

AARON ROCCAFORTE <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i> 	PATTY COLLINS <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
GINA MANNINO <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		TERRI GAUTHIER <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/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
June 18, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 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 Terri Gauthier
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
Council Member Gina Mannino
Council Member Bryant Champagne
Council Member Patty Collins

ABSENT: Council Member Sherby Dixon

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Christopher Baker
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
Chief of Police Tod McDowell
Finance Director Katrina Jones
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 Collins.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

Christopher Baker

1. Shout out to the Public Works Department for the work they have been doing to make sure the drainage ditches and channels were as clean as they could be with all the rain the City has experienced. He showed a picture and said this was an example of the before and after which identified some blockages on some culverts going under Hwy 1442. He said City Crews worked with other agencies in order to get it cleaned up and the water flowing. He said one example was Mike Lund had been out on the tractor cleaning out ditches at Meadowlawn Street. He said the whole team deserves a lot of kudos.
2. He said at the request of the City Council, he reached out to TxDot regarding the drainage issue at Hwy 1442 and Texas Avenue by sending Bryce Broussard a formal letter asking him to look into the issue. He said he sent out crews and they popped the manhole lids and did an inspection as best as they could without a camera into those drainage systems. He said Bryce said the pipes do have silt in them on the bottom, but at this point in time it is not enough to have any significant restrictions, but there is dirt and debris in the pipes. He said what the City would do as properties redevelop on Texas Avenue, many of them have rock and dirt all the way up to the road and they were working with the property owners to concrete the drive aprons in order to prevent that stuff from washing out into the street. He said it was on TxDOT's maintenance list and they would be looking at it on a routine basis.
3. Just a reminder of the Red, White, and You Event coming up on June 28th - 29th. The Council will be judging the art at the Community Center on June 28th. The festival is on June 29th and gates open at 5:00 p.m.
4. Next week at the Texas Avenue and Bailey Street intersection Mike Die and team will be replacing a leaky water valve/water line. He said it would require outages in that area and the City would notify the affected property owners and it should only be for a couple of hours.

(b) City Council

Council Member Gina Mannino said she would like to thank the person that was posting the work the City was doing on Facebook. She said the community has responded positively to it. She said answers and knowledge was power.

Council Member Champagne asked if the information that was posted on Facebook was also placed on the City's website.

Mr. Baker asked which part.

Council Member Champagne said the updates.

Mr. Baker said no not yet.

Council Member Champagne asked if you don't use Facebook, you don't get the updates?

Mr. Baker said that is correct.

(c) City Staff

Mike Lund, Director of Public Works

Mr. Lund said he wanted to give updates on drainage and Mr. Baker had already touched on some things the Public Works Department has been doing. He said he knew people have seen them out and about. He said it was both departments, water/sewer and street/drainage has been helping one another out. He said a couple of week ago, the City had about seven inches of rain in about one and a half hours and roughly 90 structures had water in them. He said the City had citizens call in and report how much water they had and then the Public Works staff put some papers together and they accessed everything. He said they looked over it and they were a little more than half done going through the properties looking at the drainage in those areas. He said they found some issues such as mismatched culverts, ditches that weren't dug out and mowed very well, in one area someone had culvert their whole yard in and got a twelve inch culvert and stuck it in the fifteen inch and let it go. He said it did not work very well. He said they were finding bad areas and working hand in hand with the Drainage District. He said they were coming out and helping with the major outfall ditches. Mr. Lund said himself, Mike and Richard all got out and cleaned some of Meadowlawn Street and Dobbyn area. He said the Drainage District cleaned out the ditches by the AA building and they were working on a lot of other different areas. He said the guys said out of 90 homes there were about 53 they had inspected, and they would continue to do that and the other jobs that were called in. He said the slope mower is out trying to get the high ditches mowed. He said he wanted the City Council to be aware, Public Works had a list, and they were talking with customers also. Mr. Baker added the list that Mr. Lund was referring to of the 90 or 100 homes is the same as the map that was put on the website. He said after staff completes the 45-50 inspections; they would update the information on the website so citizens could get that information. He said in those geographical areas staff would say they found an X number of problems in that area. It was a corrective action being taken to solve so people could be aware if they wanted to go to the website and educate themselves.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He was out of town on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, and would return on Saturday, June 22, 2024, but he would have his phone with him.

7. RESOLUTION

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No 2024-09(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2024 tax year**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2024-09(R) in its entirety.

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No 2024-09(R) to adopt the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2024 tax year, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the June 4, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the bills list for the month of May 2024

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the bills list for the month of May 2024, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

(c) Consideration and possible action for City Council's direction regarding a financial policy to account for any proceeds received from the Red, White, & You Celebration

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to direct City Staff to write a financial policy to account for any proceeds received from the Red, White, & You Celebration, seconded by Council Member Collins.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier amended her motion to create a policy to deposit the proceeds into a special fund designated to be used for future community events or projects in the city, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

- (d) Consideration and possible action to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City of Bridge City and Traylor & Associates Inc. pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Local Buyout/Acquisition Program grant Contract No. 20-066-025-C202**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City of Bridge City and Traylor & Associates Inc., pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Local Buyout/Acquisition Program grant Contract No 20-066-025-C202, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

- (e) Consideration and possible action to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City Bridge City and Traylor & Associates Inc. pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Harvey Infrastructure grant Contract No. 20-065-153-C929**

Council Member Champagne made a motion to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City Bridge City and Traylor & Associates Inc. pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster

Recovery (CDBG-DR) Harvey Infrastructure grant Contract No. 20-065-153-C929, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

- (f) Consideration and possible action to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City of Bridge City and LJA Engineering, Inc. pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Harvey Infrastructure grant Contract No. 20-065-153-C929**

Council Member Champagne made a motion to authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the City of Bridge City and LJA Engineering, Inc. pertaining to the City's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Harvey Infrastructure grant Contract No. 20-065-153-C929, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

- (g) Consideration and possible action to enter into a contract with Tetra Tech for Debris Monitoring Services**

Council Member Collins made a motion to enter into a contract with Tetra Tech for Debris Monitoring Services, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Dixon.

WORKSHOP SESSION

9. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Food Truck Committee Report

The Committee met once and outlined the recommendation for the Council. The Committee felt that the food trucks were good and there was a use and a need for them in the City. They should be allowed, but also controlled. The Committee's recommendation was as follows:

1. Food Trucks are permitted to use in the City but must be located in a Food Truck development.
2. The Zoning Ordinance will be revised to create an allowance for Food Truck developments in commercial and industrial districts.
3. Zoning will also create development standards for the Food Truck development and addresses items such as amount of parking required, setbacks, hours of operation, buffers from residential, signage, bathrooms, trash collection, and similar topics.
4. There will be exceptions written into the Ordinance for Food Truck operations such as:
 - Special Events either public or private
 - Administrative approval if a business owner requests a food truck on their property
 - Food Truck operating out of a brick-and-mortar restaurant are exempted
5. A Food Truck that is operational on the same property as an existing 53,000 single owner retail building is exempt from complying with the new requirements, as long as it is remitting sales tax to the City of Bridge City.
6. A Food Truck development must report and collect sales tax remittable to Bridge City.

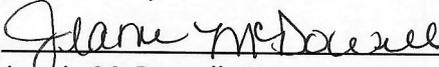
(b) Public Information Act training for the City Council

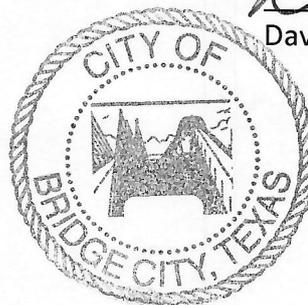
The Mayor and City Council watched a video on the Public Information Act. The Council Members were presented with a certificate of completion at the end of the video.

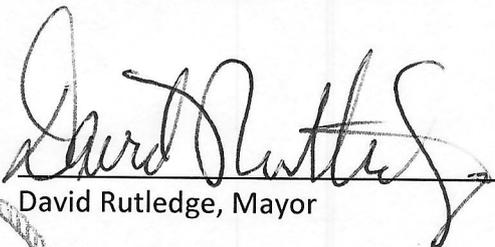
10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary




David Rutledge, Mayor