

<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**  
**September 5, 2023**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 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  
Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed  
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Bryant Champagne  
Council Member Patty Collins  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

**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

**2. INVOCATION**

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Following the invocation given by Council Member Bryant Champagne.

**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 Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

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- (a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2023 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas, levied as follows:

\$0.14414 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)

\$0.32412 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate

\$0.46826 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate

After reading Agenda Item 5(a) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Rutledge asked twice if there were any questions or comments on the ad valorem tax rate.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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None.

**7. 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 – the contractors began mobilization at the site, but unfortunately, they are waiting on materials. They would start the groundwork, such as fences, concrete, etc.
2. Water usage – the City is struggling with water usage and is now around 70%. Once the water usage gets to 75%, the City will be going to Stage 2.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Patty Collins** said she would like to thank the council and staff for all the calls, emails, texts, gorgeous flowers, the beautiful cross and everything that was done during this difficult time. She said it was nice to know you have friends sitting up here with you every other week, out there and on this staff. Again, thank you.

**(c) City Staff**

**Kim Tucker, Director of Personnel/Purchasing:**

Ms. Tucker informed Mayor and Council that John with Slavin said they have received ten letters of interest and resumes. He said they were pleased with the progress so far. They were making so much progress and looked forward to the deadline for the first review on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

1. He said please remind everyone, the City would still be in the voluntary stage, please refrain from using water unless it is necessary. He said he saw a good tip from the Master Gardener: When drawing your shower, put a five gallon bucket in the shower and catch that water, set it aside. After finished with your shower, take it outside and water your plants or trees with the collected water.

**8. ORDINANCE**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-09 amending Ordinance 2019-10 changing wording to include all customers receiving water and sewer services**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-09, 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. 2023-09 amending Ordinance 2019-10 changing wording to include all customers receiving water and sewer services, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-10 adopting and levying municipal ad valorem taxes for the 2023 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas as follows:**

***\$0.14414 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)***

***\$0.32412 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate***

***\$0.46826 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate***

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-10, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a total tax rate of \$0.46826, which is effectively a 6.90 percent increase in the calculated No New Revenue tax rate. The tax rate is \$0.32412 for maintenance and operations and 0.14414 for debt service with a total of \$0.46826 per \$100 valuation. This rate is a 2.91% decrease from last years adopted rate." Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.  
Votes were as follows for Sections A and B:

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**SECTION "A"**

**Ayes:**

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Reed	Yes
Council Member Roccaforte	Yes
Council Member Champagne	Yes
Council Member Collins	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Dixon	Yes

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**SECTION "B"**

**Ayes:**

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Reed	Yes
Council Member Roccaforte	Yes
Council Member Champagne	Yes
Council Member Collins	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes
Council Member Dixon	Yes

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-11 amending Ordinance No. 90-2 including Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" of Ordinance Nos. 03-04, 05-07, 2013-04, 2015-09, 2018-16 and 2021-11 by increasing sewer, water, and garbage rates**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-11, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-11 amending Ordinance No. 90-2 including Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" of Ordinance Nos. 03-04, 05-07, 2013-04, 2015-09, 2018-16 and 2021-11 by increasing sewer, water, and garbage rates, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

- (d) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-12 amending Ordinance 93-12 by omitting the subsections of the Tax Code and changing the rate to the maximum allowable rate**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2023-12, 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. 2023-12 amending Ordinance 93-12 by omitting the subsections of the Tax Code and changing the rate to the maximum allowable rate, 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.

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

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the August 15, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the August 15, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting minutes, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.  
**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to award bid for the City of Bridge City bank depository agreement to Bridge City Bank for the next 5 years (10/01/2023-09/30/2028)**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to award the bid for the City of Bridge City bank depository agreement to Bridge City Bank for the next 5 years, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

After 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 approve a HOT TAX application for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, Museum and Visitor's Center for 30% operational budget, 30% payroll and other expenses in the total amount of \$50,000**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve a HOT TAX application for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, Museum and Visitor's Center for 30% operational budget, 30% Payroll and other expenses in the total amount of \$50,000, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

City Attorney Fukuda told Mayor and Council he would like to research the law to make certain it included payroll. He suggested the Council table this item until the next meeting.

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to lay on the table the consideration and possible action to approve a HOT TAX application for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, Museum and Visitor's Center for 30% operational budget, 30% payroll and other expenses in the total amount of \$50,000, 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.

**WORKSHOP**

**10. WORKSHOP SESSION - DISCUSSION ONLY**

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**(a) Cybersecurity Training for the City Council**

The City Council watched a video on cybersecurity and took a test.

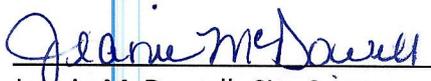
**11. ADJOURN**

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Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

  
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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

