

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 16, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 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
 Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
 Council Member Gina Mannino
 Council Member Bryant Champagne
 Council Member Patty Collins
 Council Member Sherby Dixon

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier

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

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Bryant Champagne.

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 and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

5. ART SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

(a) Presentation to the Art Scholarship Winners of the Red, White, & You Event sponsored by the Community Leadership Forum's Quality of Life Committee

Mayor Rutledge recognized the Community Leadership Forum's Quality of Life Committee's Red, White, & You Celebration's Art Scholarship Winners. The First Place winner was Gabrielle Sensat receiving a \$1,500 scholarship from MKC Solutions and Cintas. Second Place winner was Heidi Broussard receiving a \$750 scholarship from Arceneaux, Wilson, & Cole LLC. Both winners will be attending Lamar University Beaumont beginning in the fall.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

Christopher Baker

1. Hurricane Beryl - The City was spared by any major damages or significant issues. There was nothing to report for the hurricane.
2. Reminder for Council - July 26th at 10:30 a.m. budget workshop in the council room until noon. The City Council and Staff would convene over at the Community Center for the strategic plan retreat.
3. Reminder for Council - August 19th the City will be holding a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission on two rezoning requests. Also, the Planning Commission would hold a special permit hearing for a massage parlor.

(c) City Staff

Mike Lund, Director of Public Works

He said he would give an update on the drainage issues the City had a month ago with the storm. He said they were working on a spreadsheet, and they would put it on the GIS map so everyone would know where the locations were. He said if anyone had questions after the meeting to get with him and he would discuss it further. He said the City had 89 properties that flooded during the event with seven inches of rain in about an hour to an hour and a half. He said the City had crews go out and it took them about two to three weeks to go through and look at all the issues they had and what was going on. He said throughout the properties that were looked at 52 of the homes the ditches were mowed, 14 of the homes the ditches were not mowed, and 23 of the homes did not have ditches. He said that means either they were

culverted in, or the roadway was the ditch. He said some of these areas have curbs and gutters, so the roadway is the ditch until the water gets to the drain boxes. He said during this process city crews did find some information on some of the culverts. He said they noticed anywhere from eight inch culverts to thirty inch culverts and the City doesn't install eight inch culverts or 12 inch culverts. He said those were some problem areas and they would repair and replace them and put them on proper drains. He said they found 13 driveways with metal corrugated pipes and as you know the soil here is not receptive to the metal corrugated. He said the tops smush and rot and those are areas of concern, and the City would replace them as needed. He said there were thirty-nine concrete, 20 plastic and they found about thirteen that was mixed which were plastic to concrete. He said if it is done properly, it is perfectly fine to do it with the proper adapters, it is good. He said they found a lot of plastic culverts stuck into a concrete culvert and those end up pushing up or falling in and debris gets inside the line and those would be areas the City would fix. He said a house on Clover had a box under it and no bottoms so you can't clean it and they would replace it. He said of the 89 properties roughly about 50 to 53 had no major problems and some of the ends of the culverts needed to be cleaned out, but the other 46 they would change some of the grades and fix the problems that was discovered. He said they would continue to work on the list. He said he called TxDOT regarding the potholes on Texas Avenue and they told him they would get a crew out this week to patch the holes.

Tod McDowell, Chief of Police

He asked Rylen Mirabella to come to the front of the Council Chambers. Chief McDowell told the Mayor and City Council Officer Mirabella had completed the academy. He said Officer Mirabella was a lifelong resident of Bridge City and he had come home to serve his hometown. He administered the oath of office to Officer Mirabella and introduced him to the Mayor and Council as their newest police officer.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. None.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the July 2, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 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 and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the Bills List for the month of June 2024

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

(c) Consideration and possible action for approval of City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with DRC Emergency Services for post-storm debris removal services

Council Member Collins made a motion for the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with DRC Emergency Services for post-storm debris removal services, seconded by Council Member Mannino.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

WORKSHOP

9. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) East Roundbunch and Bland intersection layouts and cost

Mr. Baker said the Council asked City Staff to look at some alternatives for layouts to reduce crashes at the Bland Street and East Roundbunch intersection and to ensure the fire department could continue to go north. He said also to reduce traffic congestion and to reduce the que time at that intersection as well. He said there were three goals of this project with many different solutions. He said he engaged with Thompson Engineering which they have a Houston roadway design office and that is what all those engineers do is work with TxDot and many other DOT's throughout the southeast doing interstate work and major collector work, so this is a small project for them, but they have the background and capability at looking at this. He said Mr. Lund and himself spent some time with them on a site visit and they did not do an official traffic count, but they monitored and got a feel for the traffic flow. He said they reached out to TxDot to get traffic counts which the Council would notice those on the

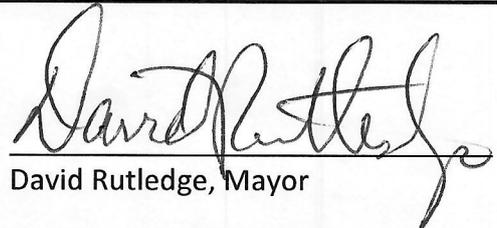
individual layouts. He asked Thompson Engineering Firm to come up with four different options and cost estimates for each, because there is more than one solution to this particular problem. He said he had a staff recommendation, but first he would walk through each option. He said one of the most important components to this is to ensure the fire department could go north. Mr. Baker presented the four options by a slide show and explained each one. He said the consensus of the City Council would be option C with provisions of a through combine left and through, add emergency lights, and an entry only barrier on Bland Street by Walgreens. He said he would coordinate with the engineers to add additional upgrades to this option, and he would get the cost of these upgrades. He said one option to fund the project would be by a bond and also he would ask Traylor and Associates to search for a grant.

(b) Outdoor storage and display ordinance

He said he would like the Council's direction on this, but the City does not have a strong outdoor display ordinance. He said he heard from the Council they would like to work as a community to improve the appearance of Bridge City. He said on Texas Avenue they would notice tires right next to the right-of-way, but they are effectively acting like signs. He showed a slide show of the different businesses that had outdoor storage along Texas Avenue. He said if the Council would like staff to explore the opportunity of addressing this issue, he would suggest the Council appoint a Council sub-committee. He said the committee could meet and talk about the policies and bring them back to the Council to get an overall feedback before developing the ordinance then bring it back for approval. Mayor Rutledge, Council Member Collins, and Council Member Mannino volunteered for the committee.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

