

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
March 7, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 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 Patty Collins
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Sherby Dixon

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Tammi Fisetto

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
Chief Tod McDowell
Personnel/Purchasing Kim Tucker
Public Works Director/Interim City Manager Mike Lund
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Community Development Coordinator Natalie Pruitt
Sr. Utility Clerk Erin Smith

2. INVOCATION

Following the invocation given by Council Member Terri Gauthier.

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 Collins made a motion to move Item numbers 5 and 6, the executive session, to the end of the meeting after Item Number 11, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

After changes, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kenneth Prosperie
819 Sunnyside

Mr. Prosperie said "The perfect example of the phrase, taxation without representation.

Pic#1: Dated July 26, 2022, shows I was trying to go through the process of getting on the agenda to speak. The process totally failed with no council member getting back to me about my real concerns on drainage on Sunnyside. Please read in detail in Pic# 1

Pic#2: Is a flow chart showing the gallons per minute difference of different size pipes have different flow rates. This chart even shows the different slopes of the culverts, which also changes the rate of gallons per minute. It's actually good information for everyone to know.

Pic#3: 950 Sunnyside, shows in 2016 where a culvert was added and improperly installed by shoving one culvert into another with a gradall. The pipe was found bowed from pushing on the culvert with heavy equipment causing water to blow out under the driveway, pipe clamps are made and required to connect one culvert to another. The pipe clamp was not used, which is normal required procedure. Also, the original culvert was already sloping 3 inches in the wrong direction making water travel uphill, and it was also damaged. The improperly installed added culvert was then cemented over while knowing already that this was one of Sunnyside's real problem drainage areas.

Pic#4: 950 Sunnyside again where you can see the water is slowing down which is proving bad culverts. Water is a perfect level test, the water should be the same on both sides of the culvert.

Pic#5: shows a 5,400 sq ft commercial building that is guttered towards the back and is directing the water to Sunnyside instead of Highland Street, with no swale going between the properties to Highland Street.

Pic#6: 830 Sunnyside, my young neighbors across the street. This is the effects of poor drainage we should all be concerned with. It's real.

Pic#7 On Highland, of an unkept ditch that restricts water flow. We have a City tractor, and we need to use it.

We need to take our drainage serious. Our City needs to make sure our workers are highly trained. The City of Bridge City needs to start using math and learn about pipe flow capacities

and measurement of slopes. The different slopes and sizes of culverts can make a tremendous difference in....” Mayor Rutledge told Mr. Prosperie his time was up. Mr. Prosperie asked if he could finish it was about drainage. Mayor Rutledge told him his time was up. Mr. Prosperie said, “he watched a lady talk for 25 minutes up here and he did not say a word and you did not either. It is a shame, it’s about drainage.” Mayor asked the Chief to remove him from the chambers, if he did not hold his tongue. Mr. Prosperie sat down.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

Interim City Manager Mike Lund

1. The meter system – is about 90% complete and should be done in about a week or so. The contractors are down to about 100 IRT’s to change out and they would go back over it to check some of the ones that are no reads.
2. Sunnyside well – waiting for the quality report, so no update on that. Mayor asked if he knew when they would come back. Mr. Lund said they told him last council meeting 2 to 3 weeks.
3. Library – work has been started. They are repairing the roof of the Library where it was leaking. The contractor said it would take about 2 to 3 days to complete.
4. Sunnyside drainage culverts - have been repaired. The driveway at 950 Sunnyside that was crushed has been dug up. City crews repaired it and the only thing left to do is concrete the driveway. City crews dug another one up at 985 Sunnyside and repaired that one, also. They have a ditch area from 920 – 950 that would be cleaned out where a gentleman put some dirt in the ditch so they would mop those ditches out.
5. Utility bills – Mr. Lund passed out a sample utility bill. He said it looked like they may be up and running next month. He said he would like to get a copy of the bill on the City Facebook and Website to let everyone know that these would be the new bills. The new bill gives a lot more information. The citizens would have the option of receiving a bill by mail or receiving the bill by e-mail. Email is cheaper than postage. He said that would save the City some money as well, and he would like to get the word out so citizens could get signed up with their email accounts. Mayor asked if there would be additional personnel training. Mr. Lund said there would be a little but they have done most of the training.

(b) City Council

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she would like to say thank you to the citizens and to the City for allowing Council to go to Golden Triangle Days in Austin. She said it was always an experience and it was very busy, and they were on a very scheduled time, but it was very good to see people bonding and networking and talking about what was going on in the different cities. She said it was very encouraging and inspiring to be around other leaders who serve our region. She said even getting to talk to our state leadership and knowing how hard they were working. Also, she said being reminded of the significance of our area being the leading petrochemical industry that affects not only our state but our whole country. She said it was encouraging and inspiring to think a little bigger than they do when they are set in their daily

routine. She said again she wanted to thank everyone for allowing the Council to go and she thinks it was helpful for them to learn even if it is a little nugget of what is important as a leader for this area.

Miscellaneous City Staff:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

Ms. McDowell reported the following:

The Secretary of State accepted the County's request for the Countywide Polling Place Program. This program will be used in the May election. Early voting will have three locations which are Orange Public Library, Raymond Gould Community Center and Orange County Airport. Also, the Election Day locations will be at the Orange Public Library, St. Francis Catholic Church, Salvation Army, Bridge City Knights of Columbus Hall, and the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

None.

7. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-09(R) amending the authorized representatives in the TexStar Governmental Pool

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-09(R), in its entirety, amending the authorized representatives in the TexStar Governmental Pool.

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-09(R) amending the authorized representatives in the TexStar Governmental Pool, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisetette.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-10(R) amending the authorized representatives in the TexPool Governmental Pool

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-10(R), in its entirety, amending the authorized representatives in the TexPool Governmental Pool.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-10(R) amending the authorized representatives in the TexPool Governmental Pool, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

- (c) ***Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-11(R) authorizing the submittal of a 23/24 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture, committing matching funds, agreeing to comply with programmatic requirements, and adopting/reaffirming civil right policies***

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-11(R), in its entirety, authorizing the submittal of a 23/24 TxCDBG application to the TDA.

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-11(R) authorizing the submittal of a 23/24 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture, committing matching funds, agreeing to comply with programmatic requirements, and adopting/reaffirming civil right polices, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

- (d) ***Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-12(R) designating authorized representatives in matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program***

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-12(R), in its entirety, approving designated authorized representatives in matters pertaining to the City's participation in the TxCDBG Program.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-12(R) designating authorized representatives in matters pertaining to the City's participation in the TxCDBG Program, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes for the February 21, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve a HOT TAX application for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Historical Museum to install an LED sign and a historical marker with the application fee in the amount of \$30,328.50 to promote the teacherage museum and Bridge City tourism

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve a HOT TAX application for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Historical Museum to install an LED sign and a historical maker with the application fee in the amount of \$30,328.50 to promote the teacherage museum and Bridge City tourism, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

(c) 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

Council Member 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 Collins.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

(d) Consideration and possible action to create and appoint members for a finance committee to review and approve accounts payable expenditures

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to consider creating and appointing members for a finance committee to review and approve accounts payable expenditures, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

After discussion, Council Member Collins amended the motion to create and appoint Council Member Roccaforte, Council Member Gauthier, and Council Member Collins to a finance subcommittee of the Council, 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, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Fisette.

9. WORKSHOP SESSION – DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Discuss the selection criteria and procedure for hiring the City Manager's position

Mayor Rutledge said the City Council could conduct the hiring process in house, or they could hire a search firm to do it for them. He said that would be the decision the Council would need to make.

Michael Boese, Clear Career Professionals, LLC explained to the City Council how a search firm can assist them in their search for a city manager. He also described the process of the chain of events. He explained what other search firms should consider in the hiring of a city manager for the city.

Mayor Rutledge asked several questions regarding the step by step process a search firm should take in consideration during the hiring process.

The City Council also discussed getting the updated criteria for the City Manager position for Personnel to post on the TML website. They also discussed how to fit the monies for a search firm in the budget.

10. ADJOURN TO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

CITY COUNCIL TO GO INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTION:

- (a) *Section 551.074. Personnel Matters – to deliberate the employment terms of the Financial Assistant/Utility Clerk for the City of Bridge City.*

Mayor Rutledge opened the executive session at 7:02 p.m. to deliberate the employment terms of the Financial Assistant/Utility Clerk for the City of Bridge City.

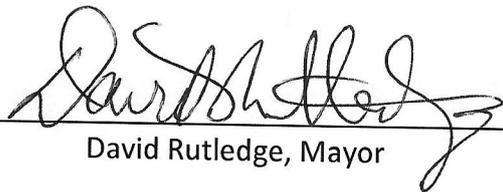
11. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- (a) *City Council will reconvene into open session for possible discussion and/or possible action regarding Item 5(a) above*

Mayor Rutledge reconvened the Council Meeting into open session at 7:35 p.m. No action was taken.

12. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

