

AARON ROCCAFORTE <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i> 	PATTY COLLINS <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
MIKE REED <i>Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member, Place 2</i>		TERRI GAUTHIER <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
TAMMI FISETTE <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		SHERBY DIXON <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
August 2, 2022

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 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 Mike Reed
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
Council Member Tammi Fisette
Council Member Patty Collins
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Sherby Dixon

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Brent Walker
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
Chief Tod McDowell
Public Works Director Mike Lund
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

2. INVOCATION

Following the invocation given by Council Member Patty Collins.

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 THE AGENDA

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Fisetete.

With no changes, discussion, or alterations, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Reed, Council Members Roccaforte, Fisetete, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steven Hilton
4800 Candlewick
Orange, Texas 77630

"If anybody is asking why I would come back? It is because the police department attacked my freedom. Why wouldn't I come back? On August 27, 2021, I was charged with disorderly conduct Class C and Harassment Class B. On July 27, 2022, the District Attorney decided not to prosecute me for the harassment charge due to insufficient evidence. Council, I knew from day one that this charge was a lie which entails it has always been bogus. This states Steven arrived at the residence began activating his vehicular traffic horn which he kept activating for a long amount of time causing an annoyance, further Brittany stated she had taken a photograph of a handwritten sign that Steven had placed at the corner of Live Oak and West Roundbunch which stated congrats, 15-million-dollar vagina, which offended her. Council, the harassment charge was always a flat out lie. Insufficient evidence, no, zero evidence. Was there a witness claiming they witness him putting up the sign, no. Was there a home security footage showing him placing the sign, no. Is Brittany a forensic document examiner, no. Did BCPD have the sign evaluated by a forensic document examiner, no. The only reason I was aware of the sign is because Brittany's aunt messaged me about it. It is not my fault my ex-wife went on national news and made a fool of herself and now everyone knows she is in a frivolous lawsuit. The harassment charge not the disorderly conduct is what forced me to stay overnight in the jail to wait for a judge to arraign me. When I was looking at the body cam footage, Bergeron is the one that called the jail, talked to Judge Stagner and made sure I was not arraigned that day to make sure I stayed that night. Me staying the night in jail is Robert Bergeron's idea, which is on the video. Next the harassment charge came with bond restrictions which are civil and nature of dismissal which police officer's deal with the criminal side of the law and not civil. I was violated and sent to jail for bond restriction violations. Mindful I was always intending for filing charges and one hundred percent would go to court, but my police officer ex-wife was conducting an undercover investigation on me to which I have the investigation. This is it right here (he showed Council). So, uh, me going to jail should have never happened do to the extreme issues with the investigation, how it was conducted. Some people can say I should have followed my restriction to which I would agree, but this particular investigation was

handled, the way it was handled is mouse. I wrote a complaint about the illegal investigation and submitted it to the police chief, but it is still unanswered, that was like five months ago. Why is my complaint (could not understand some words) BCPD detective ex-wife lied to get me in jail and then conduct an illegal investigation which led me to be incarcerated unanswered? Especially now, since the case has been documented that it lacks evidence. I have asked for your help, I asked for what y'all can help me with, as far as getting this fixed, cause if it happened once it can happen again, if it happened twice it can happen again. Y'all are leaders of the City and I come to y'all to fix my problems. I understand I might have to look for a civil rights attorney but what is going to happen about the unanswered complaints? The harassment charge was always a lie very easily provable, no evidence. But I spent a night in jail, spent a day in jail, my bond was held at \$3,000."

Mayor Rutledge said your time is up Mr. Hilton.

Mr. Hilton said thank you and I appreciate y'all.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) *City Manager*

City Manager Brent Walker had the following report for Council:

Mr. Walker said most of the stuff he had to talk about, the Council would get to it in a minute. He said they have been cleaning up the finalization of the budget and the tax numbers. He said the City had a little excitement around the tax numbers.

(b) *City Council*

Council Member Tammi Fisette asked about Texas Avenue and Roundbunch, does the City contact TXDOT, are there any avenues to fix some of those potholes on Texas Avenue or have we asked them.

Mr. Walker said the City can ask TXDOT.

Mr. Walker also said no they have not asked them to fix the holes.

Mr. Walker asked at the intersection.

Council Member Fisette said even going down like going towards Orange, there are several.

Mr. Walker said City staff could request it.

Council Member Fisette said she knew it was not very easy.

Mr. Walker said the City could request it and sometimes they would do it.

Council Member Fisette said she knew there were quite a few holes, concerns from citizens hitting the holes. She said she knows Roundbunch isn't finished, yet. She asked who would know that, is it finished, is that all they are doing to it.

Mr. Lund said yes, it is finished.

