

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>Council Member, Place 5</i>
TAMMI FISETTE <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		LUCY FIELDS <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

July 7, 2020

The City Council of Bridge City met in an regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 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 6:00 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF A QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

- Mayor David Rutledge
- Council Member Carl Harbert
- Council Member Tammi Fisetete
- Council Member Danny Harrington
- Council Member Terri Gauthier
- Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Mike Reed.

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

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

- City Manager Jerry D. Jones
- City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
- City Attorney Paul Fukuda
- Finance Director Karen Morgan
- Police Captain Tod McDowell

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes:

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Reed.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager Report

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report:

1. Fire Plug – bids will be delayed for a couple of weeks, the engineer did not get the notice in the paper on time. The City is in the process of getting it rectified, so we will award that bid the first meeting of August.
2. Filter Press – at the plant is completed.
3. Roadside Ditches – the second phase, the City accepted the bids last week. The recommendation will be on the second meeting of July to award the bid and get the project moving.

(b) City Council Report

Council Member Carl Harbert

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette asked Mr. Jones if the Council can get a copy of the list of ditches the contractors will be working on. Mr. Jones said he would provide a copy. He also asked Council Member Fisette if she remembered, the ditches that are being done the Federal Government sent a team into town to approve each one, so he will get her a detailed list of the those ditches. Council Member Fisette said she understood the City was able to go and look at the Marsh Estates property and she asked the Mayor if he had any updates at this time.

Mayor Rutledge said he does not have any updates at this time, he said the City is looking into it and will be talking to the developer. The City will speak with the developer to talk about the plans.

Council Member Fisetta asked if she could ask what size easement does the City have in the back of the property.

Mayor Rutledge said no, that will have to be talked about under an agenda item.

Council Member Danny Harrington

None.

Council Member Terri Gauthier

None.

Council Member Lucy Fields said she attended an online task committee meeting with GLO on the Texas Coastal Mediation Master Plan and she thought there were things Council may be interested in. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said the meeting was about the storm surge, flooding, water quantity and quality of our area. She said the City is in Region 1, and this region has 49 projects that are native to our region and 28 of these projects are now in progress. The projects that are the most interest to the City are the Bessie Heights Wetland Restoration and Dredging of the Sabine Channel in Lower Neches Waterway, and are to be started later this year. McFadden is probably the largest beach project in the United States of America which will cover 17 miles of the beach nourishment in the amount of about \$83 million and construction is also designated to be started later this year. She said of the 49 projects designated for our region, the Orange County levy is number 47 on the list. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields also said we are near the bottom because it is still in the design phase. Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said another item of interest will be in the next couple of weeks, The Census Enumerators will begin knocking on doors of homes who have not responded to the Census. She said the supervisors were trained in Richmond and will be back to train the enumerators, which they will begin the first week of August and will continue for a couple of months.

(c) City Staff Report

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

Miscellaneous City Staff:

None.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. Budget Calendar – be sure to check your e-mails for the calendar. The plan is to kick off the budget meetings on the July 21, 2020 right after the Council Meeting. The Council will start the first meeting on that date and work our way through it as long as it takes to

get it completed by July 31, 2020. Mayor Rutledge said the meetings will be done by telephone. He asked Council to look over the budget and if they have questions to call Mr. Jones or if he is not available then speak with Ms. Morgan to have their questions answered. He also asked Council to read the Introductory part of the budget to help them better understand it.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Barry Foster
1005 Charlotte Lane

Mr. Foster said he lives on Charlotte Lane, the first house on the left. He said he is lucky enough that his house is the high spot on the road. He said he lives next to the new subdivision that is going in between him and the new Olson Engineering building. He said he has concerns as they keep bringing dirt in to build it up. He said he is less concerned about his self than he is for the people at the end of his street and especially, the people behind the new subdivision such as Bernice, Ina Road that leads down to Bernice off Arthur. He said he knows they have filled in the retention pond some, it is not as deep as it once was, as he thinks they might have done that so the water will flow to the back. He said he did not exactly know, he is not an engineer. He said he knows this is not the first developer and his concern is the third developer doing what was initially approved and if so, how do we know that. He would like to know if the current developer has been in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission and has he had plans approved or has changed anything. He said he is sure there are minimums and depths of that drainage ditch that goes to the back. He said he knows it will intersect with the drainage ditch that runs behind his house at some point. He said that drainage ditch is huge and it is every bit of 20' wide and it is deeper than he is tall and the other one is not and that concerns him. He said his question will be is the current developer doing what was originally approved to be done and if the answer is yes, how do we know that.

Mr. Fukuda told Mr. Foster the citizen comment section is for citizens to comment to Council, but it is not an opportunity by law that Council can respond, because this item is not on the agenda. City Council cannot discuss it but they heard your questions and if they want it on a future agenda that can do that.

Mayor Rutledge told Mr. Foster if he could call City Hall, Mr. Jones may be able to answer some of his questions.

6. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No 2020-12(R) approving the submission of an application for a Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division grant, PPE for Police 2020 to be operated for the FY2019-2020 year

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-12(R), approving submission of an application for a Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division grant.

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve Resolution No 2020-12(R) for submission of an application for a Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division grant, seconded by Council Member Fisetette.

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 Fiset	Yes
Council Member Harrington	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Reed.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation from the City Insurance Committee for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to purchase the following:

- **United Health Care for Employee Medical**
- **Cigna Plan for Employee Dental**
- **Fort Dearborn for Employee Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance**

Council Member Fiset made a motion to approve the recommendation of the City Insurance Committee to purchase United Health Care for Employee Medical, Cigna Plan for Employee Dental, and Fort Dearborn for Employee Life and AD&D for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Mayor Rutledge said the Committee worked with Mr. Etheridge and we felt like we received a good deal.

Council Member Harrington asked if Blue Cross is the same as Fort Dearborn.

Mayor Rutledge said Fort Dearborn is a Blue Cross company.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said on the worksheet United Health Care Network is a couple thousand less than Cigna. She asked what is the difference there why did we not go with the lower cost under the dental and life. She said if you look at the last column "Total Group Monthly Cost" it shows Cigna is \$2,100 and United Healthcare was \$1,896, can you explain why the Committee did not go with the lower rate.

Mayor Rutledge said it is how they negotiate rates and it looks toward next year and the year after that on the negotiations with these companies. He explained if the City chooses United Health Care for the major medical, don't let them have the dental and life insurance this year then the next year or two the insurance will want to get the whole package, so they will quote better rates. It is maneuvering for the future and it does not cost much to get better rates.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields also asked about the life insurance vs TML. She said TML has a lower cost. Mayor Rutledge said it is the same thing as the dental. The City is looking at a package deal and we have more leverage and TML does not offer the service. Mayor Rutledge said City employees can tell you what they do not like about their company.

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 Fisette	Yes
Council Member Harrington	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m., 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 Fisette	Yes
Council Member Harrington	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Reed.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary