

<b>D CARL HARBERT</b> <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	<b>DAVID RUTLEDGE</b> <i>Mayor</i>	<b>ERIC ANDRUS</b> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/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>Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>LUCY FIELDS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

## **CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MEETING MINUTES**

### **CITY OF BRIDGE CITY**

**August 21, 2018**

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 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 Tammi Fisette  
 Council Member Kirk Roccaforte  
 Mayor Pro-Tem 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  
 Finance Director Karen Morgan  
 Personnel/Purchasing Director Jeanie McDowell  
 Police Chief Paul T. Davis  
 Asst. Utility Superintendent Mike Die

#### **2. INVOCATION**

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Invocation given by Council Member Fisette.

#### **3. PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG**

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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.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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**(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas**

***"This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$74,730 or 4.16%, and of that amount \$20,769 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year."***

After reading Agenda Item 5(a) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Rutledge asked twice if there were any questions or comments on this budget.

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

**(b) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2018 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas, levied as follows:**

***\$0.20897 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)***

***\$0.33803 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate***

***\$0.54700 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate***

After reading Agenda Item 5(b) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Mayor Rutledge asked twice if there were any questions or comments on this budget.

With no discussion, 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 2018 Tax Year will be held by the City Council on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., here at City Hall.

**6. REPORTS & COMMENTS**

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**(a) City Manager**

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

1. Mr. Jones told the Mayor and Council the resolution on the agenda is to apply for the flushing valve replacement grant from the Texas Water Development Board.
2. Mr. Jones also told Mayor and Council that the ditch cleaning is continuing, the City crews have been working on the ditch behind Market Basket. Also, the Drainage District has been working on the ditch on Meadowlawn and others. The City's crew is continuing to work on the ditch cleaning with one Gradall. Mr. Jones said when the City starts receiving funds, then the work will be done quicker. The City staff is still waiting on the report from Action Civil Engineers, PLLC for Council Member Fissette's neighborhood, but would like to review the report so the City will have the correct plan of action to continue work.

**(b) City Council**

**Council Member Kirk Roccaforte** stated that the Regional Planning Commission did pass the method of distribution for the monies for infrastructure or acquisition or buyout. The Planning Commission is moving forward with method of distribution. A meeting will be held on Friday, August 24, 2018, to move forward with what is coming up with the Regional Planning Commission and the GLO. The groups will start developing a way to put in an application for the buyout or acquisition. And of course, the monies for the infrastructure, the Regional Planning Commission can fund it from different areas.

Mr. Jones stated, the he has the forms that shows the amounts the City will receive, and the amount changed very little. City of Vidor is the only entity that did get extra funding, so the amounts did not change much. The City is waiting on the rules on how to distribute the monies.

Mayor Rutledge asked Council Member Roccaforte if the meeting was at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 24, 2018. Council Member Roccaforte told Mayor Rutledge that was correct, and it was by invitation only meeting.

**Council Member Tammi Fissette** asked Mr. Jones as monies start coming in, City drainage projects are going to be more frequent? Council Member Fissette asked Mr. Jones if he could for communication purposes, give a brief overview of the items that are on the agenda when the monies start coming in and will the City crews be in specific areas?

Mr. Jones told Council Member Fissette that he could give her a list. The largest grant we applied for is to clean all the major outfall ditches in the City limits. The other monies that will come is for localized drainage ditches on side of the road. Mr. Jones stated we can do those with contractors instead of working our crews. The largest project is all the major outfalls in Bridge City.

Council Member Roccaforte stated a lot of the monies coming in will be 70% low to mod. There may be some projects going on that may not be the projects that we as the Council are thinking about getting done, but the City will have to begin with the 70% low to mod before getting the specific projects the City is wanting done. Restrictions apply with the 70% low to mod projects so they will be a priority.

Council Member Fields asked Council Member Roccaforte if he was talking about outfall ditches.

Council Member Roccaforte responded to Council Member Fields that he was talking about some projects that City crews are now working on but the low to mod projects will take priority. Council Member Roccaforte stated that he thought the low to mod projects had to be spent first.

Mr. Jones stated that there will be a lot of projects and each project has stipulations. Mr. Jones told Council that the City may want to get projects done with the monies but it may not happen.

Council Member Roccaforte stated that he was giving all Council Members a warning how the system works and he stated it worked the same during previous hurricanes.

Council Member Fisetete asked if we already had a plan for the low to mod projects?

Mr. Jones said that the City has low to mod areas. The grants the City has applied for are in specific areas, so that grant will be for a specific area. Mr. Jones stated there were some areas the City would like to get work done, but will not get to it with this monies.

Council Member Fisetete asked Mr. Jones the City will not get to the projects or will get to them at a later date?

Mr. Jones stated if the projects were not low to mod, the City would not be able to complete the projects with this money. Mr. Jones said that the City will have a program to eliminate some problem areas.

Council Member Fisetete asked Mr. Jones for an update on selling the old police station?

Mr. Jones told Council Member Fisetete that the old police station is now sold and Mr. Fukuda has the paperwork to complete the sale.

**Council Member Terri Gauthier** stated that she would like to give an update of the Board of Director with the Chamber of Commerce and the new banners are out down Texas Avenue and Hwy. 1442. Council Member Gauthier said this is the first step in branding, which is a new and fresh image or slogan for a new identity for the City. Council Member Gauthier stated that they were getting other organizations, such as the Rotary, involved and Council should be speaking the slogan which is "Growing Stronger Together". Council Member Gauthier said you are proclaiming something over the City, which creates a new atmosphere and attitude like unity and commitment to one another. The Superintendent of the school would like literature to pass out at the school to participate. The schools theme this year is strong families. The school and other organizations within the City is trying to promote the image of our city. Council Member Gauthier said there are homes, restaurants and retail stores being built so this is a great time to shop local and to grow stronger.

**Council Member Lucy Fields** commented "Save the Date" for the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The theme this year is "One Starry Night". Some of the churches wanted the Chamber of Commerce to do something that will have the theme tie into families and the true

meaning of Christmas, and that is how the Chamber came up with “One Starry Night”. The floats can be decorated as Santa going across the sky or a religious theme. There will be a Mayor’s trophy for the best float, picked by the Chamber’s judges. Also, the Chamber has tagged the slogan “Growing Stronger Together” on their flier to promote the City. Council Member Fields also informed Mayor and Council that the Chamber selected Sherry Tisdale as “Employee of the Month”.

**(c) City Staff**

Mr. Fukuda informed Mayor and Council the deed for the sale of the Police Department would be ready the next day.

**(d) Mayor**

**Mayor David Rutledge** had no comment.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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*Michael Leiner*  
*1010 Chatwood*

Mr. Michael Leiner addressed Mayor and Council and commended the Council for the courtesy and friendliness of the atmosphere at the meetings. He also told them that he would like the Council to create business here, instead of the easy government monies, such as the low housing. Mr. Leiner had 3 issues:

1. Mr. Leiner told Mayor and Council that he has a postal problem, such as he has a rogue postal carrier and Congressman Babin had about 100 complaints last year, which he is trying to correct.
2. Mr. Leiner asked Mayor and Council about Harvey Street, he told Council it is only being patched and not fixed correctly. Mr. Leiner would like to know if something can be done about it.
3. Mr. Leiner told Mayor and Council that the City cuts grass all around the city, but not around him and would like to know why.

**8. ORDINANCE**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2018-13 denying the rate increase request of Entergy Texas, Inc. filed on May 15, 2018**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2018-13, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10

Council Member Harbert made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2018-13 as read. Council Member Fissette seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**9. RESOLUTION**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2018-16(R) adopting the proposed 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2018-16(R), in its entirety, adopting the proposed 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-16(R), seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

Votes were orally given as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER HARBERT	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER ROCCAFORTE	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER FISETTE	YES
MAYOR PRO-TEM ANDRUS	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER GAUTHIER	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER FIELDS	YES
MAYOR RUTLEDGE	YES

**MOTION CARRIED and RESOLUTION PASSED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2018-17(R) requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for fire hydrant replacements**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2018-17(R) in its entirety, requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for fire hydrant replacements.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2018-17(R), Council Member Gauthier seconded the motion.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED and RESOLUTION PASSED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None

**10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas in accordance with TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §102.007(c)**

Council Member Harbert made a motion to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas in accordance with the TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §102.007(c). Council Member Fields seconded the motion.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:  
May 1, 2018 City Council Meeting  
August 7, 2018 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2018 City Council Meeting and August 7, 2018 City Council Meeting. Council Member Fields seconded the motion.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) Consideration and possible action to approve the City bills for the month of July 2018**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the July 2018 City bills, seconded by Council Member Fields.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**11. ADJOURN**

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Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary

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Jeanie McDowell, Recording Secretary