

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 MEETING

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

October 20, 2020

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 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 6:01 p.m.

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.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
 City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
 City Attorney Paul Fukuda
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Police Chief Paul Davis
 Assistant Utility Superintendent Mike Die
 Public Works Director Mike Lund

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Council Member Terri Gauthier.

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

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

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Ditch Crews – Contractors are back in town and are moving pretty quickly.
2. Manholes – is ongoing.
3. Fire Hydrants – the contractors will be getting started soon. The Contractors have met with Mr. Die about line locates. Mr. Lund said he has been in contact with TCEQ and most of the fire hydrants do not have valves. The City will be shutting off water service to some neighborhoods, three hundred plus houses. Mr. Lund said to do this the City will have to issue boil water notices, and he would like to get the word out ahead of schedule. The City will also post on the Facebook page and website to get the word out. Mr. Lund said he told TCEQ he would call to keep them updated for outages that would occur. There is forty-two fire plugs to change out.
4. Acquisition Program – is ongoing.
5. Yard Lines – the City will need quite a few more yard lines, the City has received about 101 applications. Mr. Jones said the City has room for 120 applications. Mr. Lund said he spoke with Melinda Smith, Gary Traylor and Associates, the City will need about 150 applications.
6. Trash pickup – is going well, a large portion has been picked up. He said there are probably two more weeks they will be picking up.

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert said as he was riding around town today, he noticed citizens still have not separated their trash from trees and metal. He said he knows the guys have been

passing out flyers stating how to separate the debris. He said by them not separating the trash would create a problem for picking up the debris.

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fiset said she had a question about the yard lines, she asked Mike Lund, we had room for 120 and we have 150 already.

Mr. Jones said no it could go up to 150, he said 150 will depend on the numbers the City receives on the bids. So the City could have less than 150.

Council Member Fiset said some people that signed up, possibly don't have clay pipes. She said a lot of people have asked her. She said some citizens have told her they don't know if their pipes are clay. She asked will that be something the City would be able to tell them, or not until you dig it up.

Mr. Jones said if they are having sewer trouble, the City will replace the line.

Melinda Smith said this is backwards from the way it is usually done, the State has a new environmental specialist. She said normally the whole City is cleared environmentally, then smoked tested and then figure out who met the low to moderate income requirements. This time they are requiring them to clear as many homes as possible, before they can get environmental clearance and then go out for bids. Unfortunately, this has been a backwards process and as Mr. Jones said we don't know until the bids come as to exactly how many can be done.

Council Member Fiset asked if the City knew if this will be the same crew as last time.

Mike Lund said not until the bids are submitted.

Council Member Danny Harrington

None.

Council Member Gauthier said she wanted to give the last update for the Hazardous Waste and Tire Collection Event, which is happening Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bridge City Intermediate School parking lot. She said flyers were in the foyer of City Hall and anyone could pick one up. She said it would be posted on social media and the website.

Mayor asked what is allowed and what is not.

Council Member Gauthier said it has it on the flyer, but items that are accepted are batteries, paint, varnishes, pesticides, fertilizers, tires, automobile fluid, automotive fluid, used oil, filters, and swimming pool chemicals.

Council Member Fiset asked Council Member Gauthier if she knew how much one person can bring, and the reason she is asking this is because she overheard someone saying they had 700 tires to bring.

Council Member Gauthier said there is a limit for tires and for the first 8 tires is free, then after that it is \$1.00 for each additional tire. She said oversized tires are not accepted.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields said the Chamber of Commerce has a new director. She said she will start on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, and the Chamber will now be opened for service.

Council Member Harbert asked who she was.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields said her name is Kelli and she does not remember her last name. She worked for Nederland Chamber of Commerce for about a year. She said her husband is from Bridge City and her step-son attends Bridge City High School.

(c) City Staff Report

None.

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. The meeting that is regularly scheduled for November 3, 2020, will be rescheduled to November 10, 2020. We will want to canvass the votes at that meeting and the City cannot do that until 6 days after election day. Please put on your calendar to be at this meeting.
2. Judge John Gothia, County Judge held a meeting discussing the after action review for Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta. They held a review on what was done right and what they could improve on and how to go forward with it. The County has some good ideas, and there were several pages of suggestions and going forward they would look at procedures to make the process smoother. As we have more and get better at disasters, they will have it down to a fine art.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Gothia

Orange County Judge

112 Skylark

It is great being the County Judge when all the cities and we all work together when it comes to these disasters, which we are getting too good at them. He said he would like to be bad at them because we never had to do them, but that is not the case we face. We are definitely doing a good job and everyone's cooperation makes it a lot easier when we move forward. He said all the citizens are the same in Orange County. He said he appreciated the City's efforts when we have these deals that we have to deal with and we seem we have to deal with a lot of them.

Debris is probably the biggest thing on everyone's mind, just wanted to give a brief update on where we are with debris and an explanation as to why you are seeing some of the things you are seeing. The biggest thing for the County and especially here in Bridge City is we have a lot of TXDOT roads. TXDOT is under a separate contract and TXDOT is handling that debris, like FM 408, FM 105, FM1442, and Texas Avenue that is all TXDOT and they are handling it. They are progressively moving their way down here to get the debris picked up. It is a different set of group than what we have for the County that you see out and about within the neighborhoods. He said they are probably about 70 – 75% is what they are telling the County where they are at, with first pass debris. Second pass debris is going to your comment earlier about separation. The

first pass debris was only green, items they were picking up because that was going to a certain site at the dump and then to a final destination. The County had two locations one was Plessala's and the other one was at the paper mill. That material was going to them so it could not have any wood or building materials, because they use it for fuel so it had to be clean material. He said that is why the first pass was just green material, and if your pile had anything else even a fence post they would not pick it up. Now, they have started with a second pass that they are picking everything up, and that goes to a different location. That will go to Republic's dumpsite in Beaumont, Texas. He said you will see more of that stuff being picked up. Judge Gothia said when people call and ask why they did not pick up their pile, he goes out and looks at the debris pile and when he would get there, there would be a fence post, shingles or bags. He said they could not pick that up and move to that location. It will be picked up, but secondly. He said we have not gotten the State's disaster declaration, we are hoping we are going to get it, we are covering the cost for this for all the cities within our area at the county level. The County is at \$9M right now paid out, and we have at least \$12M they are looking at. He said the County's reserve is \$12M, so when he gets to the end of his reserve, he has to stop. He said at that point they will have to in-house the funds. He said he is hoping to get the answer within the next couple of three weeks. He said he will get that declaration.....

Mr. Fukuda told Judge Gothia his 3 minutes were up.

Judge Gothia said they are trying to get it done as quickly as they can.

Kenneth Prosperie
819 Sunnyside

Mr. Prosperie handed the City Council a piece of paper. He said he had a citizen bring this to his attention. He said some of the Council may be aware of it and know way more than he does. He said he wanted City Council to know it is embarrassing to see a road that bad, and he cannot imagine having to drive down it every day and be reminded and it has been going on for years and years and years. He said he did not know what the details where, but you have to ask yourself if you would want to drive down that road every day going to your beautiful home. He said there are some beautiful homes back in there. He said the City needs to get some attention to that road. He said he appreciated it and he thanked the City Council.

Mayor Rutledge said Mr. Fukuda would not let him discuss this with him about how that road is on the City's list of roads that are being submitted for a grant that has been approved.

Mr. Fukuda tried to interrupt Mayor Rutledge.

8. RESOLUTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-18(R) authorizing the submittal of a CDBG-MIT application for water system improvements, authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to act as the authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the application, and committing \$74,437 in matching funds.**

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-18(R).

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-18(R) authorizing submittal of a CDBG-MIT application for water system improvements, authorizing the Mayor and City

Manager to act as the authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the application, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Jones said the City has lost two wells we will have to cap, one at Romero which the City has had problems with and the other well here at City Hall. The City started looking at putting a well at the Sunnyside location, since a tank was already there. The funds became available to apply for two wells to recover the two the City had already lost. That would be at the Roberts location which would be where the old Sims school was. The school still has that property and the City has the old nursing home. We are in the process of trading places, and the reason the City would need this location is we will need an area close to low to moderate income housing. He said the location would qualify. He also said this grant was to do both projects, including a well, another 500 gallon elevated tank, filters and generators. He said it would take care of the City's needs for the next 30 to 40 years if both of the projects were done. The City had one well that was being drilled at Sunnyside, had the punch for it, which would be included in the project. The City will go ahead with the monies we have and start building the well at the Roberts site, which would get enough pumpage we would be alright with TCEQ. This project accomplishes two locations. This is a brief summary, but it will increase the City's pump capacity by an enormous amount. This is way above what the amount Mr. Lund and Mr. Die has figured the City needs.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-19(R) nominating Philip Welch as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-19(R).

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-19(R) nominating Philip Welch as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Council Member Harbert asked if this would be replacing Kevin Mott or is he filling a position. Mayor Rutledge said he thinks someone resigned.

Mr. Jones said James Brown resigned. The Orangefield School District, City of West Orange and the City are all voting for the same person.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:**
October 6, 2020 City Council Meeting
October 14, 2020 City Council Emergency Meeting

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 City Council Meeting and October 14, 2020 City Council Emergency Meeting, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve the City Bills for the month of September 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (c) Consideration and possible action to award a contract for engineering services to LJA for the City's CDBG-DR contract**

Council Member Harbert made a motion to award a contract for engineering services to LJA for the City's CDBG-DR contract, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Mr. Jones said this is for the two wells that was previously discussed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action on a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the final Plat application of Arizona Bend Subdivision submitted by Jeremy Mitchell with Soutex Surveyors & Engineers on behalf of property owner Denver Williams, which is located in the City Limits of Bridge City, and described as consisting of a 5.600 acre tract of land out of Samuel Davis Survey, Abstract No 6, City of Bridge City, Orange County, TX

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve the final Plat application of Arizona Bend Subdivision which is located in the City Limits of Bridge City, and described as consisting of a 5.600 acre tract of land out of Samuel Davis Survey, Abstract No. 6, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mayor Rutledge said on the memo from the Planning and Development Office there was a typo, on the first sentence, it reads that "The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.....", that sentence was inadvertently copied from the previous memo.

Mr. Jones said that date was correct, it was the name of the preliminary plat that was wrong.

Mayor Rutledge said it should have been Arizona Bend instead of Cardinal Heights.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(e) Consideration and possible action to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for COVID-19

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for COVID-19, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for Hurricane Laura, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(g) Consideration and possible action to appoint Barry Foster for the 2020-2022 term to the Board of Adjustments

Council Member Fisette made a motion to appoint Barry Foster for the 2020-2022 terms to the Board of Adjustments, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary