

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 21, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 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 Tammi Fisette
Council Member Patty Collins
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Sherby Dixon

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

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
Police Captain Richard Teague
Police Investigator Matthew Wappler
Police Sergeant Jerry Daws
Police Sergeant Adam Granger
Police Officer Lari Navarro
Financial Assistant/Utility Clerk Brooke Leger

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

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the agenda, 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, Fisette, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kenneth Prosperie
819 Sunnyside

"In 2018, our City Council voted to change the request procedure for citizens to get on the agenda to speak. This is under Section 17, Citizen requests for Placement of Items on the Agenda (Copy #1). In this section, it states: "The assigned City Council member, shall be the City's contact for the citizen, and shall insure that all available administrative remedies in the City have been exhausted."

When I filed a request form on July 25, 2022, (copy #2), no City Council person has ever contacted me about this request. There was zero communication with me, the citizen. The City did not abide by their own policy, and this process failed.

The policy of speaking 3 minutes during citizen's comments was upheld by the letter of the law, so I am finishing my last paragraph from the March 7th council meeting:

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 flow capacities of our drainage. We do not have to be genius to figure out our drainage problems, just observant, anytime a culvert is too small, bad grade, or damaged, this will cause ponding on the other side in our citizen's yard. We should always use the largest culvert that achieves the highest gallons per minute because the homeowner may want to add more culvert in the future. Culverts installed in the largest size and installed properly could make the difference between one of our citizen's homes being flooded or not.

In the past, we were told that the flooding at Texas Ave and 1442 was accepted as normal with an average rainfall because it had been going on for years. When my wife and I looked into the storm drains and found many of them totally stopped up, I called TXDOT through Austin, filed a complaint, and they cleaned them out. We all need to be observant to issues within the City, and work together to fix them. Our sealed sewer system on a normal, dry day has around 780,000 gallons passed through to our sewer plant. But on a rain event day, we have around 7 ½ million gallons. We need to smoke test our sealed sewer system to find the breaches that are allowing rain water to enter the sewer system. Before you seek growth within our City, our citizens need proper drainage, sealed sewer system, and enough clean water for every home.”

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

Interim City Manager Mike Lund

1. Sunnyside well – received a verbal report from the contractors and they said the water quality is really good, so the City would have the water quality similar to the well at Hwy. 408. The contractors will be doing work at the 260 Rachal well before they leave.
2. Library – the roof on the Library has been completed.
3. Director of Finance position – had 2 interviews and they were very promising and looking to have another one the beginning of next week and finalizing it.
4. Meter Reading System – the City was complete with Pedal Valve. The meters are reading at 98% in the City. He said the rest of the meters, Mike Die, Utility Superintendent and his crew would be able to keep up and fix the issues.

Miscellaneous City Staff:

Tod McDowell, Chief of Police

Chief McDowell said last week the Police Department received 5 rifles shields from a grant they applied for.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

None.

7. ORDINANCE

(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-04 suspending the rates proposed by CenterPoint’s Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (“GRIP”) filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 2, 2023*

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-04, 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. 2023-04 suspending the rates proposed by CenterPoint’s Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (“GRIP”) filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 2, 2023, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

8. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-13(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2023 tax year

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-13(R), in its entirety, adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2023 tax year.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-13(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2023 tax year, 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, Fissette, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes for the March 7, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting, 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, Fissette, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the Bill list for February 2023

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the Bill list for February 2023, 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, Fisetto, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve opening the Bridge City Police Association Contract to discuss Article VII, Section 6. Qualifications for New Applicants

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve opening the Bridge City Police Association Contract to discuss Article VII, Section 6. Qualifications for New Applicants, seconded by Council Member Fisetto.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint the City Collective Bargaining Committee for the 2023-2024 Bridge City Police Association contract negotiations

Council Member Collins made a motion to discuss appointing the City Collective Bargaining Committee for the 2023-2024 Bridge City Police Association contract negotiations, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

After discussion, Council Member Collins amended the motion to appoint Council Member Roccaforte and Council Member Dixon to the City Collective Bargaining Committee for the 2023-2024 Bridge City Police Association contract negotiations, seconded by Council Member Fisetto.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(e) Consideration and possible action to determine the path forward for the City Manager search process

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to discuss the path forward for the City Manager search process, seconded by Council Member Collins.

After discussion Council Member Gauthier amended the motion to approve a 30 day time period on search sites and a \$3,000 cap of advertising, 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, Fissette, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