Council Member Gauthier said she found out something very interesting at the last Regional Planning meeting. She said they have launched a new hotline that is for suicide crisis lifeline, and it goes hand in hand with the City's 9-1-1. She said in the past the suicide hotline was a 10-digit number. She said now they have released a 988 number that is now the suicide crisis hotline. It was set up for anyone experiencing mental health related issues and they can call if they are in distress in anyway. She said they have trained people there. She said they were

excited about getting the word out and letting people know. Some of the goals just a few that she would like everyone to know because it is really a great thing.

Mayor Rutledge asked if they were doing a big promotional event.

Council Member Gauthier said she would find out.

Mayor Rutledge said he was hoping they would do it region wide.

Council Member Gauthier said she wasn't sure what they are planning but it provides for immediate counseling for someone that calls. She said they counsel with them and are trained to talk them down and de-escalate the distress thoughts what they may be saying what they are trying to do.

Mayor Rutledge said the City could get Mark Dunn to put it on the electronic sign.

Council Member Gauthier said the Regional Planning would be having another stand down in Jasper at the Jasper County annex building on Lamar St. on August 5, 2022, from 9 to 3. They would serve lunch and provide all kind of means of help for any Veterans.

(c) Miscellaneous Staff

Mike Lund, Director of Public Works:

The contractors for the well are on sight at Sunnyside. They are getting ready to start drilling hopefully next week. Mr. Lund said the manhole on East Roundbunch and Blueberry has been completed. The contractors have begun working on the other one today and it should be completed in a day or two. It is on East Roundbunch, but closer to David Street. Mr. Lund said he would contact TXDOT tomorrow and would try to find out information about the holes down Texas Avenue. Mr. Lund said the concrete pieces on Arthur Street have been awarded and now trying to get the contractors out there to finish the project. He said he went out for bids on several streets for repairs and should have them in soon.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

He said there was hard work put in over the weekend on getting the tax rate corrected for the budget. He said the Roast for Judge Gothia is being held on Thursday, August 4, 2022 at the Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

7. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2022-11 amending the City of Bridge City's September 21, 2021 flood damage prevention Ordinance

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2022-11, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-11, amending the City of Bridge City's September 21, 2021 flood damage prevention Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the July 19, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

With no changes, discussion, or alterations, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve a contribution to the dependent health insurance premium

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve a contribution to the dependent health insurance premium, seconded by Council Member Collins.

After discussion, Council Member Gauthier amended the motion to approve the City contribution of an increase of \$110 for dependent health insurance premium, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve a vacation buy back program

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve a vacation buy back program, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

After discussion, Council Member Roccaforte amended the motion to approve a vacation buy back program of take a week buy a week, seconded by Council Member Collins.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to place a proposal to adopt an ad valorem tax rate on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, for the 2022 tax year of \$0.48228 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Consisting of a Debt rate of \$0.14599 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.33629)

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion stating, "I move to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate in the amount of \$0.48228 on the agenda for Tuesday, September 6, 2022. This rate consists of a Maintenance & Operations rate of \$0.33629 and a Debt rate of \$0.14599. This rate is a 1.98% increase over the calculated No New Revenue rate and a 7.91% decrease from last years adopted rate." Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

Votes were orally given as follows:

MAYOR PRO-TEM REED	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER ROCCAFORTE	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER FISETTE	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER COLLINS	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER GAUTHIER	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER DIXON	YES
MAYOR RUTLEDGE	YES

(e) Consideration and possible action to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall of Bridge City to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to schedule one (1) public hearing for Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall of Bridge City to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (f) *Consideration and possible action to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall of Bridge City to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2022 tax year of \$0.48228 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Total tax rate consists of a Debt rate of \$0.14599 and a Maintenance and Operation Rate of \$0.33629)*

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to schedule one (1) Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall of Bridge City to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2022 tax year of \$0.48228 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Total tax rate consists of a Debt rate of \$0.14599 and a Maintenance and Operation Rate of \$0.33629), seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

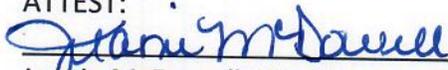
MOTION CARRIED.

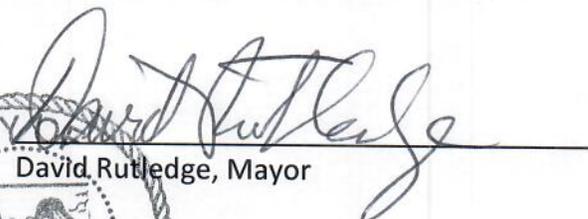
Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Reed, Council Members Roccaforte, Fiset, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary


David Rutledge, Mayor

