

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
October 15, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 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 Attorney Paul Fukuda
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
Chief of Police Tod McDowell
Director of Personnel/Purchasing Kim Tucker
Director of Finance/Interim City Manager Katrina Jones
Director of Public Works Mike Lund
Associate Municipal Judge Ida Schossow

2. INVOCATION

The 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

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. PRESENTATION

(a) *Golden Triangle Polymers will present the City Council a donation in the amount of \$250,000 for recreational opportunities at the Bridge City Park*

Mayor Rutledge said this is the work of about 42 members of the community that created the Community Leaders Forum looking at ways to make Bridge City a better place to live. He said recreational opportunities was one of their issues that was high on their list of needed things in the City and he said the City's neighbors to the northeast of the City has been so gracious and stepping forward and seeing the need for the City. He said they were bringing us something the Community Leaders Forum has worked hard to coming up with the right thing and they were supporting them in this manner.

Nick Graham, Operations Manager for Golden Triangle Polymers said it was really an honor being at the meeting for this presentation. He said if those of the community that does not know of Golden Triangle Polymer, they were building a brand new petrochemical facility right up the road off Highway 87. He said it was the second largest private investment happening in the State of Texas right now and is happening in Orange County. He said it was an \$8 ½ billion investment and would generate thousands of jobs and economic growth for the region. He said part of being in that investment is also part of being a good neighbor and investing in the community and one way they do that is their charitable giving. He said since they announced the project in late 2022, they have donated over \$2 million to local charities, to local schools, and to local agencies. He said he was honored to announce on behalf of GTP that tonight they were donating \$250,000 to the City of Bridge City. He said their intent for this donation was to go toward a park improvement project. He said when they first approached Bridge City about the idea of improving a local park, they were excited, y'all were excited to share with GTP the work that had been done. He said the Mayor mentioned engaging the citizens and prioritizing a list of potential community amenities through a park improvement project that they wished for. He said they were now excited to collaborate with the City and Bridge City on this project and fully support the decision to add a public amenity that encourages people to get outside, to be active, to exercise with family, friends, and neighbors. He said supporting projects that promote community health and wellness is a big focus for GTP since it was something they looked forward to being a part of and also looked forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony that would be soon to come. He said he would like to invite the Mayor and members of the City

Council to please join them for the check presentation.

Mayor Rutledge revealed a rendering of the project the Community Leaders Forum would like to present. He said it consist of six pickleball courts with a concourse for picnic tables and bleachers between the courts for people to observe or players to rest. He said the cover would be high enough so they could lob the ball. He said if there was enough real estate they would put in a circular drive.

6. RESOLUTION FOR PRESENTATION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-14(R) accepting a donation in the amount of \$250,000 for recreational facilities to be constructed at the Bridge City Park

Mayor Rutledge read Resolution No. 2024-14(R) in its entirety and presented it to Golden Triangle Polymers, Nick Graham and Heather Betancourt for their support in our community.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-14(R) accepting a donation in the amount of \$250,000 for recreational facilities to be constructed at the Bridge City Park, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Emilia Carranza
5159 Caribou Ext.
Orange, TX 77630

Ms. Carranza said she did not speak a lot of English and asked if she could have someone to interpret for her. Her translator said she rented a space here in February in Bridge City for this year, she is having her daughter's 15th birthday. She said she paid for everything, she paid her deposit, and she paid the rest today. She said her issues and concerns are that they are not letting her serve alcohol on the event, so she wanted to know why.

Mayor Rutledge explained to her in the comment section the City Council is not allowed to answer questions, they could talk to her after the meeting, but by law they could not discuss anything that was not on the agenda.

Her translator said she would have appreciated it if they would have let her know before and it was three weeks away and she rented that space in February of this year. She said they had not changed any rules or anything, yet. She said for her it was hard for this situation because her daughters 15th birthday was in three weeks, and it was hard for her to find a place to rent. She

said she already had everything ready for that date, her make-up and everything is already paid for that date. She said she had not found any other place to do her 15th birthday. She said what she was really bothered about is they did not let her know on time of the changes they had. She said not until today when she finished paying the rest of the money that was due for the event. She said she just wanted to know if they could consider letting her for this time to continue with her daughter's party and she would pay for the security guard. She said she would be responsible for taking care of the place she rented. She said when she did the contract, the City did not let her know she needed an officer.

8. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

Katrina Jones made the following report:

1. TML Annual Conference was a great week. She said it was very educational, a lot of networking, and new ideas. She said she enjoyed it, and she knew City Council enjoyed it.
2. Employees – Mike Lund, Public Works Director hired two new employees, one for community development and one for code enforcement. The code enforcement officer started on Wednesday, October 9th and seems to be doing very well. She said he has already had two yards cleaned up, which is a great start. The young lady that would be in the community development position would start on Monday, October 21st.

(b) City Council

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte thanked the city for allowing the Council to go to TML. He said it was a great networking event and very educational. He said there were a lot of vendors that could help the city move forward with the pickleball court. He also thanked GTP for the \$250,000 donation.

Council Member Gina Mannino said she enjoyed the TML Annual Conference. The sessions were interesting, and the keynote speakers were not only motivational, but educational. She also thanked Ms. McDowell for the packets and the organization. She said it was very interesting coming from education and then going to a conference as of TML because they are very similar, but there was quite a bit of difference in the content but to see the wide variety of people that are civic leaders and elected officials from all different walks of life attending this conference and from different perspectives, so she is thankful for Bridge City. She said she appreciates the opportunity that she was able to represent Bridge City.

Council Member Bryant Champagne thanked Mr. Lund for holding down the fort while everyone was at the TML Annual Conference. He said it was a good job getting the two positions filled and it was great being at full staff. He said he was glad everyone had a good time at TML.

Council Member Patty Collins thanked GTP and the City Council and Staff were working very hard and making sure Parks and Recreation was on the top of their agenda as a Council. She said they appreciated GTP bringing this to them and allowing them to seed some of the money

so they could get started. She said recreation is certainly a priority for them. She said their families need it, their community needs it, and she is very grateful for it.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said the contribution from GTP, the city could have visioned all day, but with a small town budget it was very challenging to achieve those visions and make them happen. She said without those contributions they would always wish they could make it happen. She said the donation was such a blessing and they were very thankful for their contribution. She also thanked Ms. McDowell for the organization of their trip to TML. She said it was always interesting to network and be with each other and being at the meeting was very healthy for the council.

Council Member Sherby Dixon thanked Ms. McDowell for getting everything they needed at the conference. He said he thoroughly enjoyed TML and he learned a lot. He said the \$250,000 would go a long way for the community.

(c) City Staff
None.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He thanked the Council for their dedication to learning and becoming better council members. He said he had talked to a lot of Mayors over the years and they don't all go to the classes, they go there for the party. He said unequivocally this council was there to learn and to network and meet other people and it showed their dedication that not even a majority of the cities in this State had. He also thanked Ms. McDowell for organizing the trip to TML Conference.

9. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-15(R) assessing a collection fee in the amount of thirty percent (30%) to be collected by a collection agency

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-15(R) assessing a collection fee in the amount of thirty percent (30%) to be collected by a collection agency, seconded by Council Member Collins.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes:
September 17, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting
September 24, 2024 City Council Special Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting and September 24, 2024 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of September 2024**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve city bills for the month of September 2024, 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, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (c) Consider a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on October 21, 2024, on a request from Dr. David Olson of Roundbunch Road Enterprises - II, LLC for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) and R-2 (Low Density Residential District) to C-2 (Second Commercial District) at Ferry Drive and Meadowlawn property further described as 15 acres of land out of and part of Abstract 6, Samuel Davis Tract 002C, 4.952 acres and part of Abstract 6 002D, 29.888 acres**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on October 21, 2024, on a request from Dr. David Olson of Roundbunch Road Enterprises - II, LLC for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) and R-2 (Low Density Residential District) to C-2 (Second Commercial District) at Ferry Drive and Meadowlawn property further described as 15 acres of land out of

and part of Abstract 6, Samuel Davis Tract 002C, 4.952 acres and part of Abstract 6 002D, 29.888 acres, 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, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to approve a Special Permit application from Mei Qin and Yao Yang, owners of Panda Spa and Wellness Center to open a massage parlor at 2429 Texas Avenue

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve a Special Permit application from Mei Qin and Yao Yang, owners of Panda Spa and Wellness Center to open a massage parlor at 2429 Texas Avenue, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

After further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(e) Consideration and possible action to approve a contract for management services to Gary R. Traylor & Associates, Inc., for execution of Contract No. CDV23-0181 between the City of Bridge City and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regarding the 2023 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program for sewer improvements.

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve a contract for management services to Gary R. Traylor & Associates, Inc., for execution of Contract No. CDV23-0181 between the City of Bridge City and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regarding the 2023 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program for sewer improvements, 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, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (f) **Consideration and possible action to approve a contract for engineering services to LJA Engineering, Inc., for execution of Contract No. CDV23-0181 between the City of Bridge City and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regarding the 2023 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program for sewer improvements**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve a contract for engineering services to LJA Engineering, Inc., for execution of Contract No. CDV23-0181 between the City of Bridge City and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regarding the 2023 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program for sewer improvements, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

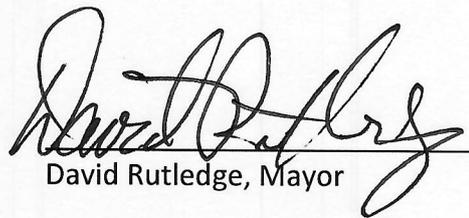
Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

11. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

