

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 16, 2022

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 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
Assistant Chief Robert Bergeron
Personnel/Purchasing Kim Tucker
Finance Director Shelley Fields
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

2. INVOCATION

Following the invocation given by Council Member Sherby Dixon.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion to approve the agenda, 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, Fisette, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- (a) *City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas*

“This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$81,756, or 3.64%, and of that amount \$46,880 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. The proposed tax rate of \$0.48228 is a 7.91% decrease from last year's tax rate of \$0.52369.”

After reading Agenda Item 5(a) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Rutledge asked twice if there were any questions or comments on this budget.

Mayor Rutledge said a vote on the tax rate for the City of Bridge City 2022 Tax Year will be held by the City Council on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steven Hilton
4800 Candlewick
Orange, Texas 77630

“Didn’t prepare a speech for this one, don’t really need to. The words that I have given y’all in this memo that is exactly what I experienced the night of the incident of Jillian Blanchard and Robert Jackson’s death. The reason why I bring those to y’all now is hopefully the trial goes to actual trial this month and hopefully this could be put behind us. The problem that I have is that the things which didn’t happen the night of the incident and actually, eventually this actually, led to the termination of my marriage, couldn’t deal with it anymore, didn’t want to

deal with it anymore and sometimes people, ignorance is bliss. The biggest problem I have with justice for Jillian and Robert isn't actually going to happen. The words that I have written can be construed as conspiracy theory as for right now, but the trial will prove them to be truth. And the biggest thing I have as far as what y'all should know, y'all should key into in the trial if y'all are following the trial is was there an official police blood withdrawal for intoxication. If there wasn't it is going to be hard to prove intoxication defenses mainly the manslaughters. Hospital blood ain't good enough, it is easily attacked, they lose chain of command. I have consulted several lawyers with the fact what I experienced, and they all say the same thing it should be any easy win for the defense. I hope that is not true, but when the case comes to an end hopefully a lot of people can put this behind us as long as there is some type of justice that comes from this case. As of right now I don't think there will be, but hopefully I am wrong. Thank you."

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Brent Walker had the following report for Council:

Last week Mike Lund followed up and called TXDOT about the concrete on Highway 87. He said they have already let the contractor's repair some of the problems and that would be happening this year. He said they have a contract to award to repair the whole road and that would be in 2023.

Council Member Fisetta asked nothing else on Roundbunch.

Mayor Rutledge asked if she was talking about West Roundbunch.

Council Member Fisetta said yes.

Mayor Rutledge said West Roundbunch is done. He said Mr. Lund talked to them and they said that is all they would be doing to West Roundbunch.

Council Member Fisetta said she didn't know if they would come back in when they did the repairs and finish the build on FM 1442.

Mayor Rutledge said no.

Mr. Walker said later on, in the agenda is the road repairs and the following are the roads the City would be paying to repair: Sunny Lane, North and South Clover, Turner Lane, and Tenney Street and they are worst. He said City Staff would be taking before and after pictures.

Mr. Walker said he believes the City equipment would be covered under insurance on the lightning strikes.

(b) City Council

Council Member Gauthier said Golden Triangle RSVP invites all Veterans, Military Members and First Responders to attend a luncheon on Friday, September 9, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Rockin' A Café at 3520 West Cardinal Drive, Beaumont, Texas. There will be remarks from Representative Brain Babin and the Port Neches Texas Fire Chief, Eloy Vega is the keynote speaker.

(c) Miscellaneous Staff

Mike Die, Utility Superintendent:

He said over the last four months the City has taken four lightning strikes, two of which were out at Highway 408 and the City lost communications both times. He said last week the City actually lost the well, so it has been repaired. He said he is waiting on BAC T samples, and they should have it back online in the morning. He said here at the office we have taken lightning strikes and lost communications, but not the well. He said over at Sunnyside the contractors are in the neighborhood of 600 foot deep, right now and they are hoping to reach 1,000 feet by the end of the week. He said they would start casing it and then start water quality samples.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

He said Mike Lund has contacted the City's engineering firm to access the grounding and lightning arrest to protect the equipment from future strikes.

8. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2022-10(R) adopting the the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2022-10(R), adopting the proposed budget.

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-10(R), adopting the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Bridge City, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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

July 25, 2022 City Council Special Meeting

***July 26, 2022 City Council Special Meeting
August 2, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022 City Council Special Meeting***

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the following minutes for July 25, 2022 City Council Special Meeting, July 26, 2022 City Council Special Meeting, August 2, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting, and August 9, 2022 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of July 2022

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the City bills for the month of July 2022, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

After discussion, 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.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve the expenditure budget amendment to the 2021-2022 budget for repaving streets in the amount of \$402,600

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the expenditure budget amendment for repaving streets in the amount of \$402,600, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

After discussion, 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.

- (d) **Consider recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on September 12, 2022, on a request from Richard Etheridge for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Low Density Residential District) on property further described as lot 8 and part of 9 block 1 Ethridge Packer – R3456 at 615 N. John and at the request of the Planning and Zoning Commission to include the adjacent property further described as lot part of 9 block 1 Ethridge – Packer-R34255 at 610 N. John**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to consider recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission to have a joint public hearing on September 12, 2022, seconded by Council Member Fisetete

With no further discussion, 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.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

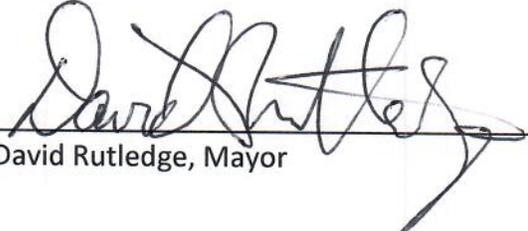
With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

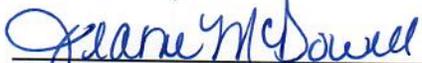
Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Reed, Council Members Roccaforte, Fisetete, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

