom gets this request but this is "just in case".

With no more questions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**7. RESOLUTION**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2018-05(R) submitting an application for the Portable Radio Interoperability Grant for the 2018 Year**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2018-05(R) in its entirety, submitting an application for the Portable Radio Interoperability Grant for the 2018 year.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-05(R), as read (Attachment No. 5). Council Member Andrus seconded the motion.

Council Member Harbert asked where are these matching funds coming from. Chief Davis said there are no requirements for matching funds. This is required language in the resolution in order to move forward with the grant process.

Council Member Harbert asked if the City would have to pay it back. Chief Davis said the Governor's Office has very specific language that is required in preparation for grants. This is part of the language that they are requiring to be in this resolution. He said there is no match in this particular grant.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

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- (a) *Consideration and possible action to approve an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitoes within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2018***

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitoes within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2018 (Attachment No. 6). Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mayor Rutledge stated that this is a normal thing that is done every year. With no discussion, he called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

- (b) *Consideration and possible action to approve a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) as requested by owner, Milton Crooks, on two pieces of property located at 200 Granger and 195 Granger, in order to build two duplexes on the property, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission***

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve a zone change from R-1 to R-3, as requested by Milton Crooks, on property located at 200 Granger and 195 Granger (Attachment No. 7). Motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**(c) *Consideration and possible action to appoint the City Collective Bargaining Committee for the 2018-2019 Bridge City Police Association contract negotiations***

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette made a motion to appoint the City Collective Bargaining Committee for the 2018-2019 BCPA contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mayor Rutledge stated that Council Member Fields has expressed an interest to him to serve on this committee. He asked if anyone else was interested in it. Council Member Harbert said he would like to.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette amended her motion to nominate Lucy Fields and Carl Harbert to serve on the 2018-2019 Police City Collective Bargaining Committee. Amended motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**9. ADJOURN**

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Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Council Member Harbert.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, and Andrus.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Members Gauthier and Fields.

**/s/ David Rutledge**

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

**/s/ Sherry Tisdale**

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Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary