

<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> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member, Place 2</i>		<b>TERRI GAUTHIER</b> <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
<b>BRYANT CHAMPAGNE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>SHERBY DIXON</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**  
**June 6, 2023**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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Mayor David Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor David Rutledge  
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Patty Collins  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:** Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed  
Council Member Bryant Champagne

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**2. INVOCATION**

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Following the invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

**3. PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG**

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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**

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Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

#### **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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Christina Johnson  
1347 Dogwood Street

Ms. Johnson said she has been a resident of Bridge City for the past 5 years. She said this was her first city council meeting to attend. She said apologized and she would be a better citizen. She said she noticed there were only seven council members and the problem she often hears of people complaining about is the park. She said she had an idea and would like to bring it to the table. She said with the population of over 9,000 and growing, they have outgrown the park. She gave statistics on the kids in the Bridge City community as follows: 780 students in elementary school and 677 in intermediate school. That is roughly 1,450 students just between 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Pre-K. She said there is a need for a bigger park. She said she believed the Council could capitalize on the opportunities around them to help grow the community with the existing park. She said the Council could ask for sponsorships or partnerships and get donations to make improvements or expand the existing park just as the neighboring communities have done because they have experienced the growth that Bridge City is experiencing. She brought up the idea of repurposing land from Ike buyout grants, spaces that are considered "green space" for additional parks in the community. She said the youth sports were having trouble finding places to hold practices. She said the lots could be repurposed for something that would be helpful and meaningful. She said a park, a basketball court, and walking trails were things she had seen people say they would like to see in the Bridge City area. She said in discussion with neighboring community leaders she was informed of master park grants that were available for projects like this. But she also believes they could easily accomplish this with sponsorships and partnerships. She said with the amount of growth around us, she thinks the City is very well positioned for both grants and private funding she would like to ask if the City could add this topic to an upcoming meeting for further discussion and she would also like to offer her time and support for pulling resources to bring this idea to life.

#### **6. REPORTS & COMMENTS**

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**(a) City Manager**

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

1. Sunnyside well – planning a pre-construction meeting next week.
2. Suncrest – the bore began yesterday and working on sewer today for the Entergy project. Both of them together were right at 7,000 feet just on Suncrest and does not include the loop from Susan to Roundbunch.
3. Manholes – rehabs scheduled on Wise and Osborne.
4. Permits – in the month of May there were 60 total permits issued. The permits included plumbing, electrical, pools, new construction, commercial construction, etc.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** said she attended the Regional Planning meeting this past month and some of the highlights of the meeting were State Representatives talked to them about the Texas Regional Flood Plan, the funds that are being allocated to all the areas around the Neches and Sabine Rivers that are doing flood mitigation. She said their key objectives are to collect data from the areas that are at risk and recommendations for action. She said she knew they had a regional flood and drainage mitigation board, and they would be reaching out to and talking to cities to make sure our area gets some of the funds. She said they extended the deadlines of the State and Federal funds.

**(c) City Staff**

**Paul Fukuda:**

He said he would be out of the office for training all of next week and would be available by phone.

**Commissioner Roccaforte:**

He said the Julie Rogers Gift of Life program would be giving free health screenings for men Saturday, June 10, at the campus of the former Baptist hospital on Strickland Drive.

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

1. He told Ms. Johnson a committee was being formed and they would need people to help them. He said they were in the process of getting the paperwork approved for a 501(c)3 to help with the financing of donations and sponsorships. He said they had already acquired usage of the land from the Sabine River Authority on the canal. He said they would be building a walking track on the canal. He said they were close to getting a deal done for another piece of property adjacent to the canal on the east side of town. He said they were working on incorporating all of that into the park. He asked her if she would like to be a part of the committee and she agreed.

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:**  
**May 16, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting**  
**May 22, 2023 City Council Special Meeting**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the May 16, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting minutes, and May 22, 2023 City Council Special Meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to appoint a Council Member to serve as the City Liaison on the Fire Department's Pension Committee**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to reappoint Council Member Roccaforte to serve as the City Liaison on the Fire Department's Pension Committee, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to appoint a Council Member to serve as the City Liaison on the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**

Council Member Collins made a motion to reappoint Mayor Pro-Tem Reed to serve as the City Liaison on the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint a Council Member as City Council representative to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to reappoint Council Member Terri Gauthier as the City Council Representative to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

**(e) Consideration and possible action to approve hiring an executive recruitment company to assist with the search of a new City Manager**

Council Member Collins made a motion for consideration and take possible action for approval to hire an executive recruitment company to assist with the search for a new City Manager, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

After discussion, the Council decided to have a workshop to have the executive recruitment companies tell them about their company.

No action was taken.

**(f) Consideration and possible action to approve budget amendment 2023-07 in the amount of \$21,760 for the cost of closing out the account with Iron Mountain and the retrieval of City records**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve budget amendment 2023-07 in the amount of \$21,760 for the cost of closing out the account with Iron Mountain and the retrieval of City records, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Reed and Council Member Champagne.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **8. 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 evaluate the Senior Utility Clerk’s job duties and job performance**

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 6:26 p.m. to evaluate the Senior Utility Clerk’s job duties and job performance.

**9. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

- (a) **City Council will reconvene into open session for possible discussion and/or possible action regarding compensation of the Senior Utility Clerk**

Mayor Rutledge reconvened the Council Meeting into open session at 6:53 p.m. No action was taken.

- (b) **Consideration and possible action to rename the Senior Utility Clerk’s position**

No action was taken.

**WORKSHOP SESSION**

**10. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

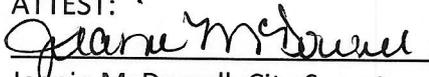
- (a) **Open Meeting Act training for the City Council**

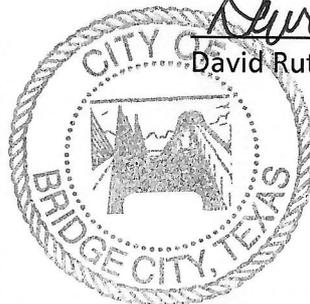
The Mayor and City Council watched a video on the Open Meetings Act. The Council Members were presented with a certificate of completion after the video was completed.

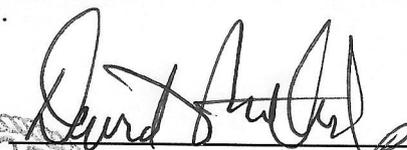
**11. ADJOURN**

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 7:28p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary



  
David Rutledge, Mayor