

CARL HARBERT <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i> 	ERIC ANDRUS <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
KIRK ROCCAFORTE <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		TERRI GAUTHIER <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
TAMMI FISETTE <i>Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member, Place 3</i>		LUCY FIELDS <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

May 15, 2018

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 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 (re-elected)
 Council Member Carl Harbert
 Council Member Kirk Roccaforte (re-elected)
 Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette
 Council Member Eric Andrus (re-elected)
 Council Member Terri Gauthier
 Council Member Lucy Fields (re-elected)

BCHS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Nolan Moore

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
 City Secretary Sherry Tisdale
 City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Personnel/Purchasing Director Jeanie McDowell
 Chief Paul T. Davis
 Mike Lund, Utility Superintendent
 Mike Die, Asst. Utility Superintendent

2. INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette.

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 said he appreciated everyone coming to the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Fields.

With no changes, additions, or deletions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. CANVASS RESULTS OF THE MAY 5, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

(EL ESCRUTINIO DE LOS RESULTADOS DE LA ELECCIÓN GENERAL DEL 5 DE MAYO DEL 2018)

- (a) Council to canvass the results of the Bridge City General Election held on May 5, 2018**
(El Concilio escrutinia los resultados de la Elección del 5 de mayo del 2018)

Mayor Rutledge passed out the May 5, 2018 Bridge City General Election canvass and tally sheets for Council to review.

6. ELECTION RESOLUTION

(RESOLUCION DE ELECCIÓN)

- (a) Consideration and possible approval of Resolution No. 2018-09(R) declaring the results of the May 5, 2018 City of Bridge City General Election for Mayor and Council Members - Places, 2, 4, and 6**
(La Consideración por el Concilio de la adaptación de la Resolución Número 2018-09(R) declarando los resultados de la Elección General del 5 de mayo del 2018 de la Ciudad de Bridge City del Alcalde y los Miembros del Concilio en los Lugares 2, 4, y 6)

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2018-09(R), in its entirety, declaring the results of the May 5, 2018 City of Bridge City General Election.

Council Member Harbert made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2018-09(R) as read. Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

7. CONDUCT CEREMONIES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

(EL REALIZO DE CEREMONIAS A LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONCILIO)

(a) Presentation of Certificate of Election to the Mayor and Council Members - Places 2, 4, and 6

(La Presentación de Certificado de Elección al Alcalde y a los Miembros del Concilio en los Lugares 2, 4, y 6)

Mayor Rutledge read and presented the certificates of election to Council Member Kirk Roccaforte, Place 2; Council Member Eric Andrus, Place 4; and Council Member Lucy Fields, Place 6, along with his congratulations to everyone.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette read and presented the certificate of election to Mayor David Rutledge, along with her congratulations.

The audience acknowledged the newly re-elected Mayor and Council Members with their applause.

Mayor Rutledge stated that he has served with this Council for several years now and they do a fantastic job and he appreciates them stepping up.

(b) Oaths of Office:

Mayor

Council Member, Place 2

Council Member, Place 4

Council Member, Place 6

(Juramentos de Oficio:

Alcalde

Miembro del Concilio, Lugar 2

Miembro del Concilio, Lugar 4

Miembro del Concilio, Lugar 6)

Judge Bill Dixon administered the oath of office to Mayor David Rutledge. He then administered the oath of office to Council Member Kirk Roccaforte, Place 2; Council Member Eric Andrus, Place 4; and Council Member Lucy Fields, Place 6. The audience acknowledged the newly sworn-in Mayor and 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 Back" to Council Members Roccaforte, Andrus, and Fields.

8. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) *City Manager*

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Romero Well Site: TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) has given the approval to start the filter up - going to take two or three weeks to get with the people in California who will come in to help with the start-up - City does have word to go ahead and proceed
2. TWDB (Texas Water Development Board): received letter from TWDB to turn in formal application for grant on the sewer part - waiting on the other - he thinks the City will be funded with both - each will be around \$500,000 - looking at around \$1,000,000 in repairs
3. Drainage: Started process and application form to request funds on all major outfall ditches - this will be a big project

(b) *City Council*

Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fiset had the following comment:

1. Asked Mr. Jones for an update on the pipe work needing to be finished that crews were waiting on removal of the beehives: Mr. Jones said it has not been finished - crews went out there and the beehives were moved but the bees are still there - they are supposed to come and vacuum up the bees and bring them to the beehives - crews are waiting on this to be completed

Council Member Terri Gauthier had the following comment:

1. Referred to Astros magazine she had passed out: at the EDC meeting this week they learned that the producers of the Astros magazine were reaching out to different EDCs and cities around the Houston area wanting to publicize any information to bring tourists in our area - EDC has a really nice ad in the magazine

Council Member Lucy Fields had the following Chamber of Commerce update:

1. Mother of the Year: Norma Fuselier was crowned
2. Father of the Year: looking for nominations - will be announced on the 2nd Tuesday of June
3. Golf Tournament: will be held on May 26 to raise funds for the Chamber

(c) *City Staff*

There were no comments from City staff.

