

<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 AND SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**  
**December 5, 2023**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, December 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 a.m.

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor David Rutledge  
Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed  
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

**ABSENT:**

Council Member Bryant Champagne  
Council Member Patty Collins

**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  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

**2. INVOCATION**

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Following the invocation given by Council Member Terri Gauthier.

**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 Mayor Pro-Tem Reed.

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

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

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None.

#### **6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:**

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##### **(a) City Manager**

**Utility Superintendent Mike Die** had the following report for Council:

1. He would like to thank the city staff who helped with decorating the Christmas float this year.
2. Sunnyside well is progressing and probably looking toward the end of spring for completion of the project. He will be taking some Bac T samples next week of the piping the contractors put in.
3. He said the roads were still going and Richard Harmon, Street & Drainage Superintendent would have the contractors clean up the rock that was left on the side of the roads.

##### **(b) City Council**

**Council Member Aaron Roccaforte** said he would like to thank the nice ladies for the parade float, and it went well. He said people loved the cups and may need to look at having them again next year.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Reed** said he would also like to express how much he appreciated the work that went into the float. He said the float was really nice and they had a lot of compliments on it.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** said she apologized that she had a previous engagement and could not attend the parade, but she heard all good things about the float. She said she told the EDC Director she presented the new program they were putting together for small businesses in Bridge City to the Council. She said the EDC Director would be attending the City Council meeting to speak to the Council at the first meeting in January to give them more information about the toolbox and what the EDC has to offer and what is available to the City.

**Council Member Sherby Dixon** said he would like to give a big thanks to all the ladies who worked hard and fast on the float and everyone else that was involved. He said he knew there were a lot of hands in it.

**(c) City Staff**

**Tod McDowell, Chief of Police**

He told the Mayor and Council he had two new officers that started employment on Monday. One of the officers came from Orange County Sheriff's Department and also worked at Port Neches Police Department and has seven years of experience. He said she has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and past military experience. He said the other officer came from Groves Police Department and also worked for Port Arthur Police Department and he has five years' experience in the military and had a tour in Afghanistan. He said he would obtain his associate degree in May.

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

1. He thanked the staff for all their work with the Christmas festivities.
2. Thursday, December 7, 2023 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 10:30 would be a webinar put on by the Texas Municipal League on Retail Trends for 2024. He said they have invited the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber put it out on their social media and also emailed an invite to the local merchants, who may be interested in listening to the webinar.

**7. ORDINANCE**

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- (a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2023-13 to authorizing the suspension of the effective date for an additional 90 days beyond the date proposed by Centerpoint with its statement of intent to increase rates; authorize the hiring of lawyers and rate experts; authorizing the City's participation requiring reimbursement of municipal rate case expenses; meeting complies with the open meetings act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; declaring an effective date***

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-13 authorizing the suspension of the effective date for an additional 90 days beyond the date proposed by Centerpoint with its statement of intent to increase rates; authorize the hiring of lawyers and rate experts; authorizing the City's participation requiring reimbursement of municipal rate case expenses; meeting complies with the open meetings act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; declaring an effective date, 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, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

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

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:**  
**November 4, 2023 City Council Special Meeting**  
**November 7, 2023 City Council Regular and Special Meeting**  
**November 20, 2023 City Council Special Meeting**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2023 City Council Special Meeting, November 7, 2023 City Council Regular and Special Meeting, November 20, 2023 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

- (b) Consideration and possible action approve the Bills List for the month of October 2023**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the Bills List for the month of October 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, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

- (c) Consideration and possible action to certify the 2023 City of Bridge City Current Tax Roll and 2023 Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector**

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion to certify the 2023 City of Bridge City Current Tax Roll and 2023

Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector, 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, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

**(d) Consideration and possible action to amend Section 12 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy to provide procedures for the City to review, approve and place Council requests on the City of Bridge City – City Council Agenda**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to amend Item 12 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy to read as items may be placed on the agenda either by the Mayor, the City Manager, the City Attorney, or a member of the City Council

This agenda item failed due to the lack of a second.

**(e) Consideration and possible action on potential rescheduling/cancellation of the December 19, 2023 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Reed made a motion to cancel the December 19, 2023 City Council Meeting, 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, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne and Council Member Collins.

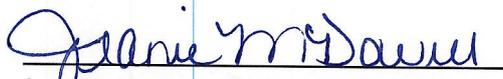
**9. ADJOURN**

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Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

  
David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

