

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

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**

**August 4, 2020**

The City Council of Bridge City met in an regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, via telephone conference with the Mayor at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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Mayor Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**IDENTIFICATION OF A QUORUM (ROLL CALL)**

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**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

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

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** None.

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**

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Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda. At the conclusion of the invocation, Mayor Rutledge thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **Votes were orally given as follows:**

##### **Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

### **4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:**

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#### **(a) City Manager Report**

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

1. Manhole project – is ongoing, the contractors have completed 26, they were working but the rain has held them up.
2. Drainage project – second phase is beginning on August 14, 2020, the ditching crews will be out after that date.
3. Fireplugs project – has been awarded. The project is scheduled to begin soon.
4. City crews – had quite a few yard lines, mains, etc break, the water and street departments have been busy with ditch work and broken mains.
5. Yard line grant – is to replace yard lines for people at no charge. The City needs another 100 citizens. If anyone knows someone in a low to moderate area, that would like their yard lines replaced at no charge tell them to call Mike Lund, Public Works Director.

#### **(b) City Council Report**

***Council Member Carl Harbert***

None.

**Council Member Mike Reed**

None.

**Council Member Tammi Fisette**

None.

**Council Member Danny Harrington**

None.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier**

None.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields** said just one more reminder, we are now doing the Census. This City has the highest at 56%. The enumerators have completed their fingerprinting and are being trained. The enumerators will be knocking on doors shortly. Tell everyone you know they will be seeing enumerators in neighborhoods.

Mayor Rutledge said the City should put something on our website for the citizens, they should be looking for enumerators.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields asked if the City could put something on the water bills to remind the citizens, if they have not answered the Census to please do so.

Mayor Rutledge said the City does not have room on the water bill for anything, but we will see what we can do to get the word out.

Council Member Gauthier said she would put as much as she could on social media.

Mayor Rutledge said the City would get more information from Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

**(c) City Staff Report**

**City Attorney Paul Fukuda**

None.

**Miscellaneous City Staff:**

None.

**(d) Mayor**

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

Mayor Rutledge said if you look in your packet you will find a nice card from Keagan Smith and also a nice letter. If you can, drop him a note wishing him luck. Mayor Rutledge said he wishes him well, he is a good young man, and I believe he will represent Bridge City very well in the future. He asked the Council send him words of encouragement.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Barry Foster                      1005 Charlotte Lane**

Mr. Foster said he had a question. Earlier when Mr. Jones, City Manager was talking about a grant the City received for yard lines. He said he wanted to know what Mr. Jones was talking about, and he did not quite catch what it was.

City Attorney Paul Fukuda, told Mr. Foster the Citizen comment time, is a time that citizens can make comments towards the City Council. The City Council cannot respond to you, because that particular item has not been placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Fukuda also told him, he could state his thoughts and follow up with City Staff during the week. You can call City Hall and if it needs to be placed on the agenda, it can be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Foster said thank you Mr. Fukuda, he would call Mr. Jones tomorrow.

## **6. ORDINANCE**

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### ***(a) Consideration and possible action to amend Ordinance No. 2020-05 A Water Conservation Plan***

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2020-05, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Reed made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2020-05 A Water Conservation Plan, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Mr. Jones said the Water Conservation Plan each City has to provide one every 5 years. This is the update on the City's Plan with the new provisions included.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **Votes were orally given as follows:**

##### **Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

## 7. RESOLUTIONS

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-13(R) supporting the candidacy of Mayor David Rutledge for the position of President-Elect of the Texas Municipal League (TML)**

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-13(R), supporting the candidacy of Mayor David Rutledge for the position of President-Elect of TML.

Council Member Fisette made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-13(R) supporting the candidacy of Mayor David Rutledge for the position of President-Elect of TML, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Mayor Rutledge turned the item over to Mayor Pro-Tem Fields and he stepped out of the room and was not in on the discussion or vote.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**Abstained:** Mayor Rutledge

**(b) Consideration and possible action to amend Resolution No. 2020-03(R) ordering the City of Bridge City General Election originally scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020, to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

***Consideración y posible acción para enmendar la Resolución No 2020-03(R) que ordena la Elección General de la Ciudad de Bridge City originalmente programada para el sábado 2 de mayo de 2020, que se celebrará el martes 3 de noviembre de 2020***

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-03(R), amending the City of Bridge City General Election Order.

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to amend the City of Bridge City General Election Order, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Council Member Reed asked originally when the City postponed the General Election, was it determined that only the two candidates who applied for Place 2 would be allowed to run. He said it sounded to him the City opened it up again.

Mayor Rutledge said the City did not open it up, but there is some movement or some group that has petitioned to open it back up again. He also said that has not come down as being official yet. He said right now we are operating under the orders we have and that is the application process has been closed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution No. 2020-14(R) LJA Engineering for engineering services including Grant Application Assistance and Project Implementation, if awarded, for the City's General Land Office CDBG-MIT Grant.**

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-14(R), awarding LJA Engineering for engineering services for the City's General Land Office CDBG-MIT Grant.

Council Member Harrington made a motion to award by Resolution No. 2020-14(R) LJA Engineering for engineering services including Grant Application Assistance and Project Implementation, if awarded, for the City's General Land Office CDBG-MIT Grant, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Jones said this for the new water well, the City is having to installed, and selecting this engineering group to administer it for the us. He also said the City had a committee that met and selected LJA as the Engineer.

Council Member Harbert asked who was on the review committee. Mr. Jones said his self, Mayor Rutledge, Jeanie McDowell, and Karen Morgan. He said it is a formality the City has to go through and we normally get staff.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

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

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:**  
**July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes**  
**July 23, 2020 City Council Special Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes and July 23, 2020 City Council Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

Council Member Gauthier Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve a request for a long-term lease on a lot located at 401 Katy Street in Bridge City, Texas**

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve a request for a long-term lease on a lot located at 401 Katy Street, seconded by Council Member Harbert.

Mr. Jones said the City purchased houses and tore them down due to flooding problems and money was available and we have several lots. We try to lease those to the adjacent property owner for \$1 for 100 years. The City has done this before and it relieves us from keeping that lot mowed. Also, nothing can be built on the lot, it can strictly be used for garden or playgrounds. Mayor Rutledge said he thinks it was some Hurricane Ike monies. The City cannot do anything with it and it goes off the tax rolls, and we have to maintain the property. If the citizens would like to lease the property, this will be a plus for the City. The City Staff would not have to mow the property.

Council Member Harbert asked why does the City have to go 100 years.

Mr. Jones said the 100 years is something Mr. Fukuda came up with when he wrote the last one. It is some legal terminology they use and Mr. Fukuda can answer that question.

Mr. Fukuda said it is just a matter of letting someone basically manage the property without having to re-do the agreement with any frequency, because there is nothing the City can do with that property. Unless, the City built a City Park on the property or a green space area.

Council Member Harbert asked if the gentlemen dies would his heirs have to keep it up. He said that is his concerns and they may not want to do that.

Mr. Jones said when that agreement is signed, it will stay with the property from now on.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields asked if the City would still be the owner of the property, but the gentlemen would just lease it from the City, is that correct.

Mr. Jones said that is correct.

Council Member Fisette asked if he has an option to purchase it from the City.

Mr. Jones said no, that property cannot be sold or it cannot be built on.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Harrington	Yes

Council Member Gauthier Yes

**Noes:** Council Member Harbert.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) Consideration and possible action on a recommendation to award a contract to MK Construction in the amount of \$418,875 for the Texas Water Development Board Flushing Valves Project City Wide**

Council Member Reed made a motion to award a contract to MK Construction in the amount of \$418,875 for the Texas Water Development Board Flushing Valves Project, seconded by Council Member Fisetette.

Mr. Jones said the grant was in the amount of \$500,000, there is no contribution required by the City. The bid came in at \$418,000, but by the time the City added engineering and different cost it would consume the entire \$500,000.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to place a proposal to adopt an ad valorem tax rate on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, for the 2020 tax year of \$0.54058 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Consisting of a Debt rate of \$0.15588 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.38470)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion stating, "I move to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate in the amount of \$0.54058 on the agenda for Tuesday, September 1, 2020. This rate consists of a Maintenance & Operations rate of \$0.38470 and a Debt rate of \$0.15588. This rate is a .80% increase over the calculated No New Revenue rate and a 2.33% decrease from last years adopted rate." Motion was seconded by Council Member Harrington.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(e) Consideration and possible action to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Via Telephone Conference to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2020-2021 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas**

Council Member Fisette made a motion to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Via Telephone Conference to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2020-2021 Budget, seconded by Council Member Harrington

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(f) Consideration and possible action to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Via Telephone Conference to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2020 tax year of \$0.54058 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Total tax rate consists of a Debt rate of \$0.15588 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.38470)**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Via Telephone Conference to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2020 tax year of \$0.54058 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Total tax rate consists of a Debt rate of \$0.15588 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.38470, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Votes were orally given as follows:**

**Ayes:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**9. ADJOURN**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary