

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
April 18, 2017

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 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 Kevin Mott
Mayor Pro-Tem Kirk Roccaforte
Council Member Tammi Fisetta
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

Council Member Terri Gauthier

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

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

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG

Following the invocation given by Mr. Fukuda, 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.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

4. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Filtration System Project: will be worked on starting Monday - Filtronics, Simco, City engineers, and TCEQ will all be in town - will take a few days to get ready for going online
2. Romero Well: electrical work is finished - the well motor was a little damp so they decided to hold off - not going to pump on it until tomorrow - will probably have it ready by the time the two filters are in place and then can do this one
3. Budget: working on it the next month or two - probably will be a lean budget

(b) City Council

Council Member Tammi Fisette gave the following report:

- Thank June Gregory and Charlotte Chiasson for their service and support to the Bridge City Library
- Friends of the Library new members: the entire Ess family has joined as members
- Library Garage Sale: K'Lynn Borg reported it was a great success
- Friends of the Library new project: looking at getting bids to put up doors in new addition of the library
- Early Voting: begins Monday, April 24 - May 2, hours 8 am to 4 pm next week and 7 am to 7pm May 1 and 2 - location is Bridge City ISD Administration Building - Election Day is Saturday, May 6 - encouraged everybody to get out and vote

Council Member Lucy Fields reminded everyone about the Mother of the Year that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting. Nominations are due next Wednesday, April 26. She said they hoped to get a lot more. They have several hundred dollars in gifts and prizes for Mother of the Year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte asked Council Member Fields if there is a Father of the Year. She replied, "Yes, there is." She said they want nominations for this, and they are due by June 12th.

(c) City Staff

Utility Superintendent Mike Lund said, in addition to what Mr. Jones reported, he is going to give Ms. Tisdale information to put on the website to let everybody know about the filters. He also stated since Council won't be meeting again for a couple weeks, he wanted them to know that - with the backwash - it is going to stir things up a little bit out there. They will flush and continue to flush until it clears up. He wanted Council to know if they received calls this is what it will be for, and they will be up day and night - whatever they have to do. Also, he said they will start backwashing this week. Mayor Rutledge added for everyone to get the word out.

Mr. Jones stated they would start with this unit here at City Hall so it will affect this general area.

Mr. Lund added that they will be doing the two units but the one on Hwy 408 is on the big line that was just installed so he doesn't see a lot of issues with this one. It will be mainly in this part of town (City Hall).

Mayor David Rutledge announced there was going to be an Open House at the Orange Depot on May 7th from 2 to 5 p.m. He encouraged anybody in Orange County to go and show their support of this project.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

6. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2017-02 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint Energy's Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 30, 2017

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-02 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint's "GRIP" filing made on March 30, 2017. Council Member Fields seconded the motion.

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2017-02 (Attachment No. 1), thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

7. RESOLUTIONS

(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2017-08(R) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2017 tax year*

Mr. Fukuda read, in its entirety, Resolution No. 2017-08(R) (Attachment No. 2) adopting the City of Bridge City residential homestead exemptions for the 2017 tax year.

Council Member Fields asked if these numbers were the same as last year. Mr. Jones said yes, it was.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-08(R) as read, seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

(b) *Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2017-09(R) opposing Senate Bill 715 or any similar legislation that would weaken the City of Bridge City's ability to annex properties that are located within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)*

Mr. Fukuda read, in its entirety, Resolution No. 2017-09(R) (Attachment No. 3) opposing Senate Bill 715 or any similar legislation.

Mayor Rutledge stated, solely in his opinion, this is another shot that the Senate is taking at cities. This is one that can hamstring not only Bridge City but also other cities, and probably the whole State will be affected by this. He said, to him, it is bad legislation and it hurts entities that are closest to the citizens.

Council Member Fields stated that she went to a meeting that was attended by other city managers and mayors. They were very, very concerned about this, and were trying to get their senators to vote against this bill. At the time, it was still in committee. She stated, "Everyone just is really very upset about this because it can really affect all of us in a very negative way." She said they need to try something, and it was recommended to pass a resolution to show support of voting against this bill.

Mayor Rutledge stated that he doesn't remember if it has come out of committee yet and gone to the full Senate.

Mr. Jones said the last he heard it was still in committee. He said he does know that every city in this part of the country is calling and visiting with representatives and showing displeasure with this bill. There are a lot of people that are trying to apply pressure to the legislature to do away with this bill.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-09(R) as read, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 City Council Meeting

Council Member Mott made a motion to approve the April 4, 2017 City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Fields seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the March 2017 City bills

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to approve the City bills for the month of March 2017 (Attachment No. 4). Motion was seconded by Council Member Mott.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

(c) Consideration and possible action to join the City of Orange in coordinating efforts with other surrounding cities in defeating or amending bills dealing with annexation and focus on excluding industry property or allowing Industrial District Contracts, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or similar agreements

Mayor Rutledge said he asked for this item to be on the agenda. He said Shawn Oubre, City Manager of Orange, is heading this up. This is a catchall in that not only does it pick up SB 715, but it also picks up the other bills that the Senate is trying to use to essentially gut the authority of the cities. He said they are trying to come together with a single voice to tell them "We don't care for this". This is just an action to allow the City to join in with the City of Orange and other entities in this area.

Council Member Fields asked if this was the same as the resolution Council just passed against SB 715.

Mr. Jones said this picks up HB 299, HB 424, HB 2272, and SB 715.

Mayor Rutledge said there are several bills in this category and they all have detrimental effects on the cities in this area. He said they are trying to come together as one voice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte made a motion to consider possible action to join the City of Orange in coordinating efforts with other surrounding cities in defeating or amending bills dealing with annexation and focus on excluding industry property. Motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

Discussion was held on possible timeline of the bills.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte stated that this motion is going to allow the mayor to be able to make comments or decisions that say "Yes, we agree with this" or "We want to move forward with the other cities" without having to come back to Council every time they want to make a move - to have the ability to say "Yes, Bridge City is also in favor of this." He said he thinks Dr. Oubre is well aware of everything that is going on and is on top of things. Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte said he, for one, would really like to see the City support this effort. They are going after some things that the City does not need here.

Council Member Fields asked if this would require a resolution. Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte answered no, it would be support.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there were any more questions.

Mr. Fukuda recommended amending the motion to more tailor Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte's statement versus what was proffered and seconded. Mr. Fukuda suggested the following as the amended motion:

Motion for Mayor Rutledge to be able to voice the support of the City of Bridge City with the City of Orange in defeating or amending bills dealing with annexation or focused on excluding industrial property or allowing Industrial District Contracts, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or similar agreements. Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte amended his motion per Mr. Fukuda's suggestion. Amended motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Council Member Gauthier.

/s/ David Rutledge

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary