

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
May 2, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 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 Sherby Dixon

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Terri Gauthier

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
Personnel/Purchasing Kim Tucker
Public Works Director/Interim City Manager Mike Lund
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Assistant Police Chief Robert Bergeron
Community Development Coordinator Natalie Pruitt
Senior Utility Clerk Erin Smith
Finance Assistant/Utility Clerk Brooke Leger

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member 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 THE AGENDA

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

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, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier.

5. STUDENT RECOGNITION

(a) *Recognizing a Bridge City student for her accomplishments*

Mayor Rutledge recognized Morgan Louvier for setting a new high school record in pole vaulting of 11'06".

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Peggy Prosperie
819 Sunnyside

Ms. Prosperie said "the City Council was discussing food trucks last week and I did bring up the concern for the restaurants here on Texas Avenue in Bridge City. They are brick and mortar that need the work, but another concern, a major concern I thought of was attracting food trucks and attracting contractors over at the park where the children play. That is why we got the park and the water park is for the children and we don't know what kind of people the contractors will be. So that's a concern. And y'all brought up a walking track on the levee, we live two blocks away, so we see a lot of people that walk. A lot of people walk their dogs. The majority of them that walk, walk their dogs and if it is asphalt, I don't know if y'all grew up walking barefooted on asphalt, it is awfully hot. So, I would say y'all might want to leave it grass, the way it is and just cut it a little further. I talked to somebody that, she walks three or four sometimes five times a day on the levee, she walks her dog, and her main concern is keeping the grass cut down as far down the levee as possible, because she is concerned about snakes. So thank y'all."

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) *City Manager*

Interim City Manager Mike Lund

1. Farmer's Market – would begin this weekend and they would be set up behind the Senior Citizen building. They will have about 20 vendors and will have a DJ, so it will be a different set up.

2. Code Enforcement report – Justin has been working on the following list of properties:
 - 1001 Rebecca - has been completed.
 - 269 Bower - the mobile home by the Middle School, removed two more junk vehicles from their lot. It is ongoing but looking a lot better.
 - 300 Elizabeth – he has been working on this address and the house is now locked up. He has not been able to get in contact with any of the owners.
 - 985 Highland Dr. – he has been cleaning it up and the Thayer family has been working with him. They would be doing more of the garage and yard work.
 - 930 Highland Dr. – he continues to work on it with Mr. Ferris and Mr. Woodard. He was trying to get the fence repaired.
 - 350 East Roundbunch – he had put in a call to the owners regarding high grass at this location.
 - 390 Locust – he had put in a call to the owners regarding high grass at this location.
 - 180 S. John – he had spoken with the owners, and they assured him they would get the grass cut and kept it cut.
 - 240 Russell – the owner is not doing anything, so the City would mow it. The City would send him a bill and then moving forward he would go to court.

(b) City Council

Council Member Tammi Fiset said a citizen came to her on Sunday about the Highland property, they were very thankful. They were very thankful for what has been going on at that house. Council Member Fiset thanked Mr. Lund.

Council Member Patty Collins said she did not know if the Council had seen the article in the Orange Leader about healing Orange County landscape efforts began following some of the hurricanes. She said she would share it and it is about getting trees replanted for people who lost them during the hurricanes. There is a disaster group to Keep America Beautiful, Keep Orange County Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful and were launching Orange County retreat in an effort to heal the landscaping of Orange County. She said she thought that would be something the City could promote for our citizens. She said it would be for anyone that may have lost trees and they could sign up to receive trees to replace them.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. Mayor Rutledge presented Council Member Fiset a statue for appreciation of her time served as a Council Member in Place 3. Council Member Fiset would not be attending her last meeting as she had a school to attend.

8. ORDINANCE

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-06 authorizing the settlement of the proposed rate increase of ETI; finding that the meeting complies with the open meetings act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; and declaring an effective date**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-06, 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 2023-06 authorizing the settlement of the proposed rate increase of ETI; finding that the meeting complies with the open meetings act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; and declaring an effective date, 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, Fiset, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier.

9. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to accept the Selection Review Committee's recommendation to approve Resolution No. 2023-15(R) to award LJA Engineering to provide pre-award and post-award engineering services, if awarded, in conjunction with applications for funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Post-Fire Fiscal Year 2022

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-15(R), in its entirety, to award LJA Engineering to provide pre-award and post-award engineering services.

Council Member Collins made a motion to accept the Selection Review Committee's recommendation to approve Resolution No. 2023-15(R) to award LJA Engineering to provide pre-award and post-award engineering services, 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, Fiset, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the April 18, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 18, 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, Fissette, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve budget amendment 2023-06 in the amount of \$59,082 for FEMA requesting reimbursement of the proceeds that were advanced to the City of Bridge City for repairs at the Bridge City Little League field during Hurricane Ike

Council Member Collins made a motion to consider and take possible action to approve budget amendment 2023-06 in the amount of \$59,082, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

After discussion, Council Member Collins amended the motion to approve budget amendment 2023-06 in the amount of \$59,082 for FEMA reimbursement for funds that were advanced to the City of Bridge City for repairs at the Bridge City Little League field during Hurricane Ike, 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, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Gauthier.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. 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 551.071 - Consultations with Attorney - to discuss pending litigation pending litigation

Mayor Rutledge then asked the audience to leave the council chambers while the Council went into Closed Executive Session.

The City Council adjourned into closed executive session at 6:23 p.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding pending litigation.

12. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- (a) *City Council will reconvene into open session for possible discussion and/or possible action regarding Item 11(a) above*

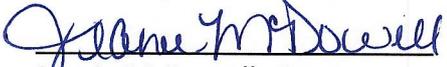
Mayor Rutledge reconvened the Council Meeting into open session at 6:46 p.m. No action was taken.

13. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary