

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
July 2, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 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
Council Member Sherby Dixon

ABSENT: None.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Christopher Baker
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
Chief of Police Tod McDowell
Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker
Public Works Director Mike Lund
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Community Development Coordinator Natalie Pruitt

2. INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Council Member Gina Mannino.

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 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, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) *City Manager's Report*
Christopher Baker

1. He said he saw most of the Council at the Red, White, and You event and it was great and successful. He said they estimated close to 2,000 people and there were a lot of people outside the gate, which was expected. There were a lot of people such as veterans and kids that were not charged an admission fee. He said you can't go by collection at the event, and they were still tabulating all of it. He gave the Council some general numbers which was estimated 2,000 people at the event, expenses were close to \$65,000 and it was authorized from HOT Tax monies. He said the total revenues for the entire event was approximately \$35,000. He said that included the \$16,000 collected at the event and \$15,900 that was collected from sponsorships, and we were still waiting for Entergy's to come in which was \$3,000. He said roughly \$35,000 was collected and in accordance with Council policy from the previous meeting, the money will be used for seed monies for future events.
2. He said he received a text message from former Council Member Reed congratulating everyone for the event and he was extremely impressed, and he and his wife had a great time. Mr. Reed thought it was a wonderful thing.
3. He said he wanted to give a big thanks to the City crews that participated. It was a hot day and Mike Die and Richard Harmon stepped up and led their crews and helped us get over the finish line and he thanked them for that. He said lots of hard work and a lot of people participated, city employees, police department, fire department, volunteers, and Acadian Ambulance. He said there was only one minor medical issue.
4. He said City employees had a coordination meeting with the Bridge City Independent School District in advance of hurricane season to make sure everyone is prepared. He said at the 5:00 p.m. update the hurricane was still going toward Monterey Mexico.
5. The strategic plan workshop would be on Friday, July 26th at noon. We would have our first budget workshop beginning at 10:30 a.m. The budget workshops that was scheduled earlier

in the week will be cancelled. In the July 26th workshop City staff would walk the City Council through a proposed budget and would have another workshop on Monday, July 29th at 6:00 p.m. He said July 26th would be at the community center and July 29th would be at City Hall.

(b) City Council

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte said he would like to thank everyone who helped and participated, was there, the logistics behind the scenes, anyone and everyone who was involved in it, citizens, all volunteers, and city manager. He said the Red, White, and You Event was very successful and look forward to next year. He said it was excellent for the arts and crafts vendors and it was excellent for the food vendors, and he thought just about all food vendors were sold out. He said he would like to thank the scholarship sponsors and the company sponsorships. He said the City could not have done any of it without the sponsors. He thanked the street department and staff. He also thanked the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Gina Mannino said she would like to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier and Council Member Roccaforte for their leadership on the committee and they did a fantastic job. She said she was on another committee of the Community Leadership Forum and they took their committee and ran with it and they worked hard, so good job. She said she had a lot of fun working with the city employees. She asked about the student council representative position, and she knew years ago when she was working for the school district that spot was filled with a student. She asked if the Council was interested in keeping that position. Mayor Rutledge said the Council would talk about it in the July 26th strategic plan retreat.

Council Member Bryant Champagne said he would like to thank everyone for covering for him at the Red, White, and You Event, since he was unable to attend.

Council Member Patty Collins said she has not seen Council Member Roccaforte work as hard as he worked Saturday. She said Friday and Saturday Council Member Roccaforte worked hard and Mr. Die was right there with him every step of the way and also Mr. Harmon and the city staff were right there. She said she did not think there was a person in the office that did not show up. She said kudos to everybody, and she has had more text messages, emails, and phone calls about how much fun they had. She said there was one she shared with the City Manager, because she wanted the staff to see it from a citizen that has lived here for 45 years, and she had not seen anything that good or that fun or that exciting in the City. She said she thought that was the best compliment that the city could get.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier said a lot had already been said and repeated, but it was all true and exciting. She said if she was going to say anything, being part of a team is how synergy works. She said it takes people giving their ideas and talking about it and new things come and synergy puts a fire under you. She said you go for things you would not think you would go for, so it took someone saying are we going to do it this way or we could we do it this way and go big or go home. She said the committee said let's go big or go home. She said it takes a team, it takes

everybody's words, everybody's voice, all the energy that's together. She said Bridge City has great people working together trying to create things that were exciting and full of energy, and she was proud to be a part of it.

Council Member Sherby Dixon said it was fantastic, there was a lot of hard work that went on, and Council Member Roccaforte worked very hard. He said that is what it is all about to put something on that was as big as we had and it was successful. He thanked everyone that was involved in it, and he looked forward to next year.

(c) City Staff

Mike Lund, Director of Public Works

He said he would like to thank everyone that pulled his end of the load this past weekend. He said he heard the event turned out awesome and has not heard anything but good things about it. He said everyone that texted him and called him about the event told him it was a knockout of the park. He said everyone that had a hand in it did a great job. He said he appreciated the guys, and they worked a lot harder than they expected to work. The event turned out very well. He said on a side note he would give the Council an update on the drainage issues the city had a month ago. He said with working on the event, he did not have a whole lot to update, but the crew did get another 5 to 10 addresses taken care of. He said they had two lists they were working on. He said one was the inspection list and the other was the main sheet of it, but they were working on the inspection list. He said they were going to every site of the addresses that were flooded during the event. He said they were checking each place, and the culvert sizes, culvert type, grass that needs to be cut, or whatever needs to be done. He said then they would go on a maintenance plan to see what they needed to do to make things better. He said there were roughly about 90 homes, and the crews were roughly about 65 homes in it, so bearing any major catastrophe, he would have this completed by the next council meeting. He said he could then give the Council a better update on where they were and on issues and what needs to be done on the City's end to have things in the right order. He said the crews were out by Council Member Roccaforte's house repairing a sewer main, which they were replacing a sewer cave in on a sewer line.

Kim Tucker, Director of Personnel/Purchasing

She said everything went great with the short amount of time they had to plan this event, just think what this whole year would bring.

Council Member Collins said kudos to Chief McDowell that was one of the things in the text messages she received was the police presence was so awesome to just be comfortable and know what was going on.

Paul Fukuda, City Attorney

He said he would like to thank everyone who worked hard and to affirm the decisions made because they were struggling on what to do and they made all the right decisions. He said the stage was amazing and the sound quality was so good, the drone show was great, the vendors

was enough and not too much. He said it was put together well and he couldn't wait to see what was going to happen this month.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He said he agreed with all the great words that has been said about the whole event and everybody associated with it. He said he wanted to specifically mention the time and effort our employees volunteered. He said it was not only the department heads the City had hourly employees that volunteered so they could be a part of it and to help make the event successful. He said that showed him the City had people working for us that really cared about Bridge City and what goes on and how people are taking care of. He said he really liked to highlight those employees.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation from the Insurance Committee for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to purchase Employee Medical, Employee Dental and Employee Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Insurance Committee for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to renew the health, dental, and Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance with United Health Care, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the June 18, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to accept a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission for the required 5 year report

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission for the required 5 year report, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

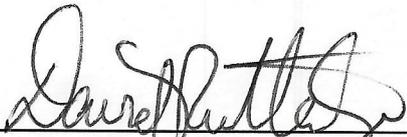
Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

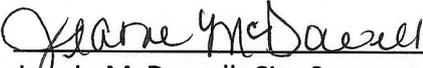
8. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

