

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

**\*OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER\***  
**\*\*CHANGE IN APPOINTMENT\*\***

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

May 16, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 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 Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Mike Reed  
Council Member Bryant Champagne (Incoming)  
Council Member Patty Collins  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** Council Member Tammi Fiset (Outgoing)

#### CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Secretary Jeanie McDowell  
City Attorney Paul Fukuda  
Finance Director Karen Morgan  
Chief Tod McDowell  
Interim City Manager/Public Works Director Mike Lund  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die  
Municipal Court Judge Bill Dixon  
Community Development Coordinator Natalie Pruitt  
Senior Utility Clerk Erin Smith

#### 2. INVOCATION

---

Following the invocation given by Council Member 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 Roccaforte made a motion to approve the agenda, 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 Fisetete.

#### **5. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION**

---

**(a) Proclamation declaring May 2023 as “Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month” in the City of Bridge City**

Mayor Rutledge presented the proclamation declaring May 2023 as “Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month” to the motorcyclists who attended the meeting. They thanked the council for the proclamation and testified how important it was for motorists to watch for motorcycles on the road. They also thanked the Council for participating in 2023 to share the road campaign, for the proclamation and for urging the citizens to give motorcyclist the same respect and right of way as any other vehicle deserves.

#### **6. CANVASS RESULTS OF THE MAY 6, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

*(EL ESCRUTINIO DE LOS RESULTADOS DE LA ELECCIÓN GENERAL DEL 6 DE MAYO DEL 2023)*

---

**(a) Council to canvass the results of the Bridge City General Election held on May 6, 2023**

*(El Concilio escrutinia los resultados de la Elección del 6 de mayo del 2023)*

Mayor Rutledge passed out the May 6, 2023 Bridge City General Election canvass and the official results for Council to review.

#### **7. ELECTION RESOLUTION**

*(RESOLUCION DE ELECCIÓN)*

---

**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-16(R) declaring the results of the May 6, 2023 City of Bridge City General Election for Council Members – Places 1, 3, and 5**

*(Consideración y posible acción para aprobar la Resolución No. 2023-16 (R) que declara los resultados de las elecciones generales de la ciudad de Bridge City del 6 de mayo de 2023 para los miembros del Consejo – Lugares 1, 3 y 5)*

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-16(R), in its entirety, declaring the results of the May 6, 2023 City of Bridge City General Election.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2023-16(R) declaring the results of the May 6, 2023 City of Bridge City General Election, 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 Fisetete.

**8. CONDUCT CEREMONIES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*(EL REALIZO DE CEREMONIAS A LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONCILIO)*

---

**(a) Presentation of Certificate of Election to the Council Members - Places 1, 3, and 5**

*(Presentación del Certificado de Elección a los Miembros del Consejo - Lugares 1, 3 y 5)*

Mayor Rutledge read and presented the certificate of election to Council Member Aaron Roccaforte, Place 1; Council Member Bryant Champagne, Place 3; and Council Member Terri Gauthier, Place 5, along with his congratulations to everyone.

**(b) Oaths of office:**

**Council Member, Place 1**

**Council Member, Place 3**

**Council Member, Place 5**

*(Juramentos de cargo:*

*Concejal, Lugar 1*

*Concejal, Lugar 3*

*Concejal, Lugar 5)*

Judge Bill Dixon administered the oaths of office to Aaron Roccaforte, Place 1; Bryant Champagne, Place 3; and Terri Gauthier, Place 5. The audience acknowledged the newly sworn-in council members with their applause.

**(c) Newly elected officers seated on Council**

*(Oficiales recién elegidos asentados en el Concilio)*

The newly elected officers took their seats on Council. Mayor Rutledge said "Welcome" to Council Member Champagne and "Welcome Back" to Council Member Roccaforte and Council Member Gauthier.

**(d) Recognition of outgoing Council Members**  
(Reconocimiento de Miembros del Concilio salientes)

Mayor Rutledge recognized Tammi Fisette as an outgoing Council Member, Place 3. Ms. Fisette was not able to attend the meeting. He thanked Ms. Fisette for her eight years of service. She served faithfully and he could not say thank you enough for what she has done for the council and city.

**9. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

---

Kenneth Prosperie  
819 Sunnyside

Mr. Prosperie said, "I just wanted to make sure, I have been sending emails back from 2021 to the Mayor and Council and got with Terri, Mike Lund, and Mike Die trying to figure out our sewer problems. Looks like all we did is move it down the road umm we are being inundated with water from breaches in our sewer system. There is gotta be a major leak. I just want to make sure y'all are getting these emails. I have no idea when I send them nobody ever responds, nobody ever says gotcha, hey yeah, or whatever. So, I want to make sure y'all get them and see them. So I appreciate it, thank y'all. Congratulations buddy."

**10. REPORTS & COMMENTS**

---

**(a) City Manager**

**Interim City Manager/Public Works Director Mike Lund** had the following report for Council:

Sunnyside Well – received the bids for Part 2 and the engineers are in the process of going over the numbers of the filtration system. He said the City should have the recommendation from the engineers by the next meeting.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Trahan has been keeping in contact with a lot of the citizens and the house on Highland is now resolved, the fences have been repaired. Mr. Trahan has also contacted the homeowner on Elizabeth Street, and he said they agreed that weather permitting it would be cleaned up by the upcoming weekend.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Aaron Roccaforte** said he would like to say thank you to the citizens and the voters for electing him and allowing him to hold this office.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed** said he would like to congratulate the newest addition and he looked forward to working with him.

**Council Member Champagne** said he would like to say thank you to everyone for voting and he appreciates their participation in the democratic process. He looks forward to serving the citizens of Bridge City and he hopes he does them justice.

**Council Member Patty Collins** said welcome Mr. Champagne and congratulations Aaron and Terri again and she looks forward to continuing their work.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** said she would like to welcome Bryant to the Council and looks forward to serving with him, getting to know him and learning the things he could contribute to city decisions. She said she was very honored and feels blessed to continue in this position and able to be part of the leadership of such a great city. She said she thanked the citizens and the council for their relationship and the projects they work on together. She said she appreciates everything everyone puts into it.

**Council Member Sherby Dixon** said thank you to Aaron and Terri for their continued service on the Council. He congratulated Bryant and said he looked forward to working with him.

**(c) City Staff**

**Karen Morgan:**

She said the City received the Moody Bond Rating and the City went from a BAA1 stable to a A3 with no outlook which is a good rating. She also said the Finance Committee reviewed the monthly bills and their questions were answered. She said the auditor would begin next week. She said she emailed everyone, except for Council Member Champagne because she was not sure if his email was working, the financial statements through April. She also said the Department Heads are all working on their budgets.

**Paul Fukuda:**

He said he wanted to congratulate Aaron, Bryant and Terri and looks forward to serving with them, particularly Bryant who is new. He said since Ms. Morgan has given her report, he tells her privately, but now is a good time to tell her publicly that he thanks her so much for coming back and helping the city and probably needs to say that every council meeting.

**(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:**

1. Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Beaumont will be a free legal advice clinic for Veterans and spouses of deceased veterans. It will be hosted by the Jefferson County Bar Association, so if you know of any veteran that would like some free legal advice, please make them aware of this information.
2. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Gulf Coast Protection District will be having a virtual meeting to discuss the status of the levy project. Commissioner Roccaforte was asked to speak on this, and he said it would be basically the same thing they did out here, for 3 nights. They did one virtually 6 months ago, but it was at 10:00 a.m. and they had a low attendance. The next will be at 6:00 p.m. He said to register go to the S2G website through the Army Corp of Engineers, it would be advertised. He said the City would put it on their website and Facebook page. It would also be on the Orange County website and the Drainage District's website.

They would go through everything going on since it started and particularly the updates. They would show where it is now and show the parts that are set in stone and all the parts that are not set in stone, yet. He said there would be a question and answer session at the end of the virtual meeting. The meeting will be on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Rutledge encouraged the City Council to put it on their personal Facebook page to get the information out to the citizens.

## **11. RESOLUTIONS**

---

**(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-17(R) reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy***

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2023-17(R), in its entirety, to review/amend the City of Bridge City, Texas Investment Policy.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-17 reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

## **12. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

---

**(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:***  
***May 2, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting***  
***May 3, 2023 City Council Special Meeting***  
***May 9, 2023 City Council Special Meeting***

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the May 2, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting minutes, May 3, 2023 City Council Special Meeting minutes, and May 9, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of April 2023**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the City bills for the month of April 2023, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to appoint new Mayor Pro-Tem to the City Council, as required by the City Charter, Section 3.05**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to reappoint Place 2, Mike Reed as Mayor Pro-tem, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

With no other nominations or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Liaison to the City Planning and Zoning Commission**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to reappoint Place 6, Sherby Dixon as the City Council Liaison to the City Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

With no other nomination or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**13. ADJOURN**

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:28p.m.

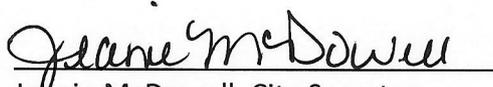
---



David Rutledge, Mayor

---

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

---