

<b>CARL HARBERT</b> <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	<b>DAVID RUTLEDGE</b> <i>Mayor</i>	<b>DANNY HARRINGTON</b> <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
<b>MIKE REED</b> <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		<b>TERRI GAUTHIER</b> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 5</i>
<b>TAMMI FISETTE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>LUCY FIELDS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**

**February 18, 2020**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 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 6:03 p.m.

#### **CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor David Rutledge  
 Council Member Carl Harbert  
 Council Member Mike Reed  
 Council Member Tammi Fisetite  
 Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier  
 Council Member Lucy Fields

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** Council Member Danny Harrington.

#### **CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Jerry D. Jones  
 City Secretary Jeanie McDowell  
 City Attorney Paul Fukuda  
 Personnel/Purchasing Director Mitzi Nolan  
 Police Chief Paul Davis  
 Assistant Utility Superintendent Mike Die  
 Public Works Director Mike Lund

#### **2. INVOCATION**

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Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

#### **3. PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG**

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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.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Fisette.

With no corrections, additions, or deletions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

#### **5. PUBLIC HEARING**

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**(a) *City Council to hear and consider public comments on the need to continue City Ordinance No. 05-04 (Curfew for Minors) as required by Texas Local Government Code §370.02***

Mayor Rutledge began the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 05-04 (Curfew for Minors) at 6:04 p.m. He asked if there were any public comments on the ordinance. With no comments or questions, Mayor Rutledge asked again for comments or questions. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

#### **6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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**(a) *City Manager***

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

1. Elsie Street Project – almost complete, have a few curbs that Mike has looked at and would like to talk about getting repaired and a little minor work that needs to be done. The contractors still has dress up that will be done after the ground dries up. The City Staff still has to do their work, it is too wet to get back in there to do that right now. The actual construction, the underground culverts, curbs, sidewalks and driveways is basically complete, so that project is looking good. I will get Mike to go by each resident's house and check with them to make sure they are satisfied with everything the City has done, if there is problems I would like to address them while the contractor is still here.
2. Filter Press – originally they had a 12 week delivery on most parts and they are still receiving parts. When the parts get in, then project will continue.
3. Manhole Project – the weather has delayed it. The contractors are ready, but has been too much water.

4. Flushing Valves and Fire Plug Project – all plans were completed and sent in to the State for approval, so waiting on the reply back.
5. Center Street Project – weather is still a hold up, but it has been awarded.
6. Hazardous Mitigation Grant – applied for in 2018 for drainage work in Bridge City, Staff has been working on it for quite a while, the City received confirmation back last week that we have been awarded the \$3M grant. There is actually two parts of the grant, the first part is \$531,000 for a drainage study only on major outfall ditches. The second part is \$2.5M to repair any problems they find during the study that needs to be repaired. The City will meet with the Drainage District and the County to make sure the study the City does dove tails for the rest of the region. The amount of work in the City will be reduced significantly. This has nothing to do with the money for roadside ditches. This is additional amount of money. The City will be able to do a lot of work on drainage between the 3 projects.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Carl Harbert** said the City is down to two water wells. He asked when will the City start the third water well.

Mr. Jones said the City is still working on funding for this project. He said the City has grant applications out and some different things he is doing, but the basic design is being put together now.

Council Member Harbert asked when the 10 ditches will begin.

Mr. Jones said the contractors are waiting for drier weather, so they don't make a mess. Mr. Jones said if they get a break in the weather, they will start digging. Mr. Jones also said he does not want the contractors to get out there and start digging and cannot get the ditch shaped right. They put it their dump trucks and get mud all over the road. He said the City does not want to be put in that situation.

**Council Member Mike Reed**

None.

**Council Member Tammi Fisette** said on the Elsie Project the contractors were out there yesterday and did some of the curbs and did a good job. She said she did not know who they were and she saw people sitting in a vehicle and she called the police. She told Chief Davis it was a very good response from the police department, but she found out it was the concrete people.

She also said she wanted to thank Mike Lund, and she has heard such good things. She said Jerry Jones has been out there several times, the Mayor has been out there several times, that has gotten the attention of our citizens. Y'all care enough to come out there, they are on the side of the street, they are talking to people and people are coming out of their houses, thank you so much. There has been good positive response to see the Mayor out there. She also said she sent Mike a picture, she had a concern of in the very center of Elsie, it holds water but not on the sides. She said Mike told her he would look into it. She thanked them for what they do.

**Council Member Danny Harrington**

Absent.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier** said she would like to give an update on the Commissioner's Court Meeting, they voted on the abatement for Chevron Philips and it was unanimously voted a yes to pass the abatement process.

**Council Member Lucy Fields** said the Council knows all about the Census and it is coming, everyone will get their Census by March 12, 2020. Census Day is April 1, 2020, their asking City Leaders to get out there and let our citizens know that they need to be counted, because it counts in so many different directions. She said she spoke with Mr. Jones, Mr. Litzen and the electric company about putting some little memos or captions on their billing to remind people to answer the Census. She also said they will begin training the enumerators very quickly. Mayor Rutledge asked Council Member Fields if there has been good response for enumerators. Council Member Fields said the Census still need more enumerators, Veterans will get first pick, and will continue to call Veterans until they get a response, however if other people applied they will have to check their status. The Census will call you one time if you don't answer, they will go to the next person. They are still needing people. It pays \$15 - \$18 per hour from May to July. All census numbers has to be in to the President by December 2020.

**(c) City Staff Report**

None.

***Student Representative:***

None.

***City Attorney Paul Fukuda***

None.

**(d) Mayor**

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

1. Mr. Keagan Smith was awarded the Mirabeau Scholarship with Lamar University.
2. Free legal advice clinic for Veterans and spouse of deceased veterans on Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Bridge City Senior Citizen's Hall, 105 Parkside. They strongly encourage appointments and voluntary attorneys will provided free brief legal advice to all attending Veterans. We encourage everyone that this may affect to please avail yourself of that opportunity.
3. CDBG-DR Acquisition Program informational meeting on Hurricane Harvey Community Development and Revitalization Funds to establish a Local Acquisition Program. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of program guidelines and to make their views known at the community meeting. There will two meetings on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Bridge City, City Hall. If you know anyone needing this program get the information to them tonight, so they may attend the meeting.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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Bridget Johnson

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau  
Partnership Specialist

She introduced herself and said her coverage area includes Southeast Texas, Jefferson, Hardin, Orange, Jasper, and now part of Newton County. Her job is to go out and create partnerships with local governments because that is her track and educate everyone about the upcoming Census. She said April 1 is almost here and she will give a brief overview of what is happening right now.

Ms. Johnson said the Census has begun, it started January 21, 2020 in a small town in Alaska and slowly but surely heading into the States. She would like to share a couple of things on how to respond to the Census. She also said this is the first time to respond online, beginning March 13, 2020, that is when the kick off for online Census starts. There is four ways to respond and they are online access, which begins March 13; call in to an 800 number and give their information over the phone to an enumerator; mail in survey, still sending out surveys; enumerators come out to citizens homes for those who did not have an opportunity to complete their Census in any other way available.

Ms. Johnson said she has been working with the City of Bridge City since September of last year and she would like to say you have a wonderful group of people here working to promote the Census. B.J. Hanneman at the Chamber of Commerce, Lucy Fields, Council Member and Chamber Member, Terri Gauthier, Council Member and Chamber Member, Jerry Jones, City Manager, Chamber Member have all been instrumental in providing access to facilities and partnering with the Census in various Census activities. The Census had a job fair at the local library, where individuals could come out and fill out Census applications to actually work. Also the Census is still hiring, so if you know of anyone who is interested in a part-time, full-time position to be an enumerator, please have them fill out an application online to 2020 Census.gov to complete the application. The Census prefer to hire within the community, because they know the community. The rate for the particular area is between \$15 -\$18 per hour.

Ms. Johnson said she did not want to take much time, so if you have questions, she will be here at the end of the meeting to answers questions. She will be working with the Library in the next couple of weeks trying to put together mobile questionnaire assistance centers. They will have earmark locations within the various communities where people can go in to complete their Census forms. They are looking for organizations or entities that have actual computers onsite. Beginning March 12, they will start having several locations throughout Southeast Texas so individuals can go and complete their census online, for those individuals that may not have access to the computers or broadband internet at home. She will be working with the library to make sure Bridge City has the MQA site.

## **8. RESOLUTION**

- (a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-05(R) approving the submission of an application for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Body Camera 2020 to be operated for the FY2020 year***

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2020-05(R), in its entirety, approving the submission of an application for a JAG Grant for body camera 2020.

Council Member Fields made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2020-05(R) as read, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier asked if there will be a match.

Chief Davis said there was no match, it is language required to be in the resolution.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetite, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

***(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-06(R) submitting an application for the Portable Radio Interoperability Grant for the 2020 Year***

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2020-06(R), in its entirety, approving the submission of an application for the Portable Interoperability Grant for the 2020 year.

Council Member Reed made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2020-06(R) as read, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Council Member Harbert said he saw in the bills that the City just bought radios.

Council Member Fisetite said it was for tower usage for the Police Department to operate off of the County's tower and there is a fee.

Chief Davis said the City is required to pay a usage fee for a number of radios the department has and currently it is 36 radios they operate. He said the cost is \$14 per month per radio.

Council Member Fisetite asked Chief Davis if the department will be okay when the tower switches to the 800 or will the City have to change anything.

Chief Davis said all of the department's radios are for the grant are required to be P25 compliant.

Council Member Fisetite said then we will be good.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetite, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

## 9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the February 4, 2020 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 City Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetette, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the City Bills for the month of January 2020**

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the City Bills for the month of January 2020, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Council Member Harbert asked if we just bought barricades and cones again, \$3,000.

Mr. Jones said yes the City did.

Council Member Harbert said he thought the City would furnish the labor and the school furnish the materials for the school parking lot. He said we received a bill for \$9,625.

Mr. Jones said the City buys the material, then the school will reimburse the City. He said the total bill is approximately \$14,000.

Council Member Harbert asked if the City will receive a check from the school district for this.

Mr. Jones said the City will send an invoice to the school district for \$14,000.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetette, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to abolish, continue, or modify City Ordinance No. 05-04 (Curfew for Minors) as required by Texas Local Government Code §370.002**

Council Member Fields made a motion to continue Ordinance No. 05-04 (Curfew for Minors), seconded by Council Member Fisetette.

Mayor Rutledge said it is a tool that allows our police to perform their work.

Council Member Harbert said the students need to know this is a \$500 fine. It is up to the Judge to either have them pay the fine or write essays. The Bridge City students are shocked to find it is a \$500 fine.

Mayor Rutledge asked Keagan Smith to pass this along to the student body.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to approve the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax application packet**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax application packet, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Mr. Jones said this is a packet Staff put together for people to apply for the Hotel/Motel funding. He also said it is a basic application that is used by most cities. The application has a lot of information in it that may or may not be filled out.

Council Member Fields asked if they had already approved the application.

Mr. Jones said no he brought it to the Council for approval to create an application.

Council Member Fissette asked if all applications will be brought to Council for approval.

Mr. Jones said the Council will have to approve all applications.

Council Member Fields asked the balance in the hotel/motel tax fund.

Mr. Jones said he did not know, but we have not had a lot of request for funding.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**(e) 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 2020**

Council Member Harbert 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 2020, seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fiset, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**(f) Consideration and possible action to relinquish an easement previously granted to the City of Bridge City on or about November 7, 1997.**

Council Member Fields made a motion to relinquish an easement previously granted to the City of Bridge City on or about November 7, 1997, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

Mr. Jones said this easement goes under Dr. Hackbarth's building, it was put in originally when the subdivision was put there. The easement in question ties to nothing the City has and we could not use it even if we wanted to. Dr. Hackbarth is in the process of selling the building, and if you go back and do a deed search it shows up. The Staff has no problem relinquishing the easement.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fiset, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

**10. ADJOURN**

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Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fiset, and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary