

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
March 18, 2025

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

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: Mayor David Rutledge

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Bart Bartkowiak
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
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 Fissette
Community Development Coordinator Balie Viator

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Sherby Dixon.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier 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 Pro-Tem Gauthier 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 Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

6. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

1. John Street – citizen complaints regarding heavy traffic from commercial vehicles, public works installed “No Thru Trucks” signs on both ends of John St. and police began enforcing it. We have not heard any further complaints. He said by city ordinance commercial vehicles should stay on State roads.

2. Golden Triangle Days – he attended the conference along with Council Member Collins and Mayor Rutledge. He thought it was a good event and was able to network with other city managers.

3. IT and telecom audit – the City would be entering into an agreement with a firm he has done business with previously. He said the structure was they look for savings and they get paid upon a portion of those savings.

(b) City Council

Council Member Gina Mannino said she would like to thank the City Manager and Staff for the monthly reports. She said the reports were very thorough with a lot of information.

(c) City Staff

None.

(d) Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier report:

1. Ministerial Alliance – the city received a letter giving a report from this past year and they were thankful for all the help they were given. She said there was a silent auction during the Christmas in the Park and proceed went to them. She said for the Christmas season of 2024 they were able to bless 160 families and 417 children within the Bridge City and Orangefield area.

2. Jefferson County Bar Association – offering free legal advice, it’s a clinic for veterans and their spouses and those of deceased veterans and it will be held on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the VFW Post 2775 at 5303 N. 16th Street (Hwy. 87), Orange, Texas.

7. CERTIFICATION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

- (a) ***Consideration and possible action to accept certification from City Secretary declaring there are no opposed races, declared write-in candidates or propositions to appear on the May 3, 2025 official ballot of the City of Bridge City General Election***

La consideración y posible acción para aceptar la certificación de la Secretaria de la Ciudad declarando que no hay carreras opuestas, declarando candidatos por escrito ni proposiciones que deban aparecer en la boleta oficial del 2025 en la Elección General de la Ciudad, el 3 de mayo del 2025, de la Ciudad de Bridge City

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept certification from City Secretary declaring there are no opposed races, declared write-in candidates or propositions to appear on the May 3, 2025 official ballot of the City of Bridge City General Election, seconded by Council Member Collins.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

8. ORDINANCE

- (a) ***Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-04 ordering the cancellation of the May 3, 2025 City of Bridge City General Election***

La consideración y posible acción para aprobar la Ordenanza N^o 2025-04 que ordena la cancelación de la Elección General de la Ciudad, de la Ciudad de Bridge City el 3 de mayo del 2025

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-04 ordering the cancellation of the May 3, 2025 City of Bridge City General Election, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-05 consenting to the creation of the Orangefield Special Utility District

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-05 consenting to the creation of the Orangefield Special Utility District, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-06 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint's Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City of Bridge City on February 18, 2025

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-06 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint's Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City of Bridge City on February 18, 2025, seconded by Council Member Collins.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

9. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2025-12(R) authorizing the submittal of one or more applications for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to the Texas Division of Emergency Management under DR-4781 and DR-4798 and committing matching funds in the amount of 25%

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-12(R) authorizing the submittal of one or more applications for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to the Texas

Division of Emergency Management under DR-4781 and DR-4798 and committing matching funds in the amount of 25%, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve February 18, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Council Member Collins.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the bills list for the month of February 2025

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the bills list for the month of February 2025, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(c) Consideration and possible action to amend the Community Center and Senior Citizen Hall's policy and procedures to add the library room for rental

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to amend the Community Center and Senior Citizen Hall's policy and procedures to add the library room for rental, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(d) Consideration and possible action to approve expenditures out of the Court Security Fund

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve expenditures out of the Court Security Fund, seconded by Council Member Collins.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(e) Consideration and possible action to approve the 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment increase of 1.4785% to be applied to the City's Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the 2025 Consumer Price Index(CPI) Adjustment increase of 1.4785% to be applied to the City's Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

WORKSHOP SESSION

11. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Discussion of policies and regulations of Mobile Food Units

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier opened the workshop and asked Bart Bartkowiak to explain the policies and regulations.

Mr. Bartkowiak explained after reviewing the current ordinance, he had a few questions or issues as it was written, and they were as follows:

- The current ordinance covers Temporary Vendor Units (TVU) as well as Food Trucks. Chapter 14: Peddlers, Solicitors and Temporary Vendors of the Unified Development Code already covers this same topic.
- There is no mention of a Health Permit being required in the current ordinance. He would like to add a section regarding health permits.
- In the current ordinance there are no food trucks allowed within the City outside of Food Truck Development/Park unless they qualify under Section 6: Exception.

He said he would like to propose the following changes to the current ordinance to address the above concerns and allow for better management by Staff:

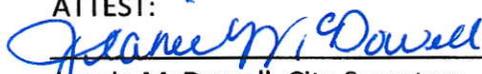
- Section 2: Definitions
 - Strike d) because “temporary vendors” are already covered under Chapter 14: Peddlers, Solicitors, and Temporary Vendors of the Unified Development Code.
- Section 3: Regulations
 - a) modify to “Food Truck Development/Park”
 - a) add grease trap requirement
 - Modify b) to Food Truck/Mobile Food Unit
 - Same language except change TVU to FT/MFU in iv)
 - Add requirement for FT/MFU’s to be restricted to specifically defined commercially zoned areas.
- Section 6: Exceptions to 3b
 - Define Special Events (what all would it cover, what is duration, etc.)
 - Temporary Special Event: a period of no more than 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a single event or celebration
 - Seasonal Food Establishment: operates at fixed location for a period greater than 14 consecutive days, but less than 45 consecutive days.
 - Currently no Special Event Permit. Will create with above definitions.
 - Leave permit fees at \$50/month or any part of a month.
- Section 8: Permits and Permit Renewal
 - Strike mentions of TVUs
 - Modify c) to specify Bridge City for required sales tax
 - Add d) Orange County Health Permit required.
- Section 9: Permit Denial, Suspension or Revocation

- Change zoning to Code Enforcement Officer
- Section 10: Criminal/Civil Enforcement
 - B) i) strike The Zoning Official, Fire Marshall
 - D) change "designated appeals board" to City Manager
 - E) i) change "its designee" to City Manager

After the discussion about the changes, it was determined that Mr. Bartkowiak would get the surrounding agency's charge on Food Trucks and would bring the information back to City Council for discussion.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary




David Rutledge, Mayor