

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

## **CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP**

### **CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**

**April 5, 2022**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session and workshop on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 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.

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Rutledge  
Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Mike Reed  
Council Member Tammi Fisette  
Council Member Terri Gauthier

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** Council Member Danny Harrington  
Council Member Richard Savoy

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Brent Walker  
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell  
City Attorney Paul Fukuda  
Finance Director Karen Morgan  
Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker  
Public Works Director Mike Lund  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die  
Police Chief Tod McDowell  
Assistant Police Chief Robert Bergeron  
Police Officer Crystal Fielder  
Police Officer Michael Lucia

## **2. INVOCATION**

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Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

## **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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Council Member Gauthier 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, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy

## **5. STUDENT RECOGNITION**

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### **(a) *Recognizing Bridge City students for their accomplishments***

Mayor Rutledge recognized Harrison Gauthier for setting a new school pole vault record of 15'3".

## **6. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

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### **(a) *Presentation of Proclamation declaring April 2022 as "Fair Housing Month"***

Mayor Rutledge read the Proclamation declaring April 2022 as "Fair Housing Month".

## **7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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Kenneth Prosperie  
819 Sunnyside

"I just want to thank the guy on the tractor, the big Kabota, that is cutting the ditches. He is doing a good job, I have been watching him. He is cutting limbs hanging over the ditches so they can actually, get in there and keep them mowed. It is real important for our drainage, so I want to encourage him to continue on. I think his name is Mike Chesson, great job. Thank y'all."

## 8. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

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

**City Manager's** report for Council:

Mr. Walker said City Staff is working on the budget. He said the Council would start seeing some of that and they have already scheduled budget meetings. He said the Council would see some of the changes on the agenda, which would be getting his name transferred on documents.

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

**Council Member Tammi Fisette** she said last week she received a call asking her to go to the Friends of the Library meeting. She said Kelle would be at the next City Council meeting to tell the Council a little bit more, but they are getting ready for the children's summer reading program. She said they had a lot of good ideas and a lot of people coming in. She said they are averaging about 75 kids and that is wonderful. She said they received a donation for a memorial and if you have not been to the library, please go check it out. She said in the children's book room there is a wall, a space wall that was donated by a citizen. She said it really looked good and they did a great job. She said Mary and Kelle are doing a great job. She said she would like to mention the computer issues they are having down there. She asked Mr. Walker if he knew if they were on the list to get those taken care of.

Mr. Walker said they were on the list.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** said the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission is hosting another household hazardous waste and scrape tire collection event. She said it would be held on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at the Buna High School parking lot. She said they work hard at making these events happen several times a year, because they are concerned about collecting items that could cause damage to our health, to our environment, and people don't know what to do with some of these items. She said they are really good about listing everything they accept, and what they don't. She said they are accepting paints, old paint cans, cleaners, car batteries, used oil, swimming pool chemicals and old tires. She said they were encouraging the City Council to get the word out on the City's Facebook page, and we would be pushing that information out this week. She asked City Council to please share it, so people would know where to go. She said they encourage people to dispose of these items in a way that is best for our environment. She said there were flyers in the foyer, so please let people know if they would like to pick up some of the them.

**Council Member Mike Reed** said in addition to Council Member Gauthier's statement he was reading in the paper where they were trying to set up several dates where people can get rid of old boats and trailers. He said if you had an old boat that has been laying out in the backyard for 20 years, they would take them at the landfill. He said they have had one, but they have a couple more dates coming up. He said if you have a title bring it with you, but if not, they would let you sign a waiver and they will dispose of the legally at no charge.

**(c.) City Staff Report**

***Miscellaneous City Staff:***

**Mike Lund** gave a report.

Mr. Lund said the manholes on Roundbunch are not complete unfortunately getting the supplies are slow. He said the contractor said he was hoping by the middle of the week he would have the supplies to where he could replace both of the manholes. He said one of them, the contractor would put a piece together and it would no longer be a manhole. He said that project would be completed by the end of the month.

