

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>
BRYANT CHAMPAGNE <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		SHERBY DIXON <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
August 15, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 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 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

Following the invocation given by City Attorney 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 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

“This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$190,258 or 8.27%, and of that amount \$40,274 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

After reading Agenda Item 5(a) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. Mayor Rutledge asked twice if there were any questions or comments on this budget.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

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

1. Sunnyside Well – the contractors would get started in about three weeks after receiving the supplies.
2. 118 Robin - has been approved and the City would be getting the utilities disconnected. After the utilities are disconnected it would be demolished.

(b) City Council

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte said he would like to send out his thoughts and prayers to the Collins family and the Dixon family.

Council Member Bryant Champagne said he would like to report on the committee meeting for the food truck ordinance. He said they met and had a brainstorming session and narrowed down the reference cities they would use around this area that would be the closest fit to what the city council is looking for. He said the committee also identified several target areas or milestones they would meet for the city. He said they would reconvene the next week and the first meeting in October they should have a draft of an ordinance for the City Council to look at.

Council Member Patty Collins said she would like to thank everyone for the calls and the text messages to check on the family for the last 40 days. She said it meant the world to her and her family. She said the finance committee did not meet this week, but they reviewed the bills. She said everything was in line.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she would like to send her love and prayers to the Collins family and Dixon family.

(c) City Staff

Chief of Police Tod McDowell:

Chief McDowell informed the Mayor and City Council a new police officer began employment on Monday, August 14, 2023.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He said the City of Bridge City was asking the citizens of the city to voluntarily reduce their water usage. He said they would like the citizens to go to the City's Stage 1 response which includes limiting the amount of irrigation that applies to their landscape areas, which are flower beds, bushes, etc. He said if the citizen's street address ends in an even number 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 please refrain from watering every day. He said you can water on Sundays and Thursdays only. He said if the citizen's street address ends in an odd number water on Saturdays and Wednesdays only. He said it is best for the citizen's vegetation and best for the city's water supply if you water between midnight and 10 a.m. or 8 p.m. to midnight on their designated days.

8. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-20(R) adopting the proposed 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-20(R) adopting the proposed 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

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.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-21(R) nominating Philip Welch as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-21(R) nominating Philip Welch as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District, 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

**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
July 31, 2023 City Council Special Meeting
August 1, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the July 31, 2023 City Council Special Meeting minutes, August 1, 2023 City Council Regular 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 July 2023

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve City bills for the month of July 2023, 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 place a proposal to adopt an ad valorem tax rate on the agenda for Tuesday, September 5, 2023, for the 2023 tax year of \$0.46826 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Consisting of a Debt rate of \$0.14414 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.32412)

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion to place a proposal to adopt tax rate in the amount of \$0.46826 on the agenda for Tuesday, September 5, 2023. This rate consists of a Maintenance & Operations rate of \$0.32412 and a Debt rate of \$0.14414. This rate is a 6.90% increase over the calculated No New Revenue Rate and a 2.91% decrease from last years adopted rate, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

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
Mayor Rutledge	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

WORKSHOP

10. WORKSHOP SESSION - DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Discussion of a draft of the recruitment brochure for the City Manager position

Slavin Management Consultants gave the Mayor and City Council a brochure to proof.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the proof and made the final changes for the brochure to send out to recruit a new city manager.

Page 2 - Item 1

Capitalize "s" Southeast Texas capitalized and throughout the brochure

Page 2 - Item 2

Remove Highway and capitalize Bridge and change Port Arthur to Jefferson County in the following sentence:

"According to the Texas State Historical Society, the community was originally named Prairie View for its location on the coastal prairie but, after construction of the Rainbow Highway Rainbow Bridge over the Neches River linking Orange County to Port Arthur, Jefferson County the name was changed to Bridge City."

Page 2 - Item 3

Remove and replace the following sentence:

REMOVE SENTENCE: "Access to Bridge City is over several bridges that crosses the Neches River connecting Port Arthur on the southwest bank of the river."

REPLACE WITH: "Access to Bridge City is over several bridges that cross Cow Bayou, connecting to Orange on the North, and the Neches River connecting to Port Arthur to the South."

Page 2 - Item 4

All historical records say the bridge has 176 feet of clearance. Change 177 to 176:

"The bridge is 233 feet tall and has a clearance of 177 176 feet."

Page 3 - Item 5

Remove and replace the following sentence:

REMOVE SENTENCE: "The current construction of a \$6 Billion Chevron-Phillips Chemical ethylene plant on the northern edge of the City.

REPLACE WITH: "The current construction of an \$8.5 Billion Golden Triangle Polymers plant a joint venture between Chevron-Phillips Chemical Company and an indirect subsidiary of QatarEnergy.

Page 3 - Item 6

Remove and replace the following sentence, also consider adding Rice University and/or the University of Houston:

REMOVE SENTENCE: "Others in a very close proximity include Lone Star College and Lamar State College Port Arthur."

REPLACE WITH: "Others in a very close proximity include Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar University Beaumont, and Lamar State College Port Arthur."

Page 3 - Item 7

Remove "to the area through long time generations, and replace with "strong generational" in the following sentence:

"Many of the community's residents enjoy a **strong generational** connection ~~to the area through long time generations~~ with a support network that is evident with their participation in many organizations."

Page 3 – Item 8

Add sentence to the following paragraph:

"Per the Charter, the Mayor shall be held responsible to the City Council for execution of the laws and the administration of the government of the city. The Mayor presides over Council meetings, is ceremonial head of the government and has all the same responsibilities, privileges, and authority as a Council member. The Mayor participates and votes as a member of Council but does not have veto authority."

Page 4 – Item 9

Space after Bryant Champagne's name in the text box.

Page 4 – Item 10

Omit a word in the following sentence:

"The City also operates a highly popular community and senior citizen centers."

Page 4 – Item 11

Make the following corrections in the following sentence:

"Fire service is provided through an Emergency Services District with a station located within the City, ~~but and~~ the City ~~does~~ contributes to the Fireman's ~~District~~ retirement fund."

Page 5 – Item 12

Replace the word "issue" with "review"

"The City is fiscally strong and has been several years of credit rating increases with an A3 rating on its most recent bond ~~issue~~ **review.**"

Page 5 – Item 13

Put a space after the comma in the heading "ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES"

Page 5 – Item 14

Change "State Route 87" to "State Highway 87"

“Developing a strategy for traffic impacts, notably on State **Route Highway** 87 where new investment is creating unique opportunities and challenges.”

Page 5 – Item 15

Take out “or 7” in the following sentence:

“Requires a combination of education and experience equivalent to attainment of an MPA or MBA; with an emphasis in municipal finance, emergency management and communication skills as applicable and at least 5 **or 7** years of increasingly responsible local government management experience gained in the community or other public agency is preferred.”

Page 5 – Item 16

Remove “has” out of the following and replace “but” with “however” in the following sentence:

“Experience in Texas is not a prerequisite, **however but has** management and leadership development skills are desired.”

Page 6 – Item 17

Under *Additional notable qualities to include*; Remove “including packet delivery” from the following sentence:

“Committed to implementing proactive communications with the City Council, **including packet delivery** and emerging issues updates.”

Page 7 – Item 18

Changed the map to show schools, city buildings, chamber of commerce, and park only.

Page 7 – Item 19

PC: Capitalize “style” in the title

“*Leadership* **style** “*Style*” With Staff”

Page 8 – Item 20

Reword the following sentence:

REMOVE SENTENCE: “The City provides excellent employee benefits which include generous paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription drug, a flexible spending account, life/AD&D, long term disability, retirement benefits, professional development and more.”

REPLACE WITH: “The City provides excellent employee benefits which include paid time off, medical, dental, prescription drug, life/AD&D, retirement benefits, and professional development. The City also offers employee paid supplemental plans such as vision, long term disability, and more.”

Page 9 – Item 21

Add date to the following sentence:

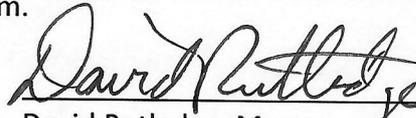
“The first review of application is scheduled for [redacted], 2023.”

Would like to see the first review of applications scheduled for September.

“The first review of application is scheduled for **September**, 2023.”

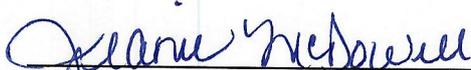
9. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

