

AARON ROCCAFORTE <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i> 	PATTY COLLINS <i>**Mayor Pro-Tem Council Member, Place 4</i>
GINA MANNINO <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		TERRI GAUTHIER/CHRIS BOULEY <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>

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER
****CHANGE IN APPOINTMENT****

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES CITY OF BRIDGE CITY May 6, 2025

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 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
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
Council Member Gina Mannino
Council Member Bryant Champagne
Council Member Patty Collins
Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier (Outgoing)
Council Member Chris Bouley (Incoming)
Council Member Sherby Dixon

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Bart Bartkowiak
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
Personnel/Purchasing Director Kim Tucker
Chief Tod McDowell
Public Works Director Mike Lund
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

2. INVOCATION

Following the invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

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 approve the agenda, 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, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne Collins, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. CONDUCT CEREMONIES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

(EL REALIZO DE CEREMONIAS A LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONCILIO)

(a) Presentation of Certificate of Election to the Council Members - Places 1, 3, and 5

(Presentación de Certificado de Elección al Alcalde y Concejales - Lugares 1, 3 y 5)

Mayor Rutledge read and presented the certificate of election to Council Member Aaron Roccaforte, Place 1; Council Member Bryant Champagne, Place 3; and Council Member Chris Bouley, Place 5, along with his congratulations to everyone.

(b) Oaths of office:

Mayor

Council Member, Place 1

Council Member, Place 3

Council Member, Place 5

(Alcalde

Concejal, Puesto 1

Concejal, Puesto 3

Concejal, Puesto 5)

City Attorney Paul Fukuda administered the oaths of office to Aaron Roccaforte, Council Member, Place 1; Bryant Champagne, Council Member, Place 3; and Chris Bouley, Council Member, Place 5. The audience acknowledged the newly sworn-in council members with their applause.

(c) Newly elected officers seated on Council

(Oficiales recién elegidos asentados en el Concilio)

The newly elected officers took their seats on Council. Mayor Rutledge said "Welcome" to Council Member Bouley and "Welcome Back" to Council Member Roccaforte and Council Member Champagne.

(d) Recognition of outgoing Council Members

(Reconocimiento de Miembros del Concilio salientes)

Mayor Rutledge recognized Terri Gauthier as outgoing Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 5 with a plaque and key to the City. He thanked Ms. Gauthier for her ten years of service. She served faithfully and he could not say thank you enough for what she had done for the council and city.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) *City Manager Bart Bartkowiak*

1. Community Center – the repairs on the roof were completed. He said he proposed to change the name on the community center and redo the sign to read Bridge City Event Center. He would like the Council's input after the meeting or along the way. He said it would be clear that it is an event center and would clear it for HOT TAX to be used to support the building.
2. Marsh Drainage Project – Orange County Drainage District was moving forward. The Drainage District has finally obtained the permits from the Corps of Engineers that has been a multi-year process. He said there is one remaining property easement that needed to be resolved, which was the City's responsibility to do so. He said they would have conversations about that going forward. He said the project was moving past the permit phase.

He told Ms. Gauthier, although he has been here a short time, he has enjoyed working with her and wished her the best.

(b) *City Council*

Council Member Aaron Roccaforte told Ms. Gauthier that it had been an honor and privilege to have worked with her and to serve with her. He told her she was an amazing person, and he would miss her. He welcomed Chris Bouley to the council.

Council Member Gina Mannino she thanked Ms. Gauthier and said what a wonderful role model for female leadership she had been. She said she appreciated her steadfast commitment to Bridge City. She also thanked David Gauthier for sharing Ms. Gauthier. She said she was really proud to see the positive library and thanked the library committee members. She said they have brought the reading book club back and lots of good things, she thanked all those who worked on that. She welcomed Mr. Bartkowiak to Bridge City.

Council Member Bryant Champagne welcomed Chris Bouley and told him he had big shoes to fill and looked forward to seeing what he could help the Council get done. He told Ms. Gauthier he was not sad, but just remember when God shuts a door, he doesn't just open another window. He said there was a lot of stuff out there and it wasn't going anywhere. He said it was not like she doesn't live here. He told her he wasn't saying bye, but he was saying see you later. He thanked Ms. Gauthier for everything she had done on the Council for the last 10 years.

Council Member Patty Collins thanked Ms. Gauthier. She said she had given a lot to this City not just behind the dais, but what she and David had done with their business and with all the things the two of them had done for the City. She said Ms. Gauthier was absolutely to be commended and Council Member Mannino was right, she was a great role model. She said she took her under her wing when she sat in her chair the very first time scared to death, not knowing what she was supposed to be doing. Council Member Collins thanked her for always being there as her side kick to help her and she appreciated all that she had taught her sitting behind the dais. She welcomed Council Member Bouley, her new side kick.

Council Member Chris Bouley he told Ms. Gauthier thank you and apparently he had big shoes to fill and he looked forward to it.

Council Member Sherby Dixon told Ms. Gauthier, in the three years he had served on Council, it had been a pleasure to sit next to her and see her service to the City. He welcomed Council Member Bouley to the Council.

(c) City Staff

Jeanie McDowell:

She thanked Ms. Gauthier for everything she had done for her, and for being there for her and she appreciated it. She welcomed Council Member Bouley and welcomed back Council Member Roccaforte and Council Member Champagne.

Mike Lund:

He thanked Ms. Gauthier and said it was a pleasure working with her and told her to call him if she needed anything. He told Council Member Bouley good luck, and he was appreciated for stepping up and thanked the others for staying and he appreciated them as well. He said the splash pad supplies were in and as soon as the weather permits it would be resurfaced, and the City would get it turned back on.

Kim Tucker:

She told Ms. Gauthier she would be missed and everything she had seen when she had been here with her, she knew Ms. Gauthier would still be helping the council.

Mike Die:

He said he thought it had been a good run for the city and never had any problems with Ms. Gauthier. He welcomed Council Member Bouley to the team.

Tod McDowell:

He told Ms. Gauthier that she would be missed, and she had always gone above and beyond trying to help everyone. He welcomed Council Member Bouley to the Council. He thanked Council Member Roccaforte and Council Member Champagne for staying on Council.

Paul Fukuda:

He said he agreed with what had been said and welcomed Council Member Bouley. He thanked Mrs. and Mr. Gauthier for all their hard work.

(d) Mayor David Rutledge report:

He said he did not know if everyone in the audience knew, but Ms. Gauthier did not just serve at the dais. He said she served on almost every committee that needed influence and hard work. He said she served on the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission in all the positions up to the President. He said she put in a lot of time for the citizens of Southeast Texas, and everyone owed her a debt of gratitude for the work she had done for this area. He welcomed Council Member Bouley to the Council.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes of April 15, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Council Members Roccaforte, Mannino, Champagne, Collins, Bouley, and Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to appoint new Mayor Pro-Tem to the City Council, as required by the City Charter, Section 3.05

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to appoint Council Member Patty Collins as Mayor Pro-Tem; seconded by Council Member Mannino.

With no other nomination or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Liaison to the City Planning and Zoning Commission

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to appoint Place 6, Sherby Dixon as the City Council Liaison to the City Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Collins.

With no other nomination or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(d) Consideration and possible action to appoint a City Council Member to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission

Council Member Mannino made a motion to appoint Aaron Roccaforte, Place 1 as the City Council representative to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Collins.

With no other nomination or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(e) Consideration and possible action to appoint a Council Member to serve as the City Liaison on the Fire Department's Pension Committee

Council Member Mannino made a motion to appoint Aaron Roccaforte, Place 1 as the City Council Liaison to the Fire Department's Pension Committee, seconded by Council Member Bouley.

With no other nomination or discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(i) Consideration and possible action to appoint a Council Finance Committee

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to open for discussion the appointment for the Finance Committee, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Collins.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

No action was taken.

(j) Consider a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing on May 19, 2025, on a request from Tara Oney for a zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to C-3 (Third Commercial District) at 155 Texas Avenue, Bridge City, TX, property further described as 382 ABST, 382 Thomas Bowles, Tract 001, Acres 29.901 and TR001A-3

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a joint public hearing set for May 19, 2025, for a zone change from R-1 to C-3 from Tara Oney, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

11. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:28p.m.


David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

