

AARON ROCCAFORTE <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/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>		RICHARD SAVOY <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

January 4, 2022

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 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 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor David Rutledge
 Council Member Mike Reed
 Council Member Tammi Fisette
 Council Member Danny Harrington
 Council Member Terri Gauthier
 Council Member Richard Savoy

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
 City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
 City Attorney Paul Fukuda
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Assistant Finance Director Shelley Fields
 Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker
 Public Works Director Mike Lund
 Utility Superintendent Mike Die
 Chief Tod McDowell
 Assistant Chief Robert Bergeron
 Captain Richard Teague

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Council Member 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 Harrington made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

5. PRESENTATION

(a) Award presented to Lucy Fields in appreciation for her dedicated service during her tenure on the City Council, Place 6

Mayor Rutledge presented Lucy Fields with an award showing the City Council's appreciation of her years of dedication and service to the City of Bridge City.

6. STUDENT RECOGNITION

(a) Recognizing Bridge City students for their accomplishments

Mayor Rutledge recognized the Bridge City High School Marching Band for being an UIL State Qualifier.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Mr. Jones said his report would be really short since it was his last one. He thanked the Council and said it has been an honor to serve with them. He said on a good note the

City received the new Gradall today. He then turned it over to Mike Lund to give the report.

Mike Lund reported:

1. Yard sewer lines – the contractors were able to do a few, but they are still on track and would be done in a month or two. The holidays have slowed the project down.
2. Manholes on East Roundbunch – still waiting on one more bid. Mr. Lund said when he receives that bid, he would be able to set a repair date.
3. Ground storage tank – still moving along.
4. Gradall – came in about 3:00 today.
5. He told Mr. Jones it was an honor working with him for the last 20 years. Mr. Lund told Mr. Jones he appreciated him as well as everyone in the water, sewer, street and drainage departments.

(b.) City Council Report

Council Member Mike Reed said he would like to thank the band and he said he followed them to a couple of competitions in the bus. He said he always enjoyed watching the band. He told Mr. Jones it has been great working with him for the last 14/15 years. He said he really appreciated everything Mr. Jones had done for the Council and the City.

Council Member Tammi Fisette told Mr. Jones congratulations on his retirement. She told him she appreciates everything he had done for the City. She said she wished him the very best. She told Ms Fields it has been an honor. She said she enjoyed working along side of her for several years. She told Ms. Fields she appreciated everything she had done and she looked forward to having Shelley. She told the Band Directors what an awesome job and she was so proud of the Bridge City Band. She thanked the Drum Majors and everyone in the band. She said she was a band parent and knows exactly what it was like and to go everywhere and do everything. She said thank you for what you do and for representing the City.

Council Member Danny Harrington said he would like to wish everyone there a Happy New Year. He said he hopes everyone can have a year with less stripe than we had last year. He said we were getting off to a good start by having the band honored like they have been. He told Ms. Fields, which he considers her a very close friend, it was a great way to start the year on a positive note. He said for the last 3 years, Mr. Jones has been very patient with him, and he appreciates the support he has given him.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she did not realize this was Mr. Jones last meeting. She said she would like to start off thanking Mr. Jones for all he has done for her. She said many times they have sat and have had conversations which he answered her questions she had. She said he definitely had been her mentor and she appreciates that so much. She told Mr. Jones he would definitely be missed, and they have all grown to appreciate and admire his dedication to the City. She said congratulations to you and Sherlon since she has retired and the two of you would get to go do more fun things together. She said to Ms. Fields that they serve on a lot of boards together and she was thankful they would be seeing a lot of each other even though she is not sitting on the Council. She told Ms. Fields she had been a great asset to the City Council,

and she appreciates that. Council Member Gauthier said she would like to give an update on the EDC happenings. She said Popeye's Chicken is coming to the City of Bridge City and approvals have been made for that to happen. She said Christus has agreed to provide services and be the medical provider for the new medical complex that is coming up on I-10. She said people may ask and it would be good to know that Medicare and Medicaid would be accepted at the facility. She said there would be inpatient beds, but it would also be an emergency service as well as a specialty care facility.

Council Member Richard Savoy told Mr. Jones like everyone has said he has done a lot for the City, you have been dedicated and it has always been a pleasure working with you and learn from you. He said he was glad Mr. Jones was able to retire and was still healthy and was able to travel. He told Ms. Fields that he has enjoyed the times they had worked together and she continues to do great things for the City and the Council appreciates everything she has done. He said hats off to Bridge City Cardinals and we have a lot of pride in Bridge City and it was outstanding.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. He told Ms. Fields everything he said was true and he meant every one of them from his heart. He said he missed her on the Council, but he would see her around. He said he knows she would be working some more and would see her around town. He told Ms. Goss he would echo what everyone has said. He said they were so proud of Bridge City Marching Band, and he knows personally they were the loudest section in the Alamodome. He told her the band had a legacy to live up to, but he also thanked her and the band.
2. Council Member Terri Gauthier, Place 5 would be installed as the President of the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission later this month. He congratulated her for all her dedication and hard work.
3. The City Manager search has begun and would begin the interview process the week of January 5.
4. He told Mr. Jones thank you.

Commissioner Roccaforte said he had Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte on the phone, he is home sick, he would like to pass this on to Mr. Jones. He would like to thank Mr. Jones for everything he has done and wished he could be here to tell him in person.

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steven Hilton
4000 Candlewick, Orange, Texas

"I came here with great humility, and I am very sorry for what I am about to do, very sorry for what I am about to do. Y'all are all good people and y'all don't deserve this. But Assistant Chief Robert Bergeron has pushed me to the past of no return, so you have cut me no slack, I'm cutting you no slack. 3.03.008 Internal Investigations, where it is determined that an internal

investigation is warranted, the Chief notifies the Major to conduct such an investigation. Assistant Chief you are an Assistant Chief, you're not a mayor. You investigated my ex-wife, Brittany Hilton on a bribery and an illegal wire tap charge and unfortunately for you when Richard Teague came over to my house that day, he admitted that she was disciplined. No, she was not. She was unofficial taken out of sex crimes because that bribery charge. And I know that. Second off, let's talk about the um, um Blanchard case, I received many phone calls that night, I'm not going to talk about all of them, I am going to talk about the last one and the first one. The first one came, and they knew that it was personal for Robert Bergeron. They also knew that, sorry it's so hard, they knew it was personal and they knew the cop's son. The first thing I recommended to my ex was that the State take over. I said it many times do not investigate this, let this one go. Call the State, call the State, call the State you did not do that, and you continue to forward your investigation. Throughout the time I receive many phone calls and the last one went a little like this, this is going to be bad, I'm very sorry, it went like this, I have been arrested for cussing so I'm not going to cuss, I'm going to use freaking instead of the "f" word. And it went like this so be ready, FREAKING ARREST HIM, PUT HIM IN JAIL HE IS A WHITE COP'S KID WHO JUST KILLED A BLACK MAN, AND THE LAST THING I WANT IS BLACK LIVES MATTER COME HERE AND DESTROY THIS CITY. PUT HIM IN JAIL! Not only did you not put him in jail, you allowed him to walk out with his father. Two counts of intoxication manslaughter and failure to stop and render aide, and DWI. You have no excuse. Teague, I want your video. I want the video, Teague. You know what I'm talking about. That is where you actually unintentionally informed me that she was unofficially demoted. You didn't even know it, that is when I brought you in the house and I showed you, his decision. And it was all over you face. Sorry dude. I am also being investigated, unofficially by my ex-wife...." Mayor Rutledge told him his 3 minutes were up. Mr. Hilton said he was sorry. Mayor Rutledge said thank you.

9. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01 adopting an amended Drought Contingency Plan for the City of Bridge City

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2022-01, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01 adopting an amended Drought Contingency Plan for the City of Bridge City, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Reed, Fiset, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes for the following meetings:

December 7, 2021 Regular Council Meeting
December 13, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting
December 14, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting
December 27, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting

Council Member Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, December 13, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting, December 14, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting, December 27, 2021 Special and Executive Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Reed, Fissette, Harrington, Gauthier, and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m., seconded by Council Member Savoy.

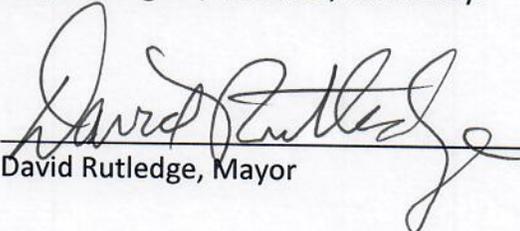
With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Reed, Fissette, Harrington, Gauthier, and Savoy.

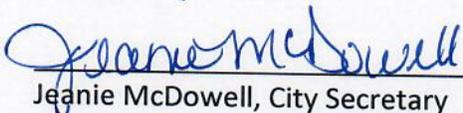
Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

