

<b>AARON ROCCAFORTE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	<b>DAVID RUTLEDGE</b> <i>Mayor</i> 	<b>PATTY COLLINS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
<b>GINA MANNINO</b> <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		<b>TERRI GAUTHIER</b> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 5</i>
<b>BRYANT CHAMPAGNE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>SHERBY DIXON</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**  
**November 19, 2024**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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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 Patty Collins  
Council Member Sherby Dixon

**ABSENT:** Council Member Bryant Champagne

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

City Attorney Paul Fukuda  
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell  
Chief of Police Tod McDowell  
Director of Finance/Interim City Manager Katrina Jones  
Director of Public Works Mike Lund  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die  
Municipal Deputy Court Clerk Tammi Fisette

**2. INVOCATION**

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The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

**3. PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG**

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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**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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None.

**6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:**

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

*Katrina Jones made the following report:*

1. She said the City hired a financial assistant and she started today. Ms. Jones said she would bring her in to meet the Council next month.
2. She said the City had an issue at the 408 water well last Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. She said it looked like a lightning strike. She said the City had lightning protection on the well, but she was told it could not protect against everything. She said the bill for just the well part would be approximately \$75,000 and the City has some other things to look at such as the Scada system and other things were being evaluated and she knew that the dollar amount would increase. She said the good news was the City already filed an insurance claim and would receive a check in the amount of \$71,000. She said the City would get more invoices and estimates in Ms. Tucker would be forwarding those to TML.
3. She said the Christmas in the Park Committee had been preparing for the event and were having meetings every week. She said they were also trying to get the float ready to get the event kicked off to have a successful one for the community.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Aaron Roccaforte** said the City had been talking to a couple of companies about the pickleball courts and everything was being laid out and they were trying to figure out what they were doing and how they were going to do it. He said they have talked to a couple of pickleball court companies and solar lighting companies. He said solar lighting was for the parking lots around the library and community center as well as the pickleball courts.

**Council Member Gina Mannino** said the City had been asked by the Orange County Economic Development Council, who would be creating an Orange County visitors guide, and she wanted the Council to know she would be sending them the information from the EDC. She would like the Council to write something specific about Bridge City to put in the visitors guide.

**Council Member Patty Collins** said she was unable to make the Library meeting, but Ms. McDowell had caught her up on the library. She said she thought it was a very good meeting, and they were very excited. She said they would meet with the Friends of Library, and she said

they were extremely small right not, but she would help to increase the friends group and work on some volunteers. She said she thought the City and the library groups were on the right path and she was excited to serve as that liaison.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier** said she would like to reiterate the Christmas in the Park that the committee had been working hard and it was really coming together. She said she would like to encourage everyone as they saw the social media post to please share it to all the groups they were part of to get it out to the community. She said she had people say they did not know the City was having a Christmas event. She said there would be some dance teams, part of the band, some choirs, so it was going to be great with lot of vendors, food trucks, and a movie in the park. She asked everyone to please take note of it on social media and help us get the word out. She said the key was to let the community know that the City was working on an event that was a lot of fun for them, and they could come and participate in the festival.

**Council Member Sherby Dixon** welcomed the citizens.

**(c) City Staff**

**Paul Fukuda, City Attorney**

He said it had been ultra busy in the legal department. He said if anyone wanted to ask him questions, he would gladly answer all of those in non-meeting times.

**Mike Lund, Director of Public Works**

He said he had good news, Sunnyside well site was completed today. He said they did the start up on the generators, so the City should be closing the grant for that project. He said everything started up and operated as it was supposed too with a little tweak here and there. He said city staff was getting very close to finishing up decorating the park for Christmas. He said he was waiting on Eric Andrus, COS to respond to him, but he was waiting on a banner to be put up on the levy instead of the library. He said they were also working with Jared DeFrancis, LJA getting things together to do some ditching, sewer lines, manholes, and road work with leftover grant monies in the CDBG. He said it had to be done by Thursday.

**(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:**

1. In two weeks the City will have some really good news. He said the Council was excited for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. Christmas in the Park should be a great event again, if it does not rain.
3. Working on the Pickleball court was really exciting and should start coming together pretty quickly.

**7. ORDINANCE**

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-14 amending the City of Bridge City's Personnel Policy social media section to include a Tik Tok policy as required by S.B. 1893**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-14 amending the City of Bridge City's Personnel Policy social media section to include a Tik Tok policy as required by S.B. 1893, 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, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2024-15 adopting the International City/County Manager Association's Code of Ethics and Guidelines**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-15 adopting the International City/County Manager Association's Code of Ethics and Guidelines, 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, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2024-16 authorizing any incoming city manager up to 180 days, after the city managers first day of employment to establish residency within the city limits of the City of Bridge City**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve Ordinance No 2024-16 authorizing any incoming city manager up to 180 days, after the city managers first day of employment to establish residency within the city limits of the City of Bridge City, 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, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

## **8. RESOLUTION**

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-21(R) requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for wastewater system improvements**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-21(R) requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for wastewater system 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, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

- (b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-22(R) amending the current Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-22(R) amending the current Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

## **9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes:  
November 4, 2024 City Council Special Meeting  
November 5, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 City Council Special Meeting and November 5, 2024 City Council Regular 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, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve city bills for the month of October 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, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Council Member Champagne.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve HOT TAX monies for an additional \$946.53 to allocate to the Red, White, and You funds**

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve HOT TAX monies for an additional \$946.53 to allocate to the Red, White, and You funds, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

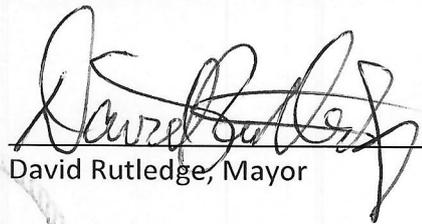
**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, and Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Collins, and Dixon.

**Noes:** None.

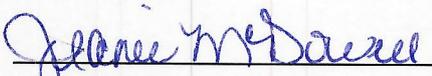
**Absent:** Council Member Bryant Champagne.

**10. ADJOURN**

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

  
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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

