

<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

February 20, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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 Bryant Champagne  
Council Member Patty Collins  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

#### **ABSENT:**

#### **CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Christopher Baker  
City Attorney Paul Fukuda  
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell  
Chief of Police Tod McDowell  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

### 2. INVOCATION

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Following the invocation given by Council Member Patty Collins.

### 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.

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. PROCLAMATIONS**

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**(a) Proclamation presented to Dr. Olson Dentistry in recognition for its "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"**

Mayor Rutledge read and presented to Dr. David Olson the Proclamation recognizing the "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" of Dr. Olson Dentistry.

**(b) Proclamation presented to Bill Nickum – State Farm Insurance Agency in recognition for its "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"**

Mayor Rutledge read and presented to Bill Nickum the Proclamation recognizing the "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" of Bill Nickum-State Farm Insurance Agency.

**(c) Proclamation presented to Elaine Hearn – Hearn Real Estate Agent in recognition for its "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"**

Mayor Rutledge read and presented to Elaine Hearn the Proclamation recognizing the "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" of Elaine Hearn Real Estate.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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None.

**8. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:**

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**(a) City Manager**

**Christopher Baker** had the following report for Council:

1. He said the electrician's on the Sunnyside well have completed their portion of the project and called for their final inspection. He said poles would be set and everything was underground, and they were moving along with the schedule. The chlorine building was set to be delivered this week or next week.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Aaron Roccaforte** said he would like to congratulate Bill Nickum, Dr. Olson, and Elaine Hearn for the 50<sup>th</sup> proclamation.

**Council Member Mike Reed** said he noticed in the packet a different layout and he really liked it. It answered a lot of questions before the meeting. He said it was appreciated.

**Council Member Patty Collins** said she was fortunate to speak to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade scouts at St. Paul Methodist Church. She said they needed a politician to speak to them and tell them about government. She talked to them about Bridge City and explained how local government works. Council Member Collins said they asked a lot of questions, but she was honored to speak with them.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** said the Council had a great presentation from Megan and Jessica from the EDC and they were continuing to make plans to do a presentation for the City's small business owners. She said the next Bridge City Chamber coffee is March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center and as soon as the coffee was over, they would like to put a presentation on for small business owners of Bridge City. She said word could start getting out what was available to the City's small business owners.

**(c) City Staff**

None.

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

None.

**8. RESOLUTIONS**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-05(R) appoint Christopher Baker to the Orange County Economic Development Corporation**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-05(R) appointing Christopher Baker to the Orange County Economic Development Corporation, 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 approve Resolution No. 2024-06(R) appoint Christopher Baker to the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-06(R) appointing Christopher Baker to the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, 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 the minutes of the February 6, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024 City Council Regular 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, Champagne, Collins, Gauthier, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action approve the bills list for the month of January 2024**

Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve the bills list for the month of January 2024, 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.

**(c) Consider recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on March 5, 2024, on a request from Megan Beard and Lisha Hernandez for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to C-2 (Second Commercial District) instead of the current zone of R-1 (Single Family Residential District) on property located on 1965 Miller Drive further described as Abst 6 Davis Tract 021 acres 2.089 (R10932)**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to call a joint public hearing on March 5, 2024, on a request from Megan Beard and Lisha Hernandez for a zone change from R-1 to C-2 on property located on 1965 Miller Drive further described as Abst 6 Davis Tract 021 acres 2.089 (R10932), 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 an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitoes within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2024**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitos within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2024, 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.

**(e) Presentation and consideration of the 2023 Racial Profiling Report by Bridge City Police Chief Tod McDowell**

Chief Tod McDowell presented the 2023 Racial Profiling Report. He said the State requires the report to be submitted yearly. He said the report specifies how many traffic stops and if there were any complaints from citizens while on those traffic stops. Chief McDowell said there were no complaints of people being racial profiled. He said last year there was a total of 4,415 stops and this year the police department had 4,512 stops which was an increase in traffic stops of 97 from last year. He said it was quite considerable since he had only half of his department for half the year. Chief McDowell said he would like to commend his officers, because they stood up when the department was low on officers.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept the 2023 Racial Profiling Report given by Police Chief Tod McDowell, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10. 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 551.071. Consultations with Attorney – discuss the status of litigation and claims involving Discovery Information Technologies, D&H Development LLC and arbitration with former officer Fielders***

Mayor Rutledge asked the audience to please leave the council chambers while the Council went into Closed Executive Session. He opened the executive session at 6:24 p.m. to discuss the status of litigation and claims involving Discovery Information Technologies, D&H Development LLC and arbitration with former officer Fielders.

**11. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

- (a) *City Council will reconvene into open session for possible discussion and/or possible action regarding Item 10(a) above.***

Mayor Rutledge reconvened the Council Meeting into open session at 7:01 p.m.

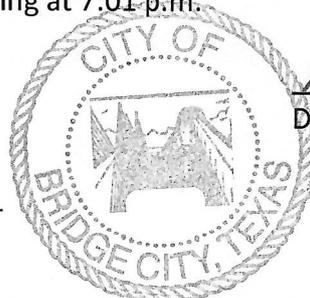
No action was taken.

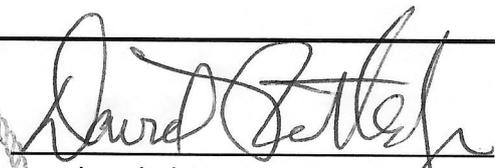
**9. ADJOURN**

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary



  
David Rutledge, Mayor