

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
November 5, 2024

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 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
- Utility Superintendent Mike Die
- Code Enforcement Officer Rick Deutsch
- Community Development Coordinator Balie Viator
- Municipal Deputy Court Clerk Tammi Fisette

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Patty Collins.

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 amend Item 9a of the agenda to read October 15, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting and October 22, 2024 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

With changes 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. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

Katrina Jones made the following report:

1. Ms. Jones did not have anything to report, but said Mike Lund had a report from the TXDOT meeting and he would also introduce his new employees.

Mike Lund, Director of Public Works

He updated the Council on the TXDOT meeting, and he said they would be having another meeting in December regarding the closure of the Rainbow Bridge for repairs. He said they agreed they would push the start date to January after the holidays for the bridge. He said they were working on the traffic. He said Chief McDowell and his self and a few others in the area attended the meeting, and they gave TXDOT their opinions. He said they have an app they would be pushing out to give everyone access to it, so they could see what was going on. He said they would have cameras out there and our dispatch would have access to them to see what the traffic is doing, if there is an accident, or if there is debris. He said TXDOT told them whatever bells and whistles they could put on this to make this as smooth as possible; they would be throwing it out there. He said they were still projecting the project would last 18 months. He said he would like to introduce the City's two new employees. He told them welcome to the family. He introduced Balie Viator as the Community Development Coordinator and Rick Deutsch as the Code Enforcement Officer, and he would like to add they were doing very well.

Council Member Collins told Mr. Lund she knew he was very instrumental with the former City Manager in fighting to get that road cut through so they would not have to make those hard rights and hard lefts on the other side of that bridge and slow traffic down. She said she knew the Mayor was involved in that..

Mayor Rutledge said Tod..

Council Member Collins said Tod was involved in that and she would like to say thank you and she did not think anybody understood what it took to fight TXDOT. She said she has friends at TXDOT, and she knew what it took to fight that. She said she wanted to say thank you for everyone that was involved in that, because having that road cut through there would help tremendously to keep that traffic from backing up into Bridge City, so thank you for all those involved.

(b) City Council

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte welcomed the new employees.

Council Member Gina Mannino welcomed Rick and Balie to the City and thanked them for being part of the team. She said she would like to let the Council know she had a couple of business owners that owned restaurants/bars in town that would like the City to consider looking at the private ownership versus sell by drink. She said she would like to have a workshop to discuss that at some point.

Council Member Bryant also welcomed the new employees. He said he wanted to echo what Council Member Collins said about all the work to get that. He said him being in that field for so long, it would be great to keep the flow moving across there like that and not have people make two ninety degree turns. He said everybody has seen a wreck at the base of the bridge and what that does to Bridge City. He said if you think about the traffic at 4:30 p.m. and that happening how bad it would be. He said thanks a lot for the hard work.

Council Member Patty Collins said welcome home and welcome back. She said it is good to have you back in Bridge City, Rick and it is always great to have a born and raised Bridge City person in City Hall so welcome Balie.

Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier welcomed the new employees to the City and she was very excited and looked forward to working with them and all of us working together for our community.

Council Member Sherby Dixon welcomed the new employees and said he was glad they were here.

(c) City Staff

Tod McDowell, Chief of Police

He welcomed Rick and Balie to the City.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

1. He thanked Rick and Balie for joining the team. He said they were two welcome additions and appreciated their interest in the City. He said he was glad they were here and was looking forward to moving Bridge City forward with them.

7. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2024-13 Olson rezone

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-13 Olson’s rezone, 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.

8. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-16(R) authorizing the submittal of a 2025/2026 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture and committing matching funds

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-16(R) authorizing the submittal of a 2025-2026 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture and committing matching funds, 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.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-17(R) authorizing the execution of the Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right of Way for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-17(R) authorizing the execution of the Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right of Way for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, 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.

- (c) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-18(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 100 votes for the 2024 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-18(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 100 votes for the 2024 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors, 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 approving the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to approve Resolution No. 2024-19(R) awarding a contract for administrative services pertaining to the application and implementation, if awarded, of the City's Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) project(s) funded through the Texas General Land Office and authorizing the execution of a Contract**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Selection Review Committee to approve Resolution No. 2024-19(R) to award a contract for administrative services pertaining to the application and implementation, if awarded, of the City's Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP), seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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.

- (e) Consideration and possible action approving the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to approve Resolution No. 2024-20(R) awarding a contract for engineering services pertaining to the application and implementation, if awarded, of the City's Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) project(s) funded through the Texas General Land Office and authorizing the execution of a contract**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee approving Resolution No. 2024-20(R) to award a contract for engineering services pertaining to the application and implementation of, if awarded, of the City's Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) project(s) funded through the Texas General Land Office and authorizing the execution of a contract, 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.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes:
October 15, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting
October 22, 2024 City Council Special Meeting**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting and October 22, 2024 City Council Special 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, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (b) Consideration and possible action to appoint Mayor Rutledge as City Council representative to the Economic Development Corporation**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to appoint Mayor Rutledge as City Council representative to the Economic Development Corporation, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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) **Consideration and possible action authorizing the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with the Bridge City Police Association for the period effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to authorize the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with the Bridge City Police Association for the period effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, 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.

- (d) **Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Liaison to the Library Board of Trustees (Library Advisory Board)**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to appoint Council Member Patty Collins as the City Council Liaison to the Library Board of Trustees (Library Advisory Board), seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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.

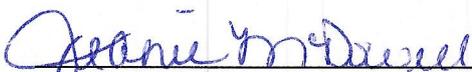
Noes: None.

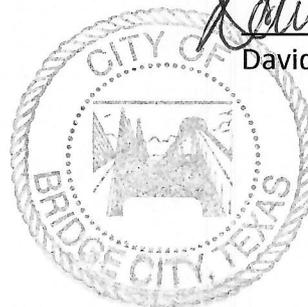
Absent: None.

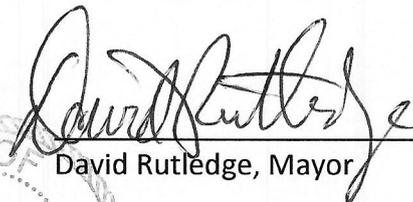
10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary




David Rutledge, Mayor