

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>		CHRIS BOULEY <i>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
August 19, 2025

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Patty Collins
- Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
- Council Member Gina Mannino
- Council Member Bryant Champagne
- Council Member Chris Bouley
- Council Member Sherby Dixon

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor David Rutledge

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

- City Manager Bart Bartkowiak
- City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
- City Attorney Paul Fukuda
- Finance Director Katrina Jones
- Chief Tod McDowell

2. INVOCATION

Following the invocation given by Council Member Sherby Dixon.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Collins 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 Collins thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Bouley made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Dixon.

With no changes, discussion, or alterations, Mayor Pro-Tem Collins called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2025-2026 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

“This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$482,991 or 18.24 percent, and of that amount \$18,238 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. The 2025 proposed tax rate of \$0.550000 is an increase of 17.46 percent over last year's rate of 0.468260”

After reading Agenda Item 5(a) Mayor Pro-Tem Collins opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Collins asked twice if there were any questions or comments on this budget.

With no discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Collins closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Bart Bartkowiak had the following report for Council:

1. The Legislator changed the law regarding food trucks. This would eliminate most if not all of the City's current ordinance. The only part of the ordinance the City may keep is the restriction to commercial zoning. Mr. Bartkowiak said he would need to research and get with the City Attorney on it. He said he thought they blitzed everything else such as proximity to restaurants and signage requirements, basically the State would provide permits and inspections. He said this would take effect next July 1st. He said before July 1st, 2026 the City Council would have to modify the ordinance.
2. The Legislator passed SB 1008 which impacted the City because it changed when we could charge a beverage permit fee. He said currently the City charges a beverage permit fee to anyone who sells alcohol in the City. He said under this new law if you

pay for a food permit you cannot be charged for a beverage permit. He said the City does not issue food permits, but Orange County does. He said the City's current fees were budgeted around \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year and this would bring the fees down to approximately \$700 per year. He said the City basically would be down to the liquor stores, who they could charge a beverage permit fee.

3. The pickleball court was finished, poured and was curing. He said it was in the 28-day cure period. He said the Council would see some fencing activity start by the end of this week or end of next week weather permitting. He said all the fencing should be up by the time they come back to paint the court. He said the pickleball court should be completed by the end of September.

(b) City Council

Council Member Gina Mannino said she would like to compliment Mr. Duetsch in the Code Enforcement Department; she had seen a couple of folks who had received a citation about cleaning up their property. She said she thought it was important for the City to keep that up and she appreciated his efforts.

Council Member Bryant Champagne said he had a couple of calls from citizens, and he had already mentioned it to the Chief of Police and realized they were doing all they could do, but he promised he would mention it to Council about the increased traffic running down Rachal and turning on Henry coming off Chemical Road. He said their fear were the kids when they were getting off of school and walking. He said he did watch it a couple of days after these two things, and they were not inaccurate because of the increased amount of traffic and how fast they were going. He said in fact they rode his tail all the way down Rachal until he turned into City Hall just so they could try to beat the traffic up to the light on Lake Street. He said he did not know if there was anything the City could do, and he said he spoke with the Chief, and they were doing everything they could do with the number of staffing. He said the only thing he could do was ask if there was, anyway, we could put a non-man monitor out there as a deterrent that would show their speed.

Council Member Sherby Dixon he said to go along with what Council Member Champagne was saying, he knew Turner Drive had it's issues also, but he did see Bridge City PD had people pulled over coming up Turner towards Hwy. 1442.

(c) City Staff

None.

(d) Mayor Pro-Tem Patty Collins report:

1. The 911 day of service remembrance would be at Rockin' A Café, on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She asked staff to put it on Facebook.

8. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-12 amending Ordinance No. 1-22 of the City of Bridge City Public Library

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-12 amending Ordinance No. 1-22 of the City of Bridge City Public Library, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

9. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2025-19(R) adopting the proposed 2025-2026 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-19(R) adopting the proposed 2025-2026 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas, seconded by Council Member Bouley.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Pro-Tem Collins	Yes
Council Member Roccaforte	Yes
Council Member Mannino	Yes
Council Member Champagne	Yes
Council Member Bouley	Yes
Council Member Dixon	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the August 5, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve the August 5, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Bouley.

With no changes, discussion, or alterations, Mayor Pro-Tem Collins called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of July 2025

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve City bills for the month of July 2025, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(c) Consideration and possible action for approval of City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with DRC Emergency Services for post-storm debris removal services

Council Member Mannino made a motion to approve the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with DRC Emergency Services for post-storm debris removal services, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

(d) Consideration and possible action to place a proposal to adopt an ad valorem tax rate on the agenda for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, for the 2025 tax year of \$0.55000 per \$100.00 valuation for the City of Bridge City, Texas (Consisting of a Debt rate of \$0.133411 and a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.416589)

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to place a proposal to adopt tax rate in the amount of \$0.550000 on the agenda for Tuesday, September 2, 2025. This rate consists of a

Maintenance & Operations rate of \$0.416589 and a Debt rate of \$0.133411, seconded by Council Member Mannino.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

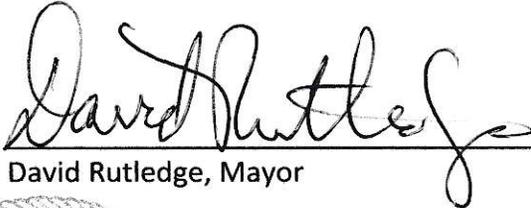
- Mayor Pro-Tem Collins Yes
- Council Member Roccaforte Yes
- Council Member Mannino Yes
- Council Member Champagne Yes
- Council Member Bouley Yes
- Council Member Dixon Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor David Rutledge.

11. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Collins adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



 David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary

