

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
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
June 6, 2017

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 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 Carl Harbert
Council Member Kirk Roccaforte
Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
City Secretary Sherry Tisdale
City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda
Personnel/Purchasing Director Jeanie McDowell
Police 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, 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 Gauthier.

With no 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.

4. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. LUKE project: LUKE signs are out - should be kicking off program soon - need a little more training - instructions for citizens are available at City Hall
2. Park project: park equipment has been ordered - delivery will be 6 to 8 weeks
3. Filtration project: have not received State approval for third site - well casing and well motors have been replaced - City staff has been taking samples and they have all been good - State is requiring the same process as was done at the other sites

Utility Superintendent Mike Lund had the following report for Council:

- 1) Romero well project: TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environment Quality) has been taking samples - first THM (trihalomethane) reading was 11 - really optimistic to get the new readings
- 2) Flushing project:
 - Three weeks ago - flushed the neighborhood around Rachal and stopped at Texas Avenue
 - Last Thursday - flushed area from Econolodge back to Bridge City Bank
 - Flushing the water cleans up in anywhere from 8 to 10 minutes
 - Only had a couple of calls and this was because they used the water while it was being flushed - haven't had any additional complaints
 - Preparing information now to give to City engineer for the 1st 30 day report
 - How many sections? 9 to 10 sections
 - Focusing on the worst part of town and where most of the complaints were
 - As things start clearing City staff may start flushing in the day
 - Purpose of night flushing was to get the maximum flushing at customer convenience
 - First fire hydrant break on Gilmer - still under warranty - water came out clear the whole time

Mr. Jones added the following:

4. Budget preparation: everything going well - Ms. Morgan is starting to put it altogether now

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert stated he was out with the Water Department personnel during the flushing and he said most of the hydrants only took 3 to 4 minutes to clear. He said he was impressed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette congratulated Officer Brittany Hilton who was chosen by the Masonic Lodge as Officer of the Year. She also welcomed two new employees to the City family - Alex Welborn and Kegan Deluna.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said how much she appreciated Mike Lund and all of his staff. She said she appreciated their diligence in doing their jobs. She also said there are maps on Facebook showing where the flushing is scheduled. She said she is getting all the information posted so the citizens will be updated.

Council Member Lucy Fields stated that the Chamber of Commerce's Father of the Year was chosen this morning, and it will be announced at next Tuesday's coffee. The coffee will be held at the Golden Triangle Emergency Center in Orange at 8:00 a.m. She invited everyone to come out and congratulate the Chamber's first Father of the Year.

(c) City Staff

There were no comments from City staff.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marian Pepper, 5924 Inez Avenue, Orange, Texas (in City limits of Bridge City)

Ms. Pepper said a couple of nights ago she began thinking about starting a Farmer's Market. She already raises vegetables, chickens, has eggs, and makes jelly. She said they could bring in other people; and so far, the response is overwhelming. She has many people that want to be vendors and other people saying they would support it. Her reason for appearing before Council is to ask if there's a place to set up the Farmer's Market. She was considering possibly the First Baptist Church or the City Park for set up. She said she knew if the Farmer's Market was to be held every Saturday that there would be a conflict with people using the Park Pavilion.

Mr. Fukuda informed Ms. Pepper that this item is not an agenda item so Mayor or Council cannot discuss this subject with her. However, he said Mayor and staff could talk to her after the meeting.

6. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-03 approving CenterPoint Energy's 2017 Annual GRIP (Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program) Adjustment

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-03 approving CenterPoint Energy's 2017 Annual GRIP adjustment (Attachment No. 1). Council Member Roccaforte seconded the motion.

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2017-03, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

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.

7. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2017-13(R) amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2017-13(R) in its entirety (Attachment No. 2), amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-13(R), seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette.

Mr. Jones was asked if there were any changes in the policy. Mr. Jones answered that this resolution is tied to the fact that Ms. Morgan and he are required to go to investment trainings every 2 years.

With no more comments, 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.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the May 16, 2017 City Council meeting minutes

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the May 16, 2017 City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

With no changes, discussion, or alterations, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

(b) Discussion and possible action on item requested by Kenneth Prosperie, 819 Sunnyside, concerning Bridge City dirty water issues

Council Member Andrus made a motion to discuss and possibly act on an item requested by Kenneth Prosperie, 819 Sunnyside, concerning Bridge City dirty water issues. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetle.

Mr. Prosperie presented Council with a packet of information regarding the dirty water issues Bridge City has had. He made a point to say that this was not about the guys (Water Department personnel) because they are doing a good job.

Mr. Prosperie asked Council how did the water get so dirty. He referred to an article in the packet that was dated February 22, 2017 regarding Mr. Jones and "fake water news". He stated this is a serious issue. Initially water lines were flushed but he said a lot of hydrants wouldn't work. He said Mr. Lund stated that one of them even broke on the first day of current flushing. Mr. Prosperie stated that it has taken so much time to handle the water problems because Bridge City was trying to avoid a black eye. He said it was citizens that got Mr. Robert Bowcock, an environmentalist from California, to come to Bridge City. Mr. Bowcock was the one who suspected a well problem and said this would be a process the City would have to go through.

Mr. Prosperie stated, "Citizens pay for clean, safe water. This is not a free service..." He asked Mr. Jones if the City paid over \$100,000 on a new well casing.

Mr. Prosperie mentioned he had a few questions for Council. How many of Council believes this is fake news? Mayor Rutledge answered that he believes this quote was taken out of context.

Mr. Prosperie then asked what department brings in the most revenue for the City.

Mr. Fukuda explained to Mr. Prosperie that the budget does not fall under the agenda topic so Council could not discuss this with him.

Mr. Prosperie asked if all the flushing records have been kept and are they up to date. It was explained that they are always kept up.

Mr. Prosperie asked how many hydrants are still not working other than the one that just broke. Council Member Harbert stated that every hydrant that has been opened at night has worked.

Mr. Prosperie then asked Council if an employee had a problem with City equipment - would they get in trouble for mentioning the problem. He said he's been told that there are problems that can't be fixed because they can't get funds allocated.

Mr. Prosperie ended up by saying that people have to realize this is serious stuff, and it could've killed someone. He then thanked Council for letting him speak.

(c) Consideration and possible action regarding a recommendation submitted by the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve a Preliminary Plat application from Rodney Townsend for Acadian Quarters Subdivision, Phase Two (Lots 1 - 22), located within the city limits of the City of Bridge City

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve a recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve a Preliminary Plat application from Rodney Townsend for Acadian Quarters Subdivision, Phase Two (Lots 1 - 22), located within the city limits of the City of Bridge City (Attachment No. 3). Council Member Andrus seconded the motion.

Mayor Rutledge stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve this preliminary plat application was based on a unanimous vote. He then asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Townsend.

Council Member Fields asked how many homes he expected to be built in this phase. Mr. Townsend answered, 22.

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.

9. ADJOURN

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** None.

ATTEST:

/s/ David Rutledge

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

David Rutledge, Mayor

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary