

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
December 5, 2017

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, December 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
Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Terri Gauthier

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

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
Chief Paul T. Davis
Mike Lund, Utility Superintendent
Mike Die, Asst. Utility Superintendent
Captain Tod McDowell
Captain Robert Bergeron
Sergeant Richard Teague

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

Following the invocation given by Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette, 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 and braving the elements.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

4. PRESENTATION

(a) *Certificates of Appreciation presented to First Responders that provided assistance during Tropical Storm Harvey*

Bridge City Fire and Rescue

Mayor Rutledge read the Certificate of Appreciation (Attachment No. 1) and presented it to representatives of the Bridge City Fire and Rescue. He went on to say, "Thank you very much, and we do appreciate all y'all do." He said he wanted to acknowledge all their contributions to the City. The audience responded with applause.

Bridge City Police Department

Mayor Rutledge read the Certificate of Appreciation (Attachment No. 2) and presented it to members of the BC Police Department. Mayor Rutledge said, "I do appreciate everything y'all have done for us and how y'all have helped the City." He also said he wanted to say thank you "on behalf of 8000 people around here that appreciated all y'all did". The certificate was accepted by Chief Paul T. Davis, Captain Robert Bergeron, and Sergeant Richard Teague. The audience responded with applause.

Captain Tod McDowell

Mayor Rutledge read the Certificate of Appreciation (Attachment No. 3) and presented it to Captain Tod McDowell. Mayor Rutledge said Captain McDowell "did a heck of a job on keeping the cats herded up...I don't know how he did it but somehow he did it and pulled us all through." Mayor Rutledge said Captain McDowell went above and beyond. The audience responded with applause.

Acadian Ambulance Service

Mayor Rutledge provided the Certificate (Attachment No. 4). There was no one in attendance to represent the ambulance service, but a BC Fire and Rescue member said she would bring the certificate to them.

5. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) *City Manager*

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Well #4: Motor burned up last Monday - staff did a good job of transferring the load around town - they got the well motor removed and taken in and re-built - it was back in service Friday - they did a really good job in getting that back together
2. Pressing project right now: Ms. Morgan and Ms. McDowell and some of the other staff are working on trying to get all of the disaster projects downloaded on the computer - all has to be in by December 18th - they will get it done but they are very busy right now

Council Member Carl Harbert said he sits in and listens to Court on Wednesdays. Every Wednesday people are paying their tickets and bragging on our Police Department on how polite they are. He said the Police Department needs to be recognized for this, and he appreciates them all. Everyone responded with applause.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette had the following report:

1. Christmas Parade: Everyone that helped organize the Christmas parade did an excellent job, and she has had a lot of good comments from citizens. She stated she thinks it's the biggest parade the City has ever had. Council Member Andrus said he thought it was 49 entries. Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette thanked the Chamber of Commerce for really getting behind this. They did an excellent job.
2. Bridge City PD: She said she couldn't say enough about Bridge City PD. It is a privilege and a blessing to work alongside every one of them. They do an excellent job, and she is very proud of every single one of them. They represent our City very well and she thanked them very much
3. BC Fire Department: "Y'all are my family - Fire Department - excellent job - very proud to work alongside of every single one of y'all." She said thinking back to the disaster and the call out on Hwy 1442 where it took them over an hour to go out there, turn around and come back - these are things we won't forget. She said "That's what our jobs are - is putting ourselves in danger to help other people - and I'll do it every day and I will stand along beside y'all every single day." She then thanked them all very much.

Council Member Eric Andrus stated he would also like to thank the Fire Department, the Ambulance Service, and our Police Department. He said he knew everyone worked very hard. He stated he saw it first-hand, and it's not just the hurricane but it was the parade and other various things. He said, "Thank y'all very much. And it's just not on the streets - like what you

do for the kids for the bikes...It doesn't stop and it reaches out further. That's a great thing that y'all do."

He said he would also like to welcome back Mr. Jones.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she would also like to say how much she appreciates the work that the Police Department does and the commitment that they have. She said she was so proud during the time the City went through after the hurricane - of the reports that came back of everyone. She stated she is so thankful for the commitment and the dedication of those who work for the City.

(c) City Staff

City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda thanked Council for the cards and the gifts for Christmas.

BCHS Student Council Representative Nolan Moore said that the BC High School thanks the BC Police Department, the Ambulance Service, and the Fire Department for everything. He said they are always terrified of the policemen for pulling them over, but they are doing a great job. He thanked them for keeping them in check. He also said thank you to BC School police. He thanked everyone for getting them to school safely and especially with the buses. He ended by saying, "Thank you for getting us to school, keeping us in line, and thank you from Bridge City High School."

(d) Mayor David Rutledge commented that the Boards and Commissions party is this Thursday and Service Awards are Friday and next Tuesday with be the lunch for the employees.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

7. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2017-07 establishing rules and regulations regarding sanitation and pollution control of areas in proximity of City's wells, as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2017-07, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-07 establishing rules and regulations regarding sanitation and pollution control of areas in proximity of City's wells, as required by the TCEQ (Attachment No. 5). Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mr. Jones said this ordinance actually updates all the well location sites.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:

- (1) September 2, 2017 City Council Emergency Meeting**
- (2) September 5, 2017 City Council Public Hearing and Meeting**
- (3) September 19, 2017 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette made a motion to approve the September 2, 2017 City Council Emergency Meeting, the September 5, 2017 City Council Public Hearing and Meeting, and the September 19, 2017 City Council Meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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, and Gauthier.

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

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of October 2017

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve the October 2017 City bills (Attachment No. 6), seconded by Council Member Harbert.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve Contract No. 7217039 between the City of Bridge City and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for the Community Development Fund

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve Contract No. 7217039 (Attachment No. 7) between the City of Bridge City and the TDA for the Community Development Fund. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Jones explained that this is Community Development Block Grant Funds that the City applies for every year and, for the last few years, it has been through the Regional Planning Commission. Again, this year it is for yard lines. Staff is continuing to work on I & I (Inflow & Infiltration) and one of the biggest contributors to that is the surface water from zero to eight feet. To be able to do these yard lines there is a stipulation on money that can be made (income). The lines will be done at no charge to citizens in the City. Mr. Jones said this grant is for \$275,000 and that includes engineering and installation.

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

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

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

(d) *Discussion and possible action to extend the current Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster (November 17, 2017 to December 16, 2017) for a 30-day period beginning on December 17, 2017*

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette made a motion to extend the current Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for a 30-day period beginning on December 17, 2017 (Attachment No. 8). Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mayor Rutledge said Council can look at this but he does know that everything is coming up to a deadline in December so this will probably be the last time this declaration will be extended.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette asked when would be the last day of debris removal. Mayor Rutledge told her to ask Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones said this agreement has nothing to do with debris removal. This is part of the original declaration - back when it started - when the City was told to apply to be able to get federal funding. There have been a few side stipulations so it has been carried an extra time or two. Nobody can seem to tell the City if it is okay to drop this. So, the easiest thing is to keep it going until the City finds out for sure.

Mayor Rutledge stated the declaration was originally for seven days then it went to 30 days, another 30 days, etc. He said, if it meets with Council's approval, they can run this out another 30 days to make sure the City's timeline meets with other governmental entity's timelines.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

(e) Discussion and possible action to approve a proposal by LJA Engineering, Inc. for general engineering services to provide for various engineering related assignments

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve a proposal by LJA Engineering, Inc. for general engineering services to provide for various engineering related assignments (Attachment No. 9). Motion was seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Mr. Jones said this is simply something the City had to do to all get these projects and estimates in by the 18th of December. He said they will have to come back and formally do a RFO and hire these folks to do the actual funding and projects, but this is later down the road. He said these need to be entered and then see which ones qualify, then staff will be coming back with a RFO for engineering.

Mayor Rutledge explained that this is the same firm that had been hired a year or so ago to handle these type of things. This is just a formality.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette asked about - at the very back of the proposal it has a 2018 rate schedule. She said she knows they have done projects for the City in the past, but is this different - since it says 2018 - from what the City has had in the past. Mr. Jones replied that he's sure the rates are all the same but they have to refer to a rate schedule. This is their latest one. Mr. Jones said he has not seen any increases in their rate schedule, but he will check it.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

(f) Consideration and possible action on potential cancellation of the December 19, 2017 City Council Meeting

Mr. Jones stated that normally this meeting is one where staff has nothing (for the agenda) or has trouble getting a quorum. This is just a bad time of the year. Everybody is doing vacation and Christmas so it hasn't been very productive in years past. Normally the meeting is cancelled.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to cancel the December 19, 2017 City Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

9. ADJOURN

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

/s/ David Rutledge

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary