

<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 SPECIAL MEETING

### CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

February 18, 2021

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Thursday, February 18, 2021, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** Council Member Carl Harbert.

#### **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

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Invocation given by Council Member Gauthier.

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

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields, Council Members, Reed, Fisetete, Harrington, Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

### **5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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

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

1. Congratulated Mike Die and his group for keeping our City with water during the Ice Storm. We were one of the few cities in the area that did not have to issue a Boil Water Notice and was never short of water. The City staff was out during the night thawing lines and checking on the water system.
2. Gave City Council a spreadsheet, City Staff has been working on since November of last year. He said City Staff put together a list of projects of everything the City has been working on. He said City Staff will continue updating it each week. Mr. Jones told Council if they would like a copy each month to call him. He said most of the projects are long term and have been on the spreadsheet for about two years. He also said all the projects are on the sheet and if you have questions, please call him. Mr. Jones told Council one of the projects on the list is the street project with 45 streets to be repaired, that process has taken a long time. He said last year FEMA had omitted a lot of those projects because they were not good. The City appealed the process and we are still waiting. He said hopefully the City will get some of those streets repaired, but some are really bad so we will use City funds. As soon as the weather is permissible, Franklin Street, Gary Street and Bland Extension will be done by City funds. He said next week City staff will get a contractor in to do some level up work on Franklin Street so it will be passable until staff can get the projects bid out and completed.
3. Funds are available for the water well on Sunnyside, the City will be installing that well with boosters, tanks, and SCADA and that is all we need there. The City will not be able to proceed with the Roberts well, because the Grant funding did not qualify. The City will

reapply for different grants. He said when that funding becomes available, we will drill the well at that location.

4. The City has completed 41 fire plugs and had a total of 48, we are in the process of installing valves and hot tap them to cut off the lines to complete the last seven.
5. If you need any additional information on the spreadsheet you received, call Mr. Jones and he will answer any questions you may have.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Carl Harbert**

Absent.

**Council Member Mike Reed** said he would like to congratulate the water department and really appreciate them for keeping the City with water during the ice storm.

**Council Member Tammi Fisette** said she would like to thank the City workers for their hard work. She said she believed Mike Die lived up here since Saturday and his dedication is outstanding and thank you very much. She said your guys did an awesome job, the long hours and our citizens getting the word out to conserve water. She said the citizens came through and pulled their part and saved on the water and kept us off the boil water notice. Also she had the opportunity to ride around town with Mr. Scales and to hear his thoughts about what is going on in our city. He showed her some of the projects that he is looking at and what his plans were for this year. She said he had a lot of good ideas. She said she had a citizen questioning a house behind her that burned a couple of years ago, and they went and talked to her and he explained to the citizen what his plans were and how he was handling it and what he was going to do to keep her informed. She was very pleased with him. Council Member Fisette said she wanted to thank Mr. Scales for that.

She asked Mr. Jones will it be like an overlay on Franklin Street.

Mr. Jones told her the City will totally rebuild the street, but right now we will put a temporary on it. He said the material will be used in the base when the contractor builds a permanent street.

She asked Mr. Jones if the City will have to tear it up.

Mr. Jones said we will not lose the material.

She said she saw the four way stop on the list at Arthur and the concrete has been poured there. She said she knew it was thought the problem was a line had separated underneath there, is that what we found.

Mr. Lund said it just settled.

Council Member Fisette told Mayor Rutledge she was able to message Mr. Jones this week about the City Council meeting to come up with ideas, brainstorm for the new year. She said Mr. Jones said that would be a workshop and she asked if the Council would be able to do that.

Mayor Rutledge said the Council could have a workshop.

**Council Member Danny Harrington** said he would like to reiterate what everyone said about the Mike and Mike show. He said these guys have done an outstanding job.

**Council Member Gauthier** said I know it is redundant but I feel I need to applaud our Mike and Mike, the work y'all have done and how well our City has responded. There was a lot of Social Media thanking you and appreciating the work you have done. She said she felt so proud we were one of the cities that did not call for Boil Water Notice. She also said she would like to thank the Mayor and City Manager for coming out to Franklin Street, she heard a lot of good things about their visit. She said it has been a slow process and they understand we have been trying to get it done, but by them coming out it reassured the homeowners the street would be repaired.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields** said ditto what all other Council Members have said and she has had quite a few calls about garbage in the last few days. She said thank you for the update on the garbage, they have started picking it up today. She said the water as well, lots of phone calls and lots of appreciation of the City for taking care of those things.

**(c) City Staff Report**

None.

**City Attorney Paul Fukuda** said he was very happy with Mike squared also. He said he thinks that is a great reflection on leadership, which goes to them and also to Mr. Jones.

**(d) Mayor**

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

1. He thanked the citizens because they were vigil and helped City Staff by finding water breaks. He said that helped the Public Works Department from having a Boil Water Notice. He said he was really grateful to the citizens and employees.
2. He said the City Staff was working on and very close to having the STAN (Southeast Texas Alerting Network) network. STAN is sponsored by the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission. We will have a pamphlet to send out to the citizens and also the newspaper and Social Media. He said the citizens will have to sign up for this and give their permission to alert them in an event of a disaster and other city happenings. The City will be able to pinpoint very specific areas to notify of an event happening in their neighborhood or on their street.
3. Mayor Rutledge and Mr. Jones will have a meeting with the CORP of Engineers to discuss the levee project. The CORP will let the City know the progress and if they need any information from us.
4. Sunday, February 21, 2021, City Council will have a special meeting to renew the declaration of disaster that was passed on February 14, 2021, for the ice storm for another 30 days.
5. He said he would like to echo the comments about John Scales, who the City recently hired for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. He said he has a good handle on what the City is doing, a good attitude about it and he is a good person who can handle the public very well.

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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None.

## **7. ORDINANCE**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2021-03 approving the speed on state-maintained FM 1442 of the City of Bridge City, Orange, County, Texas**

Mr. Fukuda read Ordinance No. 2021-03, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-03 approving the speed on state-maintained FM 1442 of the City of Bridge City, Orange, County, Texas, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

It is part of a study from the Texas Department of Transportation. TXDOT looked at several items of concern such as crash records and the cause of wrecks to determine the speed limits.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields , Councilmembers Reed, Fisetete, Harrington, Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

## **8. RESOLUTIONS**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2021-01(R) approving the submission of an application for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Body Camera 2021 to be operated for the FY2021 year**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2021-01(R).

Councilmember Fisetete made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-01(R) approving the submission of an application for a (JAG) Body Camera 2021 to be operated for the FY2021 year, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Mr. Jones said this is not a matching grant, it is the same as every year.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields, Councilmembers, Reed, Fisetete, Harrington, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert

**(b) Consideration and possible action to amend Resolution No. 2019-15(R)**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Resolution No. 2019-15(R).

Councilmember Harrington made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2019-15(R), seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

Mr. Jones said the amount was incorrect, so this a correction to that amount. The amount had to be exact or the TDEM will not accept it.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields, Councilmembers Reed, Fisetete, Harrington, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

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

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the January 19, 2021 City Council Meeting**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 City Council 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 Reed, Fisetete, Harrington and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the City Bills for the month of January 2021**

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve the City Bills for the month of the January 2021, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Council Member Fisetete asked if it was a Police Wal-Mart Grant or money the City pays. Ms. Morgan said it was a Wal-Mart Grant.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve a street light request for the Marsh Estates Subdivision**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve a street light request for the Marsh Estate Subdivision, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

Mr. Jones said the lights will be installed by the sub divider and there are five locations. The City Council agreed to pay the monthly fee for the lights for all subdivisions.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint/reappoint the following members for the 2021-2022 terms to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**

***Dr. Wendy Browning – Licensed Veterinarian***

***Mike Reed – Municipal Official***

***Hank Fontenot – Animal Control Officer***

***Gwen Tallant – Animal Welfare Organization Representative***

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to appoint/reappoint Dr. Wendy Browning, Mike Reed, Hank Fontenot, and Gwen Tallant for the 2021-2022 terms to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, seconded by Council Member Fiset.

Mr. Jones said this is a requirement from the State of Texas.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

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

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

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

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**(g) 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 2021**

Council Member Fisetete 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 2021, 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 Reed, Fisetete, Harrington and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**(h) Presentation and consideration of the 2020 Racial Profiling Report by Bridge City Police Chief Paul T. Davis**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to accept the 2020 Racial Profiling Report, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Chief Paul T. Davis was not available to present the report, so Mr. Jones gave the report to the City Council.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

**10. ADJOURN**

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Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., 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, Reed, Fiset, Harrington and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harbert.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary