

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

February 18, 2025

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor David Rutledge
Mayor Pro-Tern 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 Manager Bart Bartkowiak
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
Chief of Police Tod McDowell
Director of Finance Katrina Jones
Director of Public Works Mike Lund
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
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

Mayor Pro-Tern Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Bryant Champagne.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

Library – A public meeting would be held to discuss library hours Thursday, February 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bridge City Public Library at 101 Parkside Place, Bridge City, Texas.

Fire Hydrants – testing has been completed.

(b) City Council

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte said the Red, White, and You Festival committee was looking for sponsorships, please put the word out. He said the planning of the festival was moving along well.

(c) City Staff

None.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

None.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve February 4, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge and 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 the bills list for the month of January 2025

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the bill list for the month of January 2025, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge and 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 HOT TAX application for the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament at Sabine River in the amount of \$10,000

Council Member Mannino made a motion to approve HOT TAX application for the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament at Sabine River in the amount of \$10,000, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Bryant Champagne.

(d) Consider a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on March 18, 2025, on a request from Richard Etheridge for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Low Density Residential District) at 230 Russell, Bridge City, TX, property further described as 0.213 acres of land out of and part of lot 7, block 1, Etheridge -Packer Subdivision

Council Member Mannino made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on March 18, 2025, on a request from Richard Etheridge for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Low Density Residential District) at 230 Russell, Bridge City, TX property further described as 0.213 acres of land out of and part of lot 7, block 1, Etheridge-Packer Subdivision, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Bryant Champagne.

(e) *Consideration and possible action to approve an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitoes within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2025*

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve an Aerial Waiver authorizing Orange County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of insecticides for the abatement of mosquitos within the limits of the City of Bridge City for the year 2025, seconded by Council Member Mannino.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

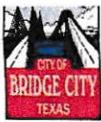
Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Bryant Champagne.

(f) *Presentation and consideration of the 2024 Racial Profiling Report by Bridge City Police Chief Tod McDowell*

Police Chief Tod McDowell presented the 2024 Racial Profiling Report. He said the State requires the report to be submitted yearly. He said the report specifies how many traffic stops and if there were any complaints from citizens while on those stops. Chief McDowell said there were no complaints of people being racial profiled. He said last year there was a total of 4,512 stops and this year the police department had 5,072 stops, which was an increase in traffic stops of 560 from last year and 12.41% up from last year.

No action was taken.



**CERTIFIED AGENDA OF CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGE CITY, TEXAS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR:	DAVID RUTLEDGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 1:	AARON ROCCAFORTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 2:	GINA MANNINO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 3:	BRYANT CHAMPAGNE	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 4:	PATTY COLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 5:	TERRI GAUTHIER, MAYOR PRO-TEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
COUNCIL PLACE 6:	SHERBY DIXON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
Others in Attendance:	JEANIE MCDOWELL, CITY SECRETARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
	PAUL FUKUDA, CITY ATTORNEY	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
	BART BORKOWIAK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
	JOHN KROSS (VIA PHONE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABSENT

The City Council of Bridge City, Texas, convened in Closed Executive Session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, beginning at 6:18 p.m., in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (*Texas Government Code, Chapter 551*) for the following sections:

- 7(a) **Section 551.074. Personnel Matters** – discussion on the evaluation and duties of the City Manager including review of performance objectives related to the City Manager’s performance

No formal action was taken by the City Council during the closed session. Upon conclusion of the Closed Executive Session the City Council reconvened into open session and will possibly take action regarding the item listed above.

The City Council ended its Closed Executive session at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

I, David Rutledge, the presiding officer of the Closed Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Bridge City, Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct record of the proceedings on the above date.

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell
JEANIE MCDOWELL, City Secretary



David Rutledge
DAVID RUTLEDGE, Mayor
Presiding Officer

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. ADJOURN TO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

CITY COUNCIL TO GO INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTION:

- (a) Section 551.074. Personnel Matters – discussion on the evaluation and duties of the City Manager including review of performance objectives related to the City Manager’s performance**

Mayor Rutledge asked the audience to please leave the council chambers while the Council went into the Closed Executive Session. He opened the executive session at 6:18 p.m. to discuss the evaluation and duties of the City Manager including a review of performance objectives related to the City Manager’s performance.

9. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- (a) City Council will reconvene into open session**

Mayor Rutledge reconvened the Council Meeting into an open session at 7:02 p.m. No action was taken.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.


Terri Gauthier, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

