

<p>AARON ROCCAFORTE Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 1</p>	<p>DAVID RUTLEDGE Mayor</p> 	<p>DANNY HARRINGTON Council Member, Place 4</p>
<p>MIKE REED Council Member, Place 2</p>		<p>TERRI GAUTHIER Council Member, Place 5</p>
<p>TAMMI FISETTE Council Member, Place 3</p>		<p>RICHARD SAVOY Council Member, Place 6</p>

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

May 3, 2022

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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 Danny Harrington

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Terri Gauthier
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
Assistant Finance Director Shelley Fields
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Police Chief Tod McDowell
Assistant Police Chief Robert Bergeron

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 Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Members Gauthier and Savoy.

5. STUDENT RECOGNITION

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

Mayor Rutledge recognized Caryss Carpenter for setting a new high school record in the 100 Meter Hurdles of 14.69 seconds.

(b) *Recognizing the Little Dribblers 9 & 10 Jr. Girls for their accomplishments*

Mayor Rutledge recognized the 9 & 10 Jr. Girls for participating in the 2022 Little Dribblers National Tournament.

(c) *Recognizing the Little Dribblers 13 & 14 Sr. Girls for their accomplishments*

Mayor Rutledge recognized the 13 & 14 Sr. Girls for participating in the 2022 Little Dribblers National Tournament.

(d) Recognizing the Little Dribblers 11 & 12 Major Girls for their accomplishments

Mayor Rutledge recognized the 11 & 12 Major Girls for winning the championship game in the 2022 Little Dribblers National Tournament.

(e) Recognizing the Little Dribblers 13 & 14 Sr. Boys for their accomplishments

Mayor Rutledge recognized the 13 & 14 Sr. Boys for winning the championship games in the 2022 Little Dribblers National Tournament.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Barry Foster

1005 Charlotte Lane

He said he was there to talk about Marsh Estates and the last time they had a good rain, he went out and watched the water flowing away from Hwy. 1442 towards the neighborhood in the back. He said he does not think it would affect him, because he lives on the high spot on Charlotte Lane. He said he worries a little bit about Bernice, Ina, Arthur and the people who live on the outside of Arthur Drive. He said he took a few pictures and they have started building some houses. He said he was sure the Council was aware of this. He said the houses were a good bit higher than the road. He said he was hoping they don't end up with a Twin Lake Estates situation. He said every time they get a good rain, they have to launch boats off Hwy 105 to get to their houses. He said the houses don't flood but the road does. He said he took a few pictures and there was a construction permit and one of the things there was the location of the storm water solution prevention plan, and it says it was in an onsite lock box which it was below it. He said he opened the lock box and there were no plans in it. He said he was curious and wanted to read it. He said he talked to a few of the neighbors at the end of his street and he said the plans that were originally set out from what he was told was an elevation of 9 feet. He said he knew the houses were higher than that, because his house sits at 11.2 feet. He said the house that looks directly across the way is sitting higher than his house. He said it worries him and he wanted to make sure that it is being watched and someone is taking care of it and making sure that whatever was on the original agreement that was supposed to be done is being done. He said he would keep watch as it rains and every time it rains, he goes over and looks. He said he thinks he is okay but worries about the neighborhood behind them because the water should be flowing toward the canal. He said the last time they had a good rain he looked, and it was going the other

direction. He said he would like to make sure whatever was originally agreed upon is what they do.

Shlomo "Sal" Peer
412 Bradford Street

He said he moved to Bridge City about two months ago and purchased a home here about three months ago, he meant five months ago. He said he hired a general contractor, he spoke with the Mayor about it, and he filed a police report currently handled by Captain Teague. He said the general contractor went into his home, demolition his house and threw everything off the balcony and left them stranded. He said his family was devastated by it, aside from the cost they lost, he stole all the money, materials and it affected their household. He said his two-year-old son was injured. He said so far nothing has been done about it. He said he should not say nothing because the police are investigating it. He said no justice has been served for his family. He said the man that has been accused continues to pull permits, continues to keep his license, and continues to practice general contracting. He said the contractor has lied to both the police and, he also filed a report with Port Arthur police where he lives. He said from talking to the police, from talking to his neighbors, from talking to the inspectors of the City, it is ongoing problem in this City especially during times of crisis. He said hurricanes season is upon us. He said he doesn't just seek justice for his family. He said he would like to contribute to come up with some type of plan to protect the citizens who would most likely go through the same thing in the next month or so when hurricane season starts. He said whether it is putting a list of general contractors who have not had complaints filed against them and who have not committed theft or robbery, or whatever the term is. He said he is pleading from this Council to take action to protect families. He said he moved to this City because of the people he met. He said he came here during the Christmas parade, and he had a flat tire and three people stopped to help him during the rain and he met almost 50 people during the Christmas parade, which encouraged them to move here. He said he heard about the school district and elementary school. He said his daughter is six years old and was about to be in the first grade. He said she could not read before they came here and within one month, she was able to read. He said his wife, who was an introvert, already has a bunch of friends here and they have invited her to church. He said they love the people here, but he was asking for his protection. He said he is asking for justice for his family. He said this man has no assets and he is suing him regardless, but without justice nothing would happen for his family.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager

City Manager's report for Council:

He said he doesn't have a lot to report, but he had papers he would like to hand out. He said this was something they would do in June. He said it was called a SWOT analysis. He said he thought he would give it to the Council now, so they could start working on it. He said the idea of the SWOT analysis was and could be many things, like strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He said it could be from a 30,000-foot level of the city, it could be from what you guys see here as City Council, or it could be anything you want it to be. He said he would collect all the information and put it on a chart and when they have other meetings coming up in June, they would take a look at it. He said the employees are also doing this. He said this is just something they would start on but eventually there would be more and when they get to those meetings in June, they would be able to discuss the items listed on the handouts. He said he discussed with the Mayor, and he doesn't know to what extent right yet, but he contacted Texas A&M and some of their students are in classes that work in local government and they would assist him in this project. He said they would help him gather data from the citizens and others. He said they would ask the citizens some of the exact same questions. He said it would really be neat to see all the things and put it all together himself and he would be able to read some of that. He said this was something that was coming but figured he would give it to the Council now, so they could start thinking about those things.

(b.) City Council Report

Council Member Tammi Fiset said she looked forward to this and she thinks it is wonderful asking citizens their opinions, and Council and the employees. She thanked Mr. Walker for everything he was doing. She said she wanted to say congratulations to all those kids, the little dribblers. She said it seems like years and years ago, she coached little dribblers and she also refereed the girls volleyball. She said what a great group to represent the City. She said that is our future, right there. She said it is wonderful and she loves seeing the kids come up here, and she thanked the person setting it up. She said it is wonderful and again congratulation to the kids.

(c.) City Staff Report

Miscellaneous City Staff:

City Secretary:

Mrs. McDowell said this year for the election results we will not be meeting at City Hall instead she would be sending out two texts to the candidates. She said the first text would be absentee voting and early voting and the second text would be absentee voting, early voting and election day voting with a total vote. She asked if the Council had any questions.

Council Member Fisetete asked why.

Mrs. McDowell said that is the way the school district and other cities are going this year. She said because she meets at the County to get the results, and it is hard to get back over here and then back over there to get the other results.

Council Member Fisetete said she liked the fellowship and sitting with each other for encouragement, so she would hate to see that end.

Mayor Rutledge said this would be a trial run and a trend the school districts and other cities around here are going to and probably Statewide. He said he thinks this is a little late to say this could be a COVID reaction but could be an option from that. He said we would try it and if it gets where no one wants it, then we would go back to what we have done in the past.

(d.) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. Mayor Rutledge read a letter from the The Jefferson County Bar Association for free telephonic legal advice for the veterans. He said this would be for Jefferson, Hardin, Orange, Liberty and Chambers counties.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the April 19, 2022 City Council Meeting

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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, Fisetete and Harrington.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Members Gauthier and Savoy.

(b) **Consider recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on May 23, 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 (R25615)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on May 23, 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, Fisetete, and Harrington.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier and Savoy.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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

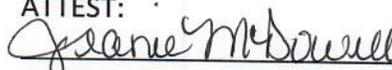
MOTION CARRIED:

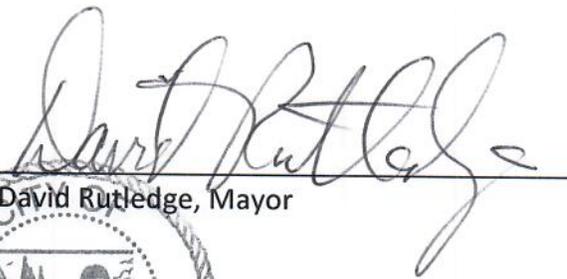
Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, and Council Members Reed, Fisetete and Harrington.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier and Savoy.

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary


David Rutledge, Mayor