(d) *Mayor*

Mayor David Rutledge announced this will be Nolan Moore's (BCHS Student Council Representative to Council) last meeting with Council.

Nolan Moore, BCHS Student Council Representative to City Council, said he wanted to thank everyone for what they have done for him and the school. He said they have represented Bridge City the best in the 18 years he has been in Bridge City. He stated he loved Bridge City and it is the place to be, and it is because of Council and all the City workers. He said he is proud to be a Bridge City Cardinal and proud to be a part of this community and town. He also told Ms. Rutledge congratulations for her award. He told the audience they will have a fantastic time with Council, and told the voters they did well.

Mayor Rutledge told Mr. Moore, in being the "guinea pig", he really appreciated Mr. Moore's stepping up and taking his time and giving his input, which Council thinks is a valuable thing. Mayor Rutledge told him he thinks he represented his school and age group very well. He thanked him again for everything he has done.

Council Member Kirk Roccaforte mentioned that the BCHS baseball's play-off game is tomorrow night in Jasper. He said Mr. Moore is on the baseball team and they are doing a fantastic job.

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Robbie Kelcher
1035 Charlotte

Mr. Kelcher stated that he had gone to the last Council meeting and the Council had a lengthy conversation on how to address citizen's concerns or problems in the future and how to report it and bring it back to Council. He said if he remembered correctly, this Council agreed that the Mayor would assign a single Council Member in order to reduce time spent on the issue, and they would work with that citizen to collect the facts. Hopefully they would resolve it and not have to bring it to Council without further discussion or work. He said he feels like he brought a valid citizen concern to Council at the last meeting. He asked the Mayor if he has assigned someone to work with him in resolving his issue.

Mr. Fukuda reminded Mr. Kelcher that Council cannot respond to anything that he says, but he can certainly say anything he would like. Mr. Kelcher was told that someone could speak to him after the meeting.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the February 20, 2018 City Council Meeting

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve the February 20, 2018 City Council Meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

With no corrections, additions, or deletions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of April 2018

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve the April 2018 City bills, seconded by Council Member Fields.

With no questions, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) 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 Fields made a motion to appoint Council Member Andrus as new Mayor Pro-Tem to the City Council. Council Member Gauthier seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

On that note, Mayor Rutledge said he wanted to thank Ms. Fisette for stepping in for him. He said she had one pretty tough one handed to her and she handled it well. Council Member Fisette responded saying she appreciated the opportunity and enjoyed doing it.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to appoint a City Council Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Fields seconded the motion.

Mayor Rutledge said he has already been told by Ms. Fisette that she would like to serve. Council Member Harbert said he would also be interested.

Mayor Rutledge stated that he needed a motion.

Council Member Roccaforte said, based on tenure, he made a motion to appoint Council Member Fissette, seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fissette, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (e) ***Remove from table - Consideration and possible action on a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the Preliminary Plat application from Robert Cash for Marsh Estates, (lots 1-41) located in the City Limits of Bridge City off W. Roundbunch, and described as consisting of a 15.51 Acre Tract of land out of the Samuel Davis Survey, Abstract Number 6, Orange County, Texas and being that same 15.51 Acre Tract conveyed to Brooks R. Bonin by deed in Orange County Clerk File Number 422574***

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to remove from the table a recommendation to approve the Preliminary Plat application from Robert Cash for Marsh Estates, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Fields seconded the motion to table.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to consider approval of the preliminary plat application from Robert Cash for Marsh Estates, Lots 1 - 41. Motion was seconded by Council Member Fields.

Council Member Roccaforte said, at the last meeting, he asked if staff could get someone here that is involved with this. The concern is the drainage issues. He said it is his understanding, after a couple of discussions, that this drainage plan will relieve the drainage issues. This drainage plan will relieve some of the problems, according to the engineer.

Mr. Robert Cash introduced himself to Council and said he is a citizen of Orange County. Mr. Cash said he is a developer and builder. He said he spent a lot of time and consideration on this with Orange County, the State, and the City. He said they have walked that property several times looking at its condition. They did a hydrograph study. They wanted to see where drainage is going right now and what they needed to do to help insure when they develop this they were not creating further problems. In considering things that are happening on Charlotte and Bernice - he knows there are issues there. What they considered and strived to develop was a system that would relieve the existing drainage ditch that goes around that property. It's undeveloped right now and sits at a higher elevation and actually drains to the same drainage ditch these residents are draining to. He said they have to come up with a design where they are actually re-grading the property. They are going to remove what they are draining into that ditch right now, and capture it into side road ditches. They have developed a 640 foot concrete

line drain-off ditch, as well as a 1/2 acre drainage pond to capture that water. This will hold roughly 198,000 gallons of water total in the side road ditches, the drain-off ditch, and the drainage pond. This will be releasing water into the State ditch that runs along Hwy 1442. Mr. Cash continued the discussion on the water drainage stating that they worked closely with TXDOT (Texas Department of Transportation).

Council Member Harbert asked Mr. Cash if they were going to dig the retention pond and what are they going to do about the ground water. Mr. Cash said they are going to dig the retention pond and the engineer will make sure it's sloped. There will be a HOA in the neighborhood, and it will maintain the drainage concrete-lined ditch and the pond.

Council Member Fisette said her concern with this is the retention pond. After Tropical Storm Harvey, there were questions asked about building retention ponds in Bridge City. From a reliable source - who is well knowledgeable about Bridge City - she was told "you can't put retention ponds in Bridge City because they stay full of water." Mr. Cash responded that is the reason you put a liner in it. Council Member Roccaforte said he thinks they are talking about two different things. It does capture water but it's designed to slow it down at the same time where it's not all rushing at one time. Mayor Rutledge stated it is like a wide spot in a line - it's a reservoir. Water is still flowing out of it but it restricts the flow. Council Member Fisette said her concern is that there is a neighborhood right behind it. She said she has visited with Mr. Kelcher and has driven around the neighborhoods. Also, she and Council Member Fields have walked those ditches. Her concern is not only Charlotte Street now but Fernwood and Arthur and Bernice and Alton. If this doesn't work how Mr. Cash says - they will be hurting a lot more people than is hurting right now. Mr. Cash said they have met a very heavy criteria with the State and the County and with private engineers. Council Member Fisette said she would love to see new houses out there, but the City hasn't fixed the problems they already have. What if this doesn't work? Mr. Cash told her this is part of the solution. This property is draining to these neighborhoods now. What he is doing is re-directing the water.

Discussion continued with Mr. Cash, Council, and Mr. Kelcher.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there were any more questions for Mr. Cash. With no further questions, Mayor Rutledge thanked Mr. Cash for coming.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there was any more discussion. Council Member Fisette asked Mr. Jones if this will help Mr. Taylor. Mr. Jones said it should help that whole area. He stated he went out and walked the area. One of the things they are fighting is their elevation at 6 feet. The house and the yard are so low. When you reduce the amount of water that is coming around the ditch which actually comes up and backs up on top of them, this concrete ditch will take some of the overflow off of them and bring it around to the retention pond. So with the reduction of the flow in the main ditch and the ability to get rid of some of the stuff that is there, it's bound to help somebody. He said he didn't know how much.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: Council Member Fisette.

Absent: None.

- (f)** *Consideration and possible approval of a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a Joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. (immediately prior to City Council Meeting) to hear public comments on a proposed zone change from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) as requested by owner, Chad Landry, located at 158 Granger (further described as Lot 12 Block 1 Granger) and 160 Granger (further described as Lot 11 Block 1 Granger) so that he may build duplexes on the property*

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to call a Joint Public Hearing on June 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comments on a proposed zone change from R-1 to R-3 at 158 and 160 Granger. Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fisette, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

- (g)** *Remove from table - discussion and possible action to amend Section 12 and Section 17 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy to provide procedures for the City to review, approve and place Council and Citizen requests on the City of Bridge City – City Council Agenda*

Council Member Harbert made a motion to remove from table discussion and possible action to amend Section 12 and Section 17 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy. Motion to remove from table was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fisette, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to amend Section 12 and Section 17 of the City of Bridge City Council Decorum and Procedures Policy. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus.

Council Member Fisette had a question regarding Section 12(a) and who may place an item on the agenda. Mayor Rutledge said this was discussed at last meeting, and he thought it was the consensus of Council to make it one Council Member and the Mayor.

Mayor Rutledge made the following editorial comment to the audience. In the past they had a procedure and had some issues with it. He said they are trying to streamline the process and make it more accessible to the citizens. One of the net effects of the previous policy was they talked about a problem and didn't get any action on it for a certain period of time because of the legal aspects that were going on about when it has to be published and all those kind of things. What this does is lead to more action to get things done. This should resolve the citizen's issues where it doesn't have to come to Council.

Council Member Harbert said after the meeting he read it several times; and, to him, it makes the Council more involved with the citizens – all of the Council, not just a few of them. It makes everybody involved with the citizens. He said he agrees with Mayor Rutledge and, again apologizes.

Council Member Fisetta said she has received several phone calls since the last meeting. This is like the citizens having their own personal Council Member. She said she loves the idea of getting out with the citizens and getting to know them on a personal basis.

Mayor Rutledge said once this policy goes into place they can focus in on the administration of the policy.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fisetta, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(h) *Consideration and possible action to schedule a City Council Workshop to discuss administration of the Decorum Policy*

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to schedule a City Council Workshop to discuss administration of the Decorum Policy. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mayor Rutledge asked if anyone had a particular date in mind. Council Member Harbert said "the sooner the better." Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus suggested the next Council Meeting. Mayor Rutledge reminded him there was a Joint Public Hearing before the City Council meeting on June 5th. Then Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus suggested next Tuesday – May 22, 2018.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to schedule a City Council Workshop on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Gauthier seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fissette, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

11. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Fissette, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

/s/ David Rutledge

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary