

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 AND SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
November 7, 2023

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 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 a.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
Chief of Police Tod McDowell
Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker
Interim Finance Director Karen Morgan
Finance Director Katrina Jones
Public Works Director/Interim City Manager 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 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.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager

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

1. Sunnyside well is still on track for February. Mr. Lund spoke with the contractors, they were pouring concrete and working on piping. He said the contractors were still waiting on materials, but they would be on schedule for February. Also, they would be working on the electrical while waiting for materials.
2. The City would start getting Holly Lane, Wisteria, and Schoolview streets reworked as soon as the asphalt plant reopens.

(b) City Council

Council Member Bryant Champagne said he would like to thank the staff and employees for their participation in the process of the new city manager.

Council Member Patty Collins said she would also like to thank the employees and staff for their participation.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she would like to give the City Council an update on Christmas in the Park. She said the event could use more retail vendors. She said the event had 19 retail vendors and our goal was to have around 30. If the City Council could get the word out and if they knew anyone, please let them know the City event could use more retail vendors. She said the event had 5 to 6 food trucks that had signed up, but we could use a few more. She said the event would have two school choirs that would perform. She said it would be the high school choir and middle school choir and they would be working together to perform for thirty minutes. Also, Tiger Rock's Martial Arts would be performing. Mr. and Mrs. Santa would be there again this year and the City built a train and would be giving rides to the children.

Council Member Gauthier said on a different note, she gave each Council Member a pamphlet that the EDC gave out. She said they now have a Business Development Manager working with the Orange County EDC Director so they could branch out and do more of what our EDC would like to do for us. She said they are starting a new program they are calling BRE, which is Business Retention & Expansion Program. She said a couple of their goals is to help businesses retain growth and keep businesses in the community and provide assistance for businesses to expand by providing them sources if they are needing to expand, such as more property or financing for more equipment. Also helping businesses if they need financial assistance, such as giving them grant information that business owner may not be aware of. The program will be kicked off in December, but they would actually be visiting all businesses in January. She said they are very excited to help the community's existing businesses to help them expand and grow. She said the EDC Director is excited to come to the next few meetings to present the program to the City Council, since the City is a member of the EDC.

(c) City Staff

Karen Morgan, Interim Finance Director

The auditor would begin the audit on December 11, 2023.

Tod McDowell, Chief of Police

The police department conducted interviews on Monday and they would offer two certified officers from other departments, and one candidate would begin the next academy. He said the cadets would graduate on December 8, 2023.

Kirk Roccaforte, Precinct 3 Commissioner

The County is still under a burn ban. GCPD is meeting tomorrow at the Community Center.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He thanked the staff for giving up their weekend.

7. RESOLUTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2023-23(R) to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award the negotiation of a contract with Tidewater Professional Services, LLC for engineering services pertaining to Post-Award Phase 2 services, if awarded, of the City's DR-4432 HMGP Bridge City Marsh Stormwater Management grant through TDEM and authorizing the Mayor to execute said contract***

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-23(R) approving the recommendations of the Selection Review Committee to award the negotiation of a contract with Tidewater Professional Services, LLC for engineering services pertaining to Post-Award Phase 2 services, if awarded, of the City's DR-4432 HMGP Bridge City Marsh Stormwater Management grant through TDEM and authorizing the Mayor to execute said contract, 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 Resolution No. 2023-24(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 88 votes for the 2024 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-24(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 88 votes for the 2024 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors to Dr. Gina Mannio, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed.

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.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the October 17, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting, 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to enter into an agreement with Traylor & Associates for professional/administration services for the 2022 TDEM-HMGP/DR-4485 COVID 19 Pandemic project

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to enter into an agreement with Traylor & Associates for professional/administration services for the 2022 TDEM-HMGP/DR-4485 COVID 19 Pandemic project, 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.

(c) Consideration and possible action on potential rescheduling/cancellation of the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to cancel the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting, 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.

WORKSHOP

9. WORKSHOP SESSION – DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Discussion of Section 12 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy regarding procedures for the City to review, approve and place Council requests on the City of Bridge City - City Council Agenda

Council Member Gauthier said in 2018 the City Council amended the Decorum and Procedures Policy, because the focus at that time was to come up with a system for the citizens to be placed on the agenda. She said instead of putting their complaint on the agenda a council member would meet with the citizen personally to hopefully resolve the complaint. She said the focus was to better handle the citizens and have a personal rapport with them and try to take care of their issues before it was placed on the agenda. She said at the time they amended the policy, Section 12 stated if a council member wanted to put something on the agenda, that member wanting to put something on the agenda would have to have an agreement with one other city council member, or the mayor, or the city manager.

Mayor Rutledge said that it was 2 Council Members, or the Mayor, or the City Manager.

Council Member Gauthier said in 2018 the City Council changed it to the Mayor had to agree to put it on the agenda.

Mayor Rutledge said a Council Member and the Mayor would have to approve it or the City Manager. He said the Mayor would have to be in agreement with the City Council Member.

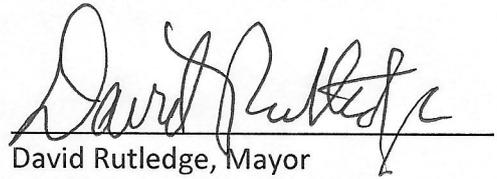
Council Member Gauthier said looking back at the change, she felt like it put a shadow on the Mayor in a sense because it looked like the Mayor has the authority to stop a City Council Member if he is not in

agreement with what the City Council Member may want to present. She said she knew that was not what they were thinking at the time. She said she just doesn't want to put a shadow on the Mayor where it would look like he could stop an elected official from putting something on the agenda. She said she would like to be able to speak for our citizens if there was a need to put something on the agenda. She said she would like to present it to the Council and to get back to where, she believes in an agreement because that validates what you're wanting to present and it is also a check and balance, she said she felt it shouldn't be on the Mayor to feel like he was the one that would have to approve it. She said she would like to see it go back to how it was originally stated.

After discussion of why the City Council felt it should be amended back to how it was originally stated, they asked to put Section 12 of the Decorum and Procedures Policy on the next regular scheduled council meeting.

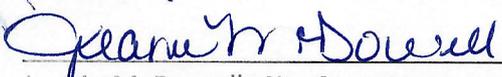
10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

