

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
September 19, 2017

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 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
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
Police Chief Paul T. Davis
Utility Superintendent Mike Lund
Asst. Utility Superintendent Mike Die

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

Following the invocation given by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, 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 welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the agenda with the addendum, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

4. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Flood Zone damage assessments in A zones have all been completed
2. Now issuing building permits for homes not in flood zones
3. Homes in the flood zones have to be proved up - that's what the assessments were for - elevation above 8 feet or less than 50% damage to the house
4. Finding more flooding in the non-flood zones than in the flood zones
5. Substantial Damage Houses: really didn't have a lot - going back through and evaluating those now - feels like there will be less than 20 that will be listed as substantial damage houses - those are the ones that have more than 50% damage to the structure itself
6. Total flooded or damaged homes is around 800
7. All employees have test meters - City requiring that after the citizen's homes are dried out there be a reading less than the moisture content of 15%

(b) City Council

Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette said she had one thing. There is a milestone anniversary. Stacy Snell, Animal Control Officer, has been with the City for 20 years. Also, Mike Lund has 22 years of service. She thanked both of these employees for their service.

Council Member Eric Andrus stated that, like Ike, there are a bunch of people devastated. He said about one-half of his street was flooded, but you see all the citizens coming out to help one another. That's always good to see. He said he would like to commend the people of this City on their resolve and their ability to help one another.

Council Member Lucy Fields said she would like to give a big "Thank You" to all the distribution sites and to all the people that helped volunteer. She stated she had one short report from First Baptist Church. It is only a small piece of what all the other people did. First Baptist reported approximately 400 evacuees that came through their doors. The School also had evacuees. The Church housed about 200 in four days. They bussed out approximately 150 families to other facilities. From what they understand, almost 100% have returned to their homes. They estimated that they helped approximately 1000 families and nearly 100 shipments came from all over the country. All the churches did this, and she just can't say

enough of how they all came through for the citizens. She wanted to say a great big "Thank You" to all of them.

(c) City Staff

There were no reports from City Staff.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

There are too many people to say "Thank You" to without fear of omitting someone. Instead, he said "Thank You" to everybody that pulled their boots up, grabbed something, and helped their neighbors out. Whatever it was - everyone took care of things and it went fairly smoothly. He said he didn't know if Ike was a good drill for us. The City, as Mr. Andrus said, reacted very well and he is proud to live in this town.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Rutledge called Mr. Jerry Nicks to come to the microphone. He explained to Mr. Nicks that there is a three-minute time limit on his comments.

Jerry Nicks, 222 Billeaud

Mr. Nicks presented Council with a handout (Attachment No. 1). He stated he lives on the north end of Rose Terrace. Rose Terrace is located between E. Roundbunch and Jones Road. It was originally a rice field. Mr. Billeaud developed it into an addition. He hired a professional engineering group so all facets of this addition are engineered perfectly. Unfortunately, this addition is concave. There's about a 1 1/2 foot difference in elevation in the middle of the addition from the north end and the south end. The engineers designed two drainage ditches to account for that low area. One of them runs from Nancy to the County drain ditch on the east. The other ran from the corner of Jeanette and David across the pipeline right-of-way to Blueberry and down Blueberry to the drain ditch. About 20 years ago, a Mr. Prejean needed more space to build a house so he filled in the west drain ditch. He put two corrugated culverts. One was a 14-inch culvert but, with corrugation, it is 12 inches at the best. The other was a 12-inch, but 10 inches at the best. Mr. Nicks said he has worked with several of the City supervisors, and he always has a good response but no results. The only way they are going to get drainage in this addition is for this ditch to be re-established. It's platted and recorded in the Courthouse. It specifically says ditch but he can't seem to get the City to take any type of action. He said he fully believes that 1/2 a dozen houses would have had no water at all during this flood had this ditch been operable. For 25 years, he has never had a water problem. Ever since Mr. Prejean filled the drainage ditch, they have had water problems. He said he was here to solicit Council to finally take some action. He told Council "Thank you for your attention."

Jude C. Hebert, 415 Jeanette

Mr. Hebert said some of Council remembered when he was here before. He said he was here to support everything Mr. Nicks said. He said he's in the center of this addition where the hollow is. Everything Mr. Nicks said is true. He said when he was here before he stood before the Council and made a fool of himself. He proposed to Council that he would do everything Mr. Nicks is proposing to be done and he would do it for about a \$25,000 "go-ahead" and he'd stop it before one-half of the money was gone. It's not a big deal. Mr. Hebert said he believes this can be done with very little money. He told Council he wanted to describe the situation so they would understand the fragility of the circumstances. Danny Cole was on Council when he came to speak before, and Mr. Cole didn't realize his actions caused an extra three inches of water in his garage. This area is so fragile. His neighbor behind him, Mr. Cappell, wanted to sell his property. To enhance the attractiveness of his property, Mr. Cappell elevated his property slightly. He brought in some dirt and Mr. Cole came in with his tractor and elevated the crown on Mr. Cappell's property by three inches. Mr. Hebert stated that the water flows across his property and flows across the Cappell property and flows into the ditches on the side of Calvin. That three extra inches is still evident in his garage every time it rains. Mr. Hebert said this gives Council an idea of how fragile this area is.

6. ORDINANCES

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2017-05 adopting and levying municipal ad valorem taxes for the 2017 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas as follows:

\$0.20391 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)
\$0.31609 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate
\$0.52000 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette made a motion "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.52000, which is effectively a 5.76 percent increase in the tax rate." Motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2017-05 (Attachment No. 2), thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mayor Rutledge stated that the tax rate of 0.52000 is the exact same rate as last year's rate.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge asked for a record roll call vote.

Votes were as follows for Sections A and B:

HARBERT	YES
ROCCAFORTE	YES
FISETTE	YES
ANDRUS	YES
GAUTHIER	YES
FIELDS	YES
RUTLEDGE	YES

Votes were stated and signed for as evidenced on Ordinance No. 2017-05 (Attachment No. 2).

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2017-06 increasing the water base rate by \$0.50 and increasing the sewer base rate by \$1.00

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-06 (Attachment No. 3) increasing the water base rate by \$0.50 and increasing the sewer base rate by \$1.00. Council Member Roccaforte seconded the motion.

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2017-06, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mr. Jones stated this is a minimal increase considering the amount of additional requirements by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for testing and different things. Probably with these increases, the City won't break even for this past year. He said the City needs to try to cover the additional costs.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2017 City Council Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the July 26, 2017 City Council Special Meeting (Budget Workshop) minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the City bills for the month of August 2017

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the August 2017 City bills (Attachment No. 4), 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, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to appoint/reappoint members for the 2017-2019 terms to the following City Boards and Commissions

***Board of Adjustment
Building Standards Commission
Planning and Zoning Commission
Library Advisory Board***

Council Member Rutledge made a motion to consider appointments/reappointments of members for the 2017-2019 terms of the City Boards and Commissions.

After discussion, Council Member Roccaforte amended his motion for the following appointments/reappointments:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Judy Cole

Mike Reed, Alternate to Regular

BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Jeremiah Johnson

Danny Harrington, Alternate

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Becky Rutledge

Steve Quibodeaux

Louis Davis

Robert Simonton, Jr.

John Dubose (filled vacancy left by Municipal Court Judge Bill Dixon)

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Geraldine Huckabay

Shirley Jordan

Jaclyn Phillips

Council Member Gauthier seconded the amended motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to cancel or reschedule the October 3, 2017 City Council meeting due to Council's attendance at the Texas Municipal League Conference in Houston, Texas

Council Member Fields made a motion to cancel the October 3, 2017 City Council meeting due to Council's attendance at TML Conference, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between Orange County and the City of Bridge City regarding a desire to mutually cooperate in aiding one another in time of emergency

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between Orange County and the City of Bridge City (Attachment No. 5), seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Jones said with Ike the City had a "piggy back" agreement with the County on picking up all debris after the storm. He said "piggy back" agreements are not allowed anymore by FEMA. He said the City was in a situation where they would have to either bid a contract of our own or work out a way to get on the County's contract. All the cities have been meeting for the last couple of weeks trying to work out a way to do this. Finally, FEMA came back and told them if they would do a Mutual Aid Agreement - that would be acceptable - and the cities could get on the County's contract. The City of Orange had a contract of their own, and they are going to use it during this process. Mr. Jones said they met with the Commissioner's Court last Friday and they have agreed to do the entire County as far as debris pickup. The whole obligation will be at the County's expense. It is on a 90/10 split so 90% of this will be picked up by FEMA. The County will be out 10%. The County has asked for some assistance on the audit process, when it is over, from each of the cities. They have asked for some assistance with the debris

monitoring when it gets started. All the cities agreed to this. This is the agreement that the City has to pass. He said when you look at the agreement understand that this is not a contract for debris removal. It's simply a Mutual Aid Agreement that is now set up with all the cities and the County. The debris contract is a totally different issue. Commissioner's Court voted at their meeting to include all the cities in their pickup. He said Council needs to pass this and get it back to the County for their Thursday meeting then the City will be on board with their debris pickup.

Mayor Rutledge asked if this was open ended - there's no expiration date? Mr. Jones said it probably will have to be renewed at some point but FEMA will make that determination and let the City know.

Council Member Fields asked if the City was financially responsible for any of the debris pickup. Mr. Jones replied no, it's all the County.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

8. ADJOURN

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

/s/ David Rutledge

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary