

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

****CHANGE IN APPOINTMENT****

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

May 19, 2020

The City Council of Bridge City met in an regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, via telephone conference with the Mayor at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF A QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Danny Harrington.

The City Staff present but was not part of the roll call is as follows:

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Mike Zeto, IT

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Council Member Tammi Fisetete.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager Report

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report:

1. Manholes – Eleven completed out of nineteen.
2. Flushing Valves – are out for bids at this time.
3. Center Street Ditch – contractor has about 75% of the project completed. The Grant Administrator is still working on it and it's coming together.
4. Roadside Ditches – the first group of 10, the contractors have about 50% of those completed. The City has another group of about 40 streets that are being done on roadside ditches and those are in the bid process.
5. Sewer Plant Screw Press – all parts are in and the electrical is almost finished. The contractors are starting to assemble the structure, the panel, and all the things that will hold it together.
6. Storm Drain Boxes – the City has 14 and those are in the process of getting bids.
7. Elsie Street Ditch – Mike Lund, Public Works Director and a City crew will start the cleaning process at the first of the week. Contractors are completing the line locates.
8. Coronavirus Relief Fund – the City has about \$434,000 that has been awarded to purchase mask, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. that is pertaining to the Coronavirus.
9. Hazard Mitigation Grant – which is the \$2.99M grant for the outfall study and work in the marsh has begun, also the City is working on the engineering part of grant.
10. Sunnyside Water Well – the City has applied for additional funding, which has been sent in.

(b) City Council Report

Council Member Carl Harbert asked where Center Street Ditch is located exactly. He also asked if it is the ditch when you make the curve on Center Street and runs into Rosen.

Mr. Jones explained the ditch starts by the car wash and goes down to Rosen, yes.

Council Member Harbert said so it goes behind the car wash.

Mr. Jones said it starts right beside it, there is a kind of a concrete part that starts right at the car wash from Texas Avenue and runs back and then turns. The contractors are cleaning that entire ditch.

Council Member Harbert said the contractors are cleaning the ditches in his area and the only ditch he has not seen done is Oak Street. The owners are shoveling the water and trying to get it to drain.

Mr. Jones said the contractors will have to do that one and they have not completed it. He said in that area Birch, Pine, Gum, Kibbe, Charles, and Holly Streets were not cleaned, but they will need to be done. The contractors have not finished Oak, Gilmer or Billeaud and these three will be done next.

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette said Jerry, the Roadside Ditches were at 50% of 10 streets and then the City has 20 more streets that are in the bid process, I know after this last rain event she met Mike Die, Utility Superintendent who was out riding around near Live Oak, Louise that neighborhood, she asked Mr. Jones if any of those ditches were in that process.

Mr. Jones said he thought there were some, but he would have to look at the list. Mr. Jones said he has not looked at in a few days, but these projects were selected by a group from FEMA and the State so there is not any lead way on us moving them. Mr. Jones said he would look and see if any of the streets in question is on the list. If not, then the City Staff will clean the ditches.

Council Member Fisette asked Mr. Jones if he knew if anyone had received water in their house in the last 2 events.

Mr. Jones said the only person that he knew received water in their house in the last flood was out of the city limits. Mr. Jones said City Staff was out there because it was on Spooner and Nelson. He also said the City was pretty fortunate, because there was 5 inches going out that way and then it kicked up to 8 inches.

Council Member Fisette said she knew Live Oak was hit really hard, they receive maybe 6 inches.

Council Member Fisette asked about the sink hole over on Elsie St., she wanted to know if the City found out what caused that.

Mr. Jones said he has not talked with Mike Lund, Director of Public Works, but he will check with him.

Council Member Fisette said it was strange that it was the second time in the same place, the same hole, so I figured something was wrong right there on that drain.

Mr. Jones said it could be a busted collar, but he would make sure it is taken care of.

Council Member Fisette asked if the City had receive an update on the subdivision from the last meeting. She said she knows Mr. Kelcher was on the phone with the City Council, and he was saying that this was the third owner, did the City ever find out anything on that.

Mr. Jones asked on which subdivision.

Council Member Fisette said the subdivision at the end of Charlotte St.

Mr. Jones said Mike Lund, Director of Public Works has been in contact with the contractors on a daily basis. The group the subdivision was sold to may have been the third owner, but he thinks the third owner was actually partner with the Mr. Cash.

Council Member Fisette asked if they were required to get permits, each different owner or how do they know what was approve by City Council and what was approved by Planning and Zoning. She asked how did they know what guidelines to follow.

Mr. Jones said it was reviewed and a set of plans were taken out there with them and it is being inspected, every little piece that was a part of that approval. Mr. Jones also said everything that was done in the original approval of the subdivision will have to completed before we accept it.

Council Member Danny Harrington

None.

Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier

None.

Council Member Lucy Fields

None.

(c) City Staff Report

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

Miscellaneous City Staff:

None.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. Organizational Chart – asked Ms. McDowell to include in your packets, I want everyone to understand the organizational chart, how it works and understand the City Council’s interaction with the City Staff.
2. Re-opening City Offices – City Staff is not ready to open the offices at this time, because there are too many restrictions that need to be in place. Mayor Rutledge also said he believed the Governor’s Office and the Department of Health Services would agree with this. The City will get the offices open as soon as it is safe.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-08(R) requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for Sunnyside Water Well

Mayor David Rutledge read the resolution in its entirety.

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-08(R) requesting financial assistance from TWDB for Sunnyside Water Well, seconded by Council Member Reed.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Danny Harrington.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of April 21, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve April 21, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Council Member Harbert.

Council Member Harbert said on page 8 it has Mr. Cash and it should be Mr. Kelcher in two places in the last sentence and the third from the bottom sentence.

Mayor Rutledge said he had them marked and Ms. Morgan has made the changes.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Danny Harrington.

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

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

Council Member Fisette asked on page 16 of the bills list, the \$10,000 for the Harvey drainage project, what does that included, what does it consist of.

Karen Morgan, Finance Director said it is all the FEMA projects LJA is working on, all the roadside ditches, the storm drains, etc.

Council Member Fisette also asked what the new alarm system on page 1 for \$7,000 was for.

Karen Morgan, Finance Director said it was for City Hall, the new fire and security alarm.

Council Member Harbert said he saw where the Street Department fuel bill went up. Council Member Harbert said he understands that the City has torn down 8 houses and the other gradall is down, so that is probably the reason.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(c) Consideration and possible action to appoint new Mayor Pro-Tem to the City Council, as required by the City Charter, Section 3.05

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to appoint Lucy Fields, Place 6 to Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Liaison to the City Planning and Zoning Commission

Council Member Harbert made a motion to appoint Council Member Tammi Fisette, Place 3 to Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by Council Member Gauthier

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(e) Consideration and possible action to award a bid on the Storm Drain Boxes Rehabilitation Project, FEMA Project Nos. 14457 & 14461 to T. Grey Utility & Rehab Co., LLC in the amount of \$36,561.36

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to award the Storm Drain Boxes Project to T. Grey Utility & Rehab Co., LLC in the amount of \$36,561.36, seconded by Council Member Harbert.

The bids came in substantially less than thought, so real pleased with the amount received. The company has been checked out and they are a good company, so City Staff is looking forward in getting this project completed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields asked why the bid is so low and the other was so high.

Mr. Jones said some of the contractors are still busy and they are really not looking for projects. Some contractors are just now getting back to work and they want the bid. The bid is reasonably lower, but not that much lower than expected.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisetete	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(f) Consideration and possible action to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster

Council Member Gautier made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

Mayor Rutledge said all this does is clarifies some things and goes along with the Governor Abbott's orders and will give us the necessary lead way if needed.

Council Member Harbert asked since Judge Gothia has opened up the county, do we really need this declaration.

Mayor Rutledge said until this disaster is over, yes we do. He also said the City needs this in place because of the funding we get, like this new funding received for disaster supplies. He said if we do not have the declaration in place then we will not receive the money or will not have access to the money.

Council Member Fisetete asked if the declaration prevents the court or city hall from being opened.

Mayor Rutledge said it does not prevent the City for opening the buildings. He said he does not have the power to counter what the Governor says. The City follows the County on what we do or allowed to do as the City sees fit, for example opening up City Hall for regular business, we are not doing that yet, we are not prepared to and do not feel it is prudent at this time even though the County has opened up some of their offices. It does not prevent us from opening up. This is strictly for the city to be eligible for funding that may be available.

Council Member Fisette asked what do we have in place and how is the City working to prepare to open up.

Mayor Rutledge said he did not feel comfortable to have the public come up here even though we have plexi glass screens in place.

Council Member Fisette said she meant what was the City doing to prepare to open not why is the City not opened. She said she knew at one time there was plexi glass up there and she understands there is temporarily plexi glass there now, but are we going back with plexi glass like we use to have.

Mayor Rutledge said the City will go with glass, a firm ridged permanent installation. The City will also purchase some equipment that the Council will talk about at a later time. The City Staff is making plans to open back up and do not feel comfortable with what we have now.

Council Member Fisette said she was wondering how was the City preparing for the future, if this virus comes back in the winter, what was the City doing to possibly help out for the future.

Mayor Rutledge said Mr. Jones and hisself are working on those things now. He said they were coming up with ideas and talking to other cities. Mayor Rutledge also said there are Coronavirus relief funds that are available.

Council Member Harbert asked how is the City protecting the water and street departments.

Mr. Jones said since they will be in the public, the City has instructed them to stay away from people, do not shake anyone's hands, and having them stay away from each other. The City will provide them additional masks, gloves and all the things they will need. He said the City is making sure they are not exposed, because all it takes is one case and this whole place is shut down.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields asked Mayor Rutledge if the declaration is good for another 30 days.

Mayor Rutledge said yes it is.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Fields	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary