

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
April 15, 2025

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 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-Tem Terri Gauthier
Council Member Aaron Roccaforte
Council Member Bryant Champagne
Council Member Patty Collins
Council Member Sherby Dixon

ABSENT: Council Member Gina Mannino

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
Court Clerk Tammi Fiset

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Council Member Bryant Champagne.

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

Mayor David 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 David Rutledge thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member 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, Champagne, Collins, Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

5. PRESENTATION

(a) Art Ferris with VFW Post 4820 will present future plans for the Veteran's Memorial and information regarding his post

Mr. Art Ferris with the VFW who is in charge of the Veteran's Memorial site at Texas Avenue and East Roundbunch thanked the City for mowing the site. He said he would like to get the businesses and citizens of Bridge City involved in expanding the Veteran's Memorial site. He would like to have a committee of citizens and business owners of the community to have fundraisers, such as a Purse Bingo and get sponsorships to add a bronze battle cross with a pedestal, costing approximately \$10,000; statues costing approximately \$5,000 each; memorial wall 10' tall by 5' wide costing approximately \$35,000 and trees and landscaping to the park. Trees of Houston would give trees such as crepe myrtles at no cost and Home Depot said they would donate anything needed. He asked if the Chamber of Commerce would help with getting the committee together and getting the word out to the citizens.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager's Report

1. Community Center – City employees had been working on the lighting at the community center, so there were lights on the inside that were out, and they have been fixed. However, there were two more out, so they are now on order. City employees have also replaced all of the lights on the outside of the building with LED, so not only would it be brighter, but it would lower the electricity cost.
2. Library – previously the City put a light on the front of the building, but there was no lighting on the side of the library where the parking was so city employees added two wall packs that were LED as well. If you go by there at night now it is much better lit than it was previously.
3. The City also issued a PO for the roof on the Community Center, the coating needed to be redone, so we have that in motion. He said the city would also upgrade the audio and video inside, but they were waiting for parts to come in. He said instead of one TV in front of the stage. Also, there would be two large TV's on each side of the stage and there would be hook ups below the right hand television where you can hook in and display things on the

screen and it would be tied to the audio that is in the building already which is in the ceiling. He said it should be a much nicer presentation.

(b) City Council

Council Member Bryant Champagne said he went by the post office to mail his taxes last night and it was pitch black and there were no lights in the parking lot and the flags were not lit up. He asked Mr. Bartkowiak if the City had a point of contact for the post office.

Mr. Bartkowiak said they could talk to the postmaster at that location. He said the City would bring it to their attention.

Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier said she would like to again thank Mr. Bartkowiak for the reports they continued to receive each month. She said they were so thorough and also from each of the departments. She said they had wanted that for a long time, and it helps them to really feel informed about what is happening in the city. She said when people ask them questions, they were able to answer them. She said it makes them feel their positions are more significant.

(c) City Staff

None.

(d) Mayor Rutledge's report:

None.

8. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-07 amending Ordinance No. 2025-02 establishing regulations governing Food Trucks and/or Mobile Food Units; and providing for an effective date

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-07 amending Ordinance No. 2025-02 establishing regulations governing Food Trucks and/or Mobile Food Units, 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, Champagne, Collins, Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-08 rezoning certain property located at 230 Russell described as 0.213 acres of land out of and part of

lot 7 block 1 Ethridge-Packer Subdivision in the City of Bridge City, Texas from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Low Density Residential District)

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-08 rezoning certain property located at 230 Russell described as 0.213 acres of land out of and part of lot 7 block 1 Ethridge-Packer Subdivision in the City of Bridge City, Texas from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Low Density Residential District), seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

9. RESOLUTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2025-13(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2025 tax year**

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-13(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2025 tax year, seconded by Council Member Champagne.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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

Mayor Pro-Tem made a motion to approve March 18, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, 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, Champagne, Collins, Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

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

Council Member Collins made a motion to approve the bills list for the month of March 2025, 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, Champagne, Collins, Dixon.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Mannino.

WORKSHOP SESSION

11. WORKSHOP ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(a) Discussion of the Visitor Center's 2024 expenditures report and the 2025 HOT TAX application

Ms. Jones said she met with Mandy Lyda, Chamber of Commerce Director, and she turned in all her receipts for last year's expenditures for the \$50,000 HOT TAX monies the Council granted the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce and what it should have been spent on. She said the agreement was for 30% of the operational budget, 30% payroll, and other expenses, which were the visitor center cost. She told Council there were two items in question regarding if it was the visitor center's cost. She said next was the salary which she used Ms. Lyda's. She said the amount funded was \$50,000 and the total came to \$42,102.93 so the Chamber would owe the City \$7,897.07 based on the expenditures. She said if you would like to go back and look at 100% visitor center expenses, she wasn't sure on the trailer and trailer lock. She said the visitor center paid 100% of the trailer and trailer lock, but it is being used for the Chamber and other things. She said she thought it should be moved into the 30% bracket, so the visitor center would pay 30% of the trailer. Ms. Jones said Ms. Lyda told her in this year's request they would put it in to have the trailer wrapped and the visitor center's logo on it, then it would be a billboard. Ms. Jones said if Council was comfortable as long as they wrap the trailer this year to pay for it, she left it in the 100% expenses. She said the other expenditure was an event stage sponsor for the Hot Air Balloon Festival and the total for the stage was \$7,000 but they used \$4,500 for a sponsor out of the HOT TAX monies. She said it was up to Council if they viewed that as an applicable 100% expense of the visitor center's money. She said if Council does agree, then the only amount the Chamber would owe is the \$7,900.

Mayor Rutledge asked for more information about the trailer.

Scott Shaffer, Chamber of Commerce Board Member said the trailer had not been used for anything at this time. He said the Chamber would be wrapping it completely in the next few weeks. Mr. Shaffer said it would be a full billboard, and it would have Bridge City's name and logo and also the visitor's center, it would have a map of where Bridge City is and a QR Code to link to the website and to different attractions in the City. This trailer would go to multiple functions around the Golden Triangle and further on. It is a mobile advertisement for the visitor's center. He said he would like to put some of the major businesses logo's on the back of the trailer to show the unity of the system. The sides of the trailer would have Bridge City Visitor's Center. The Council did not have a problem paying for the trailer, because it would promote the city. Mr. Bartkowiak asked if the event stage sponsor had a banner that designated Bridge City as a sponsor. Mr. Shaffer said he never left his booth because it was so busy, but he understood there was a banner about the visitor's center. Mr. Bartkowiak said he was okay with it as long as the City was credited for it. The Council all agreed they would pay that one also. Ms. Jones said Ms. Lyda would be submitting a check to the City in the amount of \$7,897.07.

Mr. Shaffer said they would be submitting the new application to the City for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Mr. Bartkowiak said the City was trying to adhere to the regulations of the HOT TAX monies and everything that needed to be documented as to what it was spent on.

Council Member Roccaforte asked if the hotels could go on the wrap for the trailer since that is where the money was coming from.

Council Member Collins asked Mr. Shaffer if he had a list of businesses that the Chamber had planned to put on the back of the trailer.

Mr. Shaffer said he did not.

Mr. Bartkowiak asked if the hotels could go on it.

Mr. Shaffer said absolutely.

Ms. Jones said she would speak with Ms. Lyda regarding some of the amounts on the new application, so we would not have come back to Council.

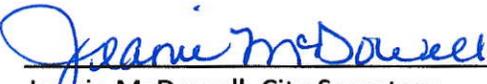
10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rutledge adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.



David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary