

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>Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 5</i>
TAMMI FISETTE <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		LUCY FIELDS <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
May 21, 2019

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 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 6:01 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor David Rutledge
Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier
Council Member Kirk Roccaforte
Council Member Tammi Fisette
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Carl Harbert

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Police Chief Paul Davis
Utility Superintendent Mike Lund
Asst. Utility Superintendent Mike Die

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

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

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 AGENDA

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve the agenda and agenda addendum, seconded by Council Member Fisette.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

5. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

(a) Proclamation declaring May 2019 as “Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month” in the City of Bridge City

Mayor Rutledge presented the proclamation declaring May 2019 as “Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month” to the Texas Elite Bikers, Maverick Motorcycle Club, Prodigal Motorcycle Club, and COC. Rob Vail thanked the City of Bridge City and Bridge City City Council for Participating in 2019 to share the road campaign, for the proclamation and for urging the citizens to give motorcyclist the same respect and right of way like any other vehicle deserves.

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Elsie Street ditch plans have been completed and the engineering firm will be advertising May 22 and May 29, 2019. Also, a Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on May 30, 2019.
2. Crepe Myrtle and Center Street ditches - The City was told that it was funded, but it did not include engineering cost and contingency. The total funded was \$55,000 usable money. The City has contacted the County and Drainage District, they and several Council Members have gone out and looked at the ditch. The Drainage District has agreed to do work for the City which will include the cleaning of the Center Street ditch. The City is trying to figure out how to utilize the \$55,000 in conjunction with helping with the ditches.

It may be in the form of equipment rental to clear right of ways. This project will start relatively soon.

3. Storm drain boxes and manhole repair – The City has 14 boxes and 3 manholes and those projects have been funded. Again, they were underfunded without some of the engineering and administrative costs. The City Staff will try to get that reimbursed.
4. All other projects the City has applied for are on hold and have not been funded. FEMA originally funded street projects, inspected the streets and told the City they were funded, but later called to schedule another inspection. City Staff is in the process of getting the streets re-inspected. Monies of the \$15M worth of projects, the City has not received anything back. Part of the agenda tonight, has our grant administrator from Gary Traylor's office and they are working to get these implemented. The projects are the Infrastructure and Acquisition/Buyout, she will speak with you more about those projects. The projects have not been funded as of this date, but the City will need to get ahead of this and get these people hired and get them working the projects. The City has a list of citizens that have applied for the buyout. The grant administrators will go through the list and get the citizens qualified ahead of time so when it does come around, the City can start the projects.
5. The other part of the monies is dedicated to the new water well which will be drilled at Sunnyside. The remaining portion of the monies is to offset the City's contribution of the street and drainage projects. If they don't materialize, the City will take that money out and move it back into the infrastructure projects. The City will try to finish paying for the water well project.

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert

None.

Council Member Kirk Roccaforte

1. Some of you have noticed the water in the ditches, and in the outfalls and water backing up into some subdivisions, and of course, the reason is because the tides are very high with a very strong south wind. You have heard on the news, the beach issues and how high the water was there. Please be aware of this because some citizens are saying their ditches are not draining, but fact is it's the tide and the level of the tide. Bailey's Road at this time is completely covered with water. I'm glad this area did not get the rain that was predicted and has been happening north of the City.

Council Member Tammi Fisette

1. Council Member Fisette asked if some of this water is the gates at the dam. Mayor Rutledge told her it was the gates and other factors contributed to it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrus

None.

Council Member Gauthier

None.

Council Member Fields

1. SVDP – Disaster Service has monies remaining for the people who had their home destroyed during Hurricane Harvey. They are still trying to find people to help. If the citizen’s homes have been repaired and need appliances or furniture, they can help with the purchases. The SVDP does not want to have to give the money back to the government. If you know anyone who still needs help, Brandy Crane is the person who can help.

(c) City Staff Report

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

Miscellaneous City Staff

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. This is the Legislature’s last week of session, and it does not look good for the City.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brandy Crane – SVDP Disaster Services

Ms. Crane said SVDP Disaster Services provides disaster case management services in Orange County. Along with their partner companies, they are able to offer any and all levels of repair. Also, we have our house in the box program up and running with all our partner agencies, which this provides household furniture, kitchen goods, such as pots and pans, basics to get people in their homes. Perhaps the citizen received their insurance monies, and their house is fixed but have no furniture or using hand me downs that are about to fall apart, or their appliances were flooded but have been working okay and now started to make a weird noise, we can help them out. Also, SVDP Disaster Services recently heard from Habitat Humanity they have received a

large grant specifically for Harvey victims that are post 911 Veterans. Habitat for Humanity will have to fund 10 people before the end of their grant and they have funded two. They need eight more people, so if you know any 911 Veterans in Orange County, Jefferson County or anywhere in Southeast Texas not limited to Bridge City who still need help in repairing their homes from Harvey, please get in touch with SVDP Disaster Services or with Habitat for Humanity. If you have referrals, please have them call the referral number, not my cell phone, so they can be screened within one week and will be assigned a case manager.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the May 7, 2019 City Council Meeting

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve minutes of the May 7, 2019 City Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Fisetete.

With no questions, additions, or alterations, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of April 2019

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve City bills for the month of April 2019, seconded by Council Member Fields.

With no further discussion, Mayor called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(c) Consideration and possible action to consider the award of the grant administration services contract for CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery) to Traylor & Associates, Inc. for damage sustained from 2017 Hurricane Harvey flooding event DR-4432 Disaster Declaration for Infrastructure

Council Member Andrus made a motion to award the grant administration services contract for CDBG-DR to Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Infrastructure, seconded by Council Member Roccaforte.

Melinda Smith with Gary Traylor & Associates stated this is to just to execute the contract that we were awarded several months back.

With no further discussion, Mayor called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(d) Consideration and possible action to consider the award of the grant administration services for contract for CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery) to Traylor & Associates, Inc. for damage sustained from 2017 Hurricane Harvey flooding event DR-4432 Disaster Declaration for Local Acquisition/Buy-out

Council Member Fissette made a motion to award the grant administration services contract for CDBG-DR to Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Infrastructure, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

Melinda Smith with Gary Traylor & Associates stated this is to just to execute the contract that we were awarded several months back.

With no further discussion, Mayor called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve a draft of the City's CDBG-DR Infrastructure application for posting to begin the required thirty (30) day comment period

Council Member Andrus made a motion to approve a draft of the City's CDBG-DR Infrastructure application, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Melinda Smith with Gary Traylor & Associates said Rhonda Masters with the General Land Office and her title is the Intergovernmental Liaison will be joining her. She will be another resource for Traylor and Associates and the City for Infrastructure and Acquisition and Buyout and has proved to be a valuable resource during this process for getting answers to us quickly and helping

organizing instructional meetings