He said the yard lines for the CDBG grant project has been completed. He said they are now dressing yards up. He said it would have been 120 yard lines, but the City lost about four citizens who backed out for different reasons. He said it was 116 yard lines that were completed.

He said the ground storage tank at Waterwood is about 85% complete. He said the contractors have a couple of ties and it would be completed.

**Chief Tod McDowell** said he would like to introduce two new police officers, Crystal Fielders and Michael Lucia. He said both of the officers have an extensive background in law enforcement and the department is very fortunate to have them. He said Officer Fielder has experience from the Beaumont Police Department and recently with the Bridge City Independent School District. He said Officer Lucia retired with 20 years of experience with the Orange County Sheriff Department and recently worked with the Jasper County Sheriff Department.

Council Member Reed told Officer Fielder he was sorry the school district lost her, but welcome to the City.

Mayor and Council welcomed the two new officers.

**(d.) Mayor**

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

1. The City of Bridge City will be hosting an open house for the Corp of Engineers on April 26, 2022 from 5p.m. to 9p.m. to give an overview of the proposed levee system.

**9. ORDINANCES**

- (a) Consideration and possible action to amend Ordinance No. 2022-03 ordering the City of Bridge City General Election to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022 to change the early voting location from the Orange County Airport to the Bridge City School District Administration Building**

***Consideración y posible acción para enmendar la Ordenanza No. 2022-03 que ordena que las Elecciones Generales de la Ciudad de Bridge City se llevarán a cabo el sábado 7 de mayo de 2022 para cambiar el lugar de votación anticipada del Aeropuerto del Condado de Orange al Edificio de Administración del Distrito Escolar de Bridge City***

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2022-03 changing the early voting location from the Orange County Airport to the Bridge City School Administration Building, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

- (b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance 2022-05 approving the election officials for the May 7, 2022 General Election**

***Consideración y posible acción para aprobar la Ordenanza 2022-05 que aprueba a los funcionarios electorales para las Elecciones Generales del 7 de mayo de 2022***

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-05 approving the election officials for the May 7, 2022 General Election, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2022-06 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint’s Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (“GRIP”) filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 3, 2022**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-06 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint’s Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (“GRIP”) filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 3, 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 Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fiset, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**10. RESOLUTIONS**

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**(a) Resolution amending authorized representatives to Texpool**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to accept the resolution as read, seconded by Councilmember Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(b) Resolution authorizing City of Bridge City’s application for participation in Texstar Governmental Pool**

Councilmember Reed made a motion to accept the resolution as read, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetite, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2022-03(R) reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-03(R) reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy, seconded by Council Member Gauthier

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetite, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution No. 2022-04(R) to LJA Engineering firm for engineering services in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4485 COVID-19 Pandemic to provide application preparation and project implementation, if awarded.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-04(R) to LJA Engineering firm for engineering services in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4485 COVID-19 Pandemic, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(e) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution No. 2022-05(R) to Traylor and Associates for administrative services in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4485 COVID-19 Pandemic to provide application preparation, project administration, and project-related management services, if awarded**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-05(R) to award Traylor and Associates for administrative services in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4485 COVID-19 Pandemic, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(f) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2022-06(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2022 tax year**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-06(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2022 tax year, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

## **11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the March 15, 2022 City Council Meeting**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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, Fiset, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment increase of 2.5378% to be applied to the City's Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve the 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment increase of 2.5378% to be applied to the City's Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-way access line rates, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**(c) Consider recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on April 25, 2022, on a request from Steve Quibodeaux for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to C-3 (Third Commercial District) on property described as Abst 382 Thomas H Bowles TR001 A**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on April 25, 2022, seconded by Council Member Reed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetite, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

**12. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

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*(a) Discussion of developing and implementing an Ordinance regarding coin operated machines in the City of Bridge City.*

Mayor Rutledge and City Council reviewed and made changes to a game room ordinance presented by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

**13. ADJOURN**

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Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m., seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED:**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetite, and Gauthier.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Harrington and Council Member Savoy.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary