

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 PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
September 5, 2017

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 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
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisetto

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
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 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 Andrus 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, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None. **Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetete.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2017 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas, levied as follows:

\$0.20391 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)

\$0.31609 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate

\$0.52000 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate

After reading Agenda Item 4(a) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and asked if there were any comments or questions.

With no questions or comments, Mayor Rutledge closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Rutledge then announced, "A vote on the tax rate for the City of Bridge City 2017 Tax Year will be held by the City Council on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, located at 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

5. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Update of the City:

- Operations are pretty normal - water, sewer, and garbage services operating - close to 90% on electrical service
- Debris Pickup: FEMA says contract was bid and received and the cities cannot "piggyback" on to County's contract - checking to see if there is anything on HGAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council) with a differing opinion - should have an answer in a day or so - if the City can't "piggyback" all the cities want to go together - that would increase the volume of pickup and give a better rate - will bring back to Council if the cities are going to participate
- Citizens: people are starting to tear out and dry out houses
- Building permits: process will start but will have to have assessment of every piece of property that's in the flood zone and then have to have a repetitive

- damage sheet - required before building permits issued so the City can have insurance - anyone not in a flood zone can have a permit issued
- Met with FEMA insurance groups in County to discuss what was done last time and how it's going to be done this time - getting people down to make sure there is no new regulations that nobody knows about - we want to get ahead of this so when people start rebuilding they can walk into this office and we have a system set up and people in place - everybody has to say and do the same thing - this group is going to meet a couple more times and make sure that all the cities and the County is on the same page - State will come in and meet with them - Mr. Jones said they will make sure before all this starts that everyone is doing it the right way - it can affect people getting flood insurance when all of this is over so he does not want to jeopardize that - Drainage District has four new maps that will show the flood zones and the good thing to remember is the City is still operating under the old flood zone map - new one is not in effect because it has been appealed

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert had a question about when they left for TML and the conflict with the National Night Out. Council Member Fields said she was going to TML after the Night Out since the conference was in Houston.

Council Member Kirk Roccaforte had the following report:
He will not be able to attend the TML Conference and please cancel his reservations.

Mr. Jones said he didn't know if he was going to be able to go either. He commented that the Incident Management Team that came in today is going to help manage the situation for the City.

Council Member Roccaforte also said a thank you to the City and Council and the employees in this City. He said the Mayor has absolutely stepped up. It's really an honor to be involved in this deal - not an honor to have a hurricane - but an honor to be involved with these people and this City and the citizens that make it happen.

Council Member Terri Gauthier had the following report:
Per the Mayor's request, she managed the food distribution and supply site at the School Bus Barn. The military came in and helped get it started. In 2-1/2 days, they have served 350 to 375 families in the process. She said that going through a storm you learn different things about your community. They have made many good connections. There are great people in our community. She said they came to realize that the churches in the community are putting up distribution sites and their church bodies are helping. She said they needed to get out of the bus barn with school coming up so they worked really hard and got connected with the churches. They outsourced all the supplies they had today to four different churches and the City was helping them be successful. It was hard work, but by the end of this, she felt that the City had a good reputation about what they were doing.

Council Member Lucy Fields had the following report:

She said she had sent texts out to Council to let them know what the churches were doing. She said everywhere she went everyone was grateful for anything that could be done for them. She asked the churches if anyone had any problems and they were not. Only thing the churches said was they didn't have enough cleaning supplies. All churches running very efficiently and they are constantly getting in trucks from sister churches all over the nation. They will continue to do so until the end of the week and see where they will go from there. They are trying to possibly set up hot meals. Kidz World will have hot meals at 6 pm tonight and tomorrow a helicopter is coming in with 3000 meals at Bridge Point Fellowship. She said she was asked if she could go around once a day and share information. Possibly information could be posted on the City website or City Facebook page. They had a kitchen come in yesterday at Bridge Point and their goal was to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner but by lunch they had cooked everything they had brought and fed 1500 people. There is a need out there for hot meals.

First Baptist is doing shut-ins now. First Assembly and First Baptist both have people coming in tomorrow they will be housing at their church site to help with recovery. The Police Department came by and got a bunch of things because they have heard of several people that are shut-ins. Everybody is trying to help.

(c) City Staff

City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda said Municipal Court has a Pre-Trial setting scheduled for Monday, and he has recommended to Ms. Tisdale that they cancel the Pre-Trials. Ms. Tisdale also added that there will be no Municipal Court session tomorrow.

Police Chief Paul T. Davis had the following report:

- running non-stop 24 hours/day since last Tuesday
- couple of guys shut in at PD because of displacement of their homes- his staff have four damaged homes
- staff has worked like yeoman making sure the citizens of this town are safe
- because of the tremendous amount of rain Bridge City was the only route available for east to west traffic
- there continues to be water over the road at Farmers Market (Port Arthur side of Rainbow Bridge)
- now contra flowing traffic, at his request, over the Veterans Bridge because of the closure of the Rainbow Bridge
- traffic back to normal now over the Orange bridge
- water is still over road in outlying areas
- curfew is in effect - purpose of curfew is to keep people safe
- commercial systems are coming back - they are getting fuel and supplies in to the stores
- things look normal but they're not normal because there are still folks displaced and still folks needing help
- things have gone from emergency status to "now let's kind of see what" status
- Incident Management Team is in - will start tomorrow morning managing this event - they will take direction from Mayor - from finance to logistics, whatever the City decides it needs, is what they are tasked for

- now moving forward from emergency response to recovery
- none of his staff have had a day off - law enforcement support from other agencies is now coming in and will start tomorrow
- public utilities came up pretty quickly
- comfortable in sense of normalcy

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

To All of Council and Staff

- He said he knows he's a little hot headed and does not like foot dragging and inefficiencies - He apologized to everyone
- He said he's brought in a special assistant (Erin Rutledge Shaw)
- He told the guys (Mike Lund and Mike Die) and Richard Harmon they have done above and beyond what we could ever imagine - He said we're not like Beaumont - we don't have to boil water to use it - that is a testament to the way they keep their business in order - "There's 8,000 people out here that owe y'all a debt of gratitude"
- Thank you to Richard Harmon for shuffling the barricades and pylons around and keeping people out of where they are not supposed to go
- All Council has stepped up - they have done everything they can possibly do - because of them the City is getting through it
- The rest of the staff in here - the whole staff is stepping up to this - especially wanted to thank Mr. Roccaforte, Chief Davis, and Mr. Jones for the invaluable assistance, information, suggestions, course corrections - they tried their best to put me back on track - he said he will be forever in their debt
- He summed it up by saying "A big thank you to the whole group here"

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Rutledge added:

- mail service starting to kick off - open regular hours to mail, get stamps, etc. - delivery will be a little spotty and they can only go where streets are passable

Council Member Fields added that she forgot to mention that she went to the Fire Department and she asked how things were going - they said they are done with water rescues and re-assessing how long the other crews would be staying.

Mayor Rutledge said they are phasing out the outside help and the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Department is making all the calls right now. They have not had to call on the other groups that are here to help. This is a good sign.

7. ADJOURN

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None. **Absent:** Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetette.

/s/ David Rutledge

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary