

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**  
**November 7, 2017**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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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

**BRIDGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL 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  
Police Chief Paul T. Davis  
Utility Superintendent Mike Lund  
Asst. Utility Superintendent Mike Die  
Judge Bill Dixon  
Associate Judge Ida Schossow  
Deputy Court Clerk Terri Ballenger

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

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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

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Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette.

With no 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.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

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#### **(a) *Certificates of Appreciation presented to City churches and organizations that provided assistance in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Harvey***

Mayor Rutledge read one of the Certificates of Appreciation because he said they were all pretty much the same except for the organization involved. He said he would read the organizations and the people involved when he was through reading the certificate.

Mayor Rutledge then presented Certificates of Appreciation (Attachment No. 1) to the following:

First Assembly of God	Pastor Robby Holland
First Baptist Church	Pastor Doug Shows (Debbie Anderson accepted in his absence)
St. Paul United Methodist Church	Pastor Mark Bunch
Bridge Point Fellowship	Pastor Lance Faulkner (was not able to attend the meeting)
Circle Drive Baptist Church	Pastor Jack Comer
Commonground Community Church	Pastor Bud Davis (was not able to attend the meeting)
Liberty Baptist Church	Pastor Jeremy Bradshaw

Knights of Columbus

Wesley & Sherri Biddle  
(were not able to attend the meeting)

Kidz World Learning Center

Laura Childress & Lenzi Belcher  
(were not able to attend the meeting)

Mayor Rutledge then spoke to the pastors saying, "Thank you very much for all y'all did. and I know y'all worked tirelessly in keeping the City going and we do appreciate it very much." He said this is just a small token and Council's way of thanking them for everything they have done.

Pictures were then taken.

**Pastor Jack Comer** spoke and said what the faith groups in the City did can only be explained as a "God thing." It's hard for some people to understand but it's just a "God thing" and how God provided. He said, in their church's situation, things came in to their Church that only God could have provided - multiple times over. He also said that when you think about what God did and "we as churches and faith organizations - we appreciate a City government that allows the Church to do what the Church is supposed to do." He then said they appreciate Mayor Rutledge and City Manager Jerry Jones and Chief Paul Davis and all of the City Council because they let the Churches do their thing. By doing this, they hoped they were able to help the community, and this allowed the City to do what they needed to do. He thanked Council for letting them do what God has called them to do.

**Pastor Robby Holland** said what the churches did and their reaction came very naturally because, as the body of Christ, "We want to be Jesus' heart on display. We want to show a helping hand and an open heart and open arms to the community in which we live and in which we love." He said he also wanted to say a big thank you to City Council and to Mayor for their leadership and their recognition.

**Pastor Mark Bunch** spoke about how things came together and how God worked to bring things in through connections you would have never imagined to happen. People responded from all around the community. Pastor Bunch said this shows the compassion and care that this community has for its neighbors. Even people who were flooded out stepped up and said, "I can't do anything now at my house, but I can help somebody." Great friendships and relationships have been built across churches and organizations. He said they were thankful to be a part of this.

**Pastor Jeremy Bradshaw** said in disasters sometimes we expect for it to bring out the worst, but it is a delight when it brings out the best. This season, as difficult as it's been, has reinforced his joy in being part of this community. He said he's so grateful for the City leaders that reached out to him directly and to his church. It's an encouragement, and there is no other place that he would want to be. He said he can honestly say that, and he's the rookie here with less than three years here. Pastor Bradshaw said, "It was a blessing to see when you go through difficulties together, you see who your friends are and who your family is." He commented that we - as a community - are a family to one another. He said "We - as churches

- we want to continue to reinforce this by showing the love of Christ through good and bad times."

**Ms. Debbie Anderson** stated that her pastor, Doug Shows, was led to open their Family Life Center to the people who were being rescued - simply to give them a dry place at the time. She said from there it evolved - miracle after miracle after miracle - people bringing food to feed these people. She said she saw it happen and it was all the Lord. Ms. Anderson said she appreciates her pastor and was glad to serve.

**Council Member Lucy Fields** said she wanted to say to all of the churches, and the Knights of Columbus and Kidz World, "I have never been so proud to be a citizen of Bridge City. As we went around the community and tried to identify where distribution sites were and what certain things that different churches had - it was just amazing and so heartwarming." She said the City is a small community but has such a big heart. She said she saw people and church members and pastors so exhausted with no sleep unloading 18-wheelers at 2am and 3am. They never stopped and never hesitated and they met the needs. When the basic needs were met then they started housing people for restoration. They kept going and going and going. She said she just wanted to say "Thank you so much. I have never been so proud to be a member of a city as I am at this time."

**(b) Proclamation presented to Bridge City Municipal Court personnel declaring the week of November 6 through November 10, 2017 as "Municipal Court Week"**

Mayor Rutledge read the Proclamation recognizing "Municipal Court Week" (Attachment No. 2) and acknowledged the following Municipal Court personnel:

Municipal Court Judge Bill Dixon  
Associate Municipal Court Judge Ida Schossow  
Visiting Municipal Court Judge Joy Simonton (not in attendance)  
Terry Smith, Deputy Court Clerk (not in attendance)  
Terri Ballenger, Deputy Court Clerk  
Paul M. Fukuda, City Attorney/City Prosecutor (not in attendance)

Mayor Rutledge thanked everyone.

## **5. REPORTS & COMMENTS**

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**(a) City Manager**

**City Manager Jerry Jones** had the following report for Council:

1. Romero Well Project: well site is still not on - had a request for additional information - all was delivered to TCEQ - still waiting on them to let the City turn the system on - don't know when that will be
2. Manhole Project: finished E. Roundbunch - started on Regal Pointe - hopefully it will be ready in a week or two - it was the worst of the two

3. Last Meeting: had some folks here about an electrical fence and the distance from a house - City staff checked it and distance is fine - the electrical part has been dismantled - as it stands it's legal under City ordinances in place
4. W. Darby Street Complaint: Mr. Philpott has had two different meetings with the lady - those meetings don't seem to be going anywhere - probably Thursday the complaints will all go to the Judge - trying to expedite this - he said he noticed the debris people had gone through there and have picked up a large portion of the trash but there's still a lot of it out there
5. Library Update: sheetrock up - need paint and flooring and cabinets
6. Senior Citizen Hall: basically in same state as Library
7. Community Center: contractor completed with dry-out - doesn't think it will be available for anybody until after first of the year - have cancelled all events

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Carl Harbert** said Council needs to sit down and decide a Workshop on ordinances. It's something we need to get straightened out.

Mayor Rutledge agreed that this needs to be done. He said he would put together a timeframe to do this. He will canvass Council individually to find out a good time for that and schedule it.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fiset** said that she knew the pastors had left, but she did want to say again to all the churches in Bridge City - "It is very evident that God is alive in Bridge City". She said she was on those fire trucks that were delivering people to First Baptist Church. No questions were asked. The people were soaking wet and it was raining. They gave them a quick medical history and they took them in with no questions asked. It's amazing. She told Council Member Fields - like her - "I'm very, very proud to be in this community."

Council Member Fiset said she also wanted to send her thoughts and prayers to the Morvant Family and the H. K. Clark family.

Council Member Fiset mentioned that there are two milestone anniversaries with the City:

(1) Jeanie McDowell - 26 years yesterday

(2) Sherry Tisdale - 30 years

She said Council appreciates everything they do and keeping everything together and keeping them straightened out.

**(c) City Staff**

**Paul M. Fukuda** said he was happy to have Nolan Moore here to fact check him and make sure he stays in line for the meeting.

**(d) Mayor**

**Mayor David Rutledge** introduced the new face sitting with Council. Nolan Moore is a senior at Bridge City High School and he will be an informal representative from the student perspective.

He is a leader with the Student Council in the High School. From time to time Council may ask his opinion about something that is going on in the City and get a perspective that Council doesn't necessarily see from our "old" eyes. He may bring something for Council to look at from the student's point of view. Legally he can't vote and is considered a civilian, but it's a good lesson for him to carry back to the Student Council to get young people involved in government at whatever level they can.

**Nolan Moore told** Mayor Rutledge "Thank You". He said he has talked to many kids over the past week and he has noticed there are no sidewalks for Texas Avenue. He said he would like to discuss later sidewalks for Texas Avenue. The Cross Country Team, first of all, is running on the sides of the roads - morning and end of days. There are also a lot of kids that don't ride a bus and don't have a car and just walk home. The students don't think it's safe to walk home without any sidewalks. He said he would like to discuss this later.

## **6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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There were no citizen comments.

## **7. RESOLUTION**

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- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2017-19(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 82 votes for the 2018-2019 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors**

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-19(R) casting the City of Bridge City's 82 votes for the 2018-2019 Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2017-19(R) (Attachment No. 3) in its entirety.

Mayor Rutledge stated that the City has 82 votes, which, in the grand scheme of things, is not a whole lot. He said if they are divided up amongst other candidates, they water down all the City's voting power. He said he strongly recommends the City cast all the 82 votes to whichever candidate they want to go for.

Council Member Andrus said he amends the motion to cast all of the City's 82 votes to Tim Schossow. Council Member Harbert seconded the motion.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

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

## 8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

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**(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve the August 15, 2017 City Council Public Hearings and Meeting Minutes***

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the August 15, 2017 City Council Public Hearings and Meeting Minutes, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there were any changes, corrections, alterations, or deletions. With no discussion, he 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.

**(b) *Consideration and possible action to certify the 2017 City of Bridge City Current and Delinquent Tax Rolls as submitted by Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector***

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to certify the 2017 City of Bridge City Current and Delinquent Tax Rolls as submitted by Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector (Attachment No. 4). Motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

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.

## 9. ADJOURN

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Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 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.

*/s/ David Rutledge*

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

*/s/ Sherry Tisdale*

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Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary