

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 18, 2022

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 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
 Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte
 Council Member Mike Reed
 Council Member Tammi Fisette
 Council Member Danny Harrington
 Council Member Terri Gauthier
 Council Member Richard Savoy

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
 City Attorney Paul Fukuda
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker
 Public Works Director Mike Lund
 Chief Tod McDowell
 Community Development Coordinator Natalie Pruitt

2. **INVOCATION**

Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

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

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager

City Manager's report for Council was given by Mike Lund:

Mike Lund reported:

1. Groundwater storage tanks – the contractors are preparing the groundwork for the foundation. He said the contractors dug it and are laying good materials in preparation for pouring the foundation.
2. Manholes on East Roundbunch – received the three bids, he will discuss the bids with Mike Die, Utility Superintendent. He said they are looking for a long-term fix.
3. House on Cherry –the demo work has begun.
4. Bore under Cow Bayou – received the clearance to bore under cow bayou from the Corp of Engineers. He said he is getting updated prices, since it has been so long.

(b.) City Council Report

Council Member Tammi Fisette said she received a call from the fire department, and they need a council volunteer to be a representative for their pension committee. She said they only meet once or twice a year and that is to go over numbers and make sure their members meet their quotas.

Mayor Rutledge said it would be on the next agenda.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. Council Member Terri Gauthier will be sworn in as the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission President on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at the Event Center in Beaumont at their annual meeting.

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steven Hilton

4000 Candlewick, Orange, Texas

Mr. Hilton stated, "When someone picks a fight with the police department, the police always believes that person is crazy, have mental health problems, or unstable. I received a message on February 14, 2021, threatening me and I knew Brittany would never leave me alone until she pushed me to point of no return. I left her and she is angry. For the past year, I have destroyed my reputation by acting as if I'm crazy. The past year has been a set up. I always knew Brittany would have me arrested but just didn't know exactly how. I pushed the line, but I have never broke it. I'm a bad actor so I used alcohol to get my mission accomplished. Why have I done this because now if anything further happens, Bridge City Police Department can not say I'm mentally ill. Because now if anything further happens the Bridge City Police... I have insured this and the Bridge City Police Department's specific Robert Bergeron has fallen in my trap. Now they will have to come up with some other excuse for persistent harassment. I have lost a lot of friends due to this act and I have lost them, but if I have lost them, they were never my friends to begin with. So, the problem I ran into with my plan, is I don't know when to stop. Uh, during the past year, I have displayed violent and unpredictable behavior. I have done this on purpose. I have done to keep the Bridge City Police Department unaware of my next move, so they have no clue of predicting what next, I'm going to do. I have kept this plan a complete secret and I told no one, not even my fiancé. I have done this so it could not be misconstrued as a conspiracy. The problem I ran into with my plan is I didn't know when to stop, when to cut off the act, when to return to normal, that's the problem I ran into. But I have heavily relied on the Lord and the Lord has me four guardian angels, my fiancé Aubrie McPherson, Rory Chapman and my best friend with the Chambers County Sheriff Barbara Bienvenu and Deputy County Sheriff Lane Mooney. Deputy Bienvenu and Sheriff Mooney and I talked and came to the conclusion, and I allowed them to protect me. Sheriff Mooney treated me with respect, care and showed me he would actually protect me. I am truly humbled by the generosity showed me by the most powerful law enforcement officer in Orange County, how I appreciate Sheriff Mooney for giving up his entire Saturday, January 8, 2022, other than by telling him many times thank you ... I am stopping my plan of destruction. I will not tarnish a badge which now because of Sheriff Mooney I feel the shine is bright to me. I will start to build my reputation and become the nice guy I have always wanted to be. I don't like what I have become but it was necessary case in point. Last month I was arrested for bond violation, simple for going to my best friend's funeral in Plano, Texas. Shawn was an idol to me, but demons caught up with him. I have had many friends that have committed suicide and his death hurt me bad. His funeral was on November 30, 2021. JP Simonton received a thick manilla envelope from Brittany Hilton and with numerous bond violations. I was arrested December 7, 2021, my bond doubled, and I spent roughly 6 hours in jail due to my ex-wife jailing me every time she

can. I'm calling a public truce because Sheriff Mooney and Deputy Bienvenu's kindness in a terrible situation. All I want to do is grieve without having to worry about going to jail due to my bitter ex-wife, who just happens to be a Bridge City Police Detective. I am truly happy with the life I have presently. I have wonderful friends, a great woman, a beautiful house, and a different outlook on life. I am taking my recent experience and I am going to turn it positive, but I need y'all's help. Please, please, please let me live at peace and without any more oppression. I feel oppressed and when I feel oppressed or harassed, I fight, and I don't give up. I am tired of fighting, but freedom is not free. I look oppressed in the eye and say is that all you got."

9. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2022-02 authorizing municipal participation in regulatory proceedings of ETI (Entergy Texas Inc.) at the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 2022

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2022-02, 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. 2022-02 authorizing municipal participation in regulatory proceedings of ETI at the PUC of Texas in 2022, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte, Council Members Reed, Fiset, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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

January 4, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

January 5, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting

January 6, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting

January 7, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting

January 8, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting

Council Member Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, January 5, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting, January 6, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting, January 7, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting, and January 8, 2022 Special and Executive Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Savoy.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetto, Harrington, Gauthier, and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the Bill list for December 2021

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the bill list for December 2021, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte, Council Members Reed, Fisetto, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve a contract which extends an offer of employment to fill the position of City Manager vacated by Jerry Jones

Council Member Fisetto made a motion to approve a contract which extends an offer of employment to fill the position of City Manager vacated by Jerry Jones, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Mayor Rutledge said the City Council conducted an extensive interview process and interviewed several applicants. After interviewing the candidates, it was a unanimous decision by City Council to hire Brent Walker. Mr. Walker is the current assistant city manager in Dalhart, Texas. He will begin his employment with the City on February 1, 2022.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte, Council Members Reed, Fisetto, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to enter into a Joint Election Agreement Services Contract between LaDonna Alford, Orange County Elections Administrator and the City of Bridge City, Texas to supervise and conduct the General Elections to be held on May 7, 2022

Council Member Savoy made a motion to enter into a Joint Election Agreement Services Contract with LaDonna Alford, Orange County Elections Administrator to supervise and conduct the General Election to be held on May 7, 2022, seconded by Council Member Harrington

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, Gauthier and Savoy.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m., seconded by Council Member Savoy.

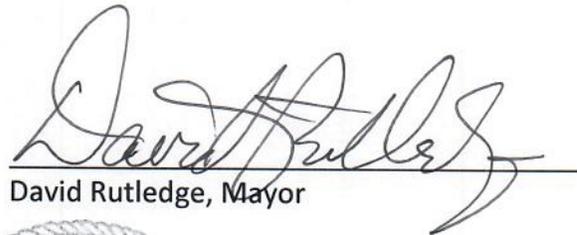
With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennie McDowell, City Secretary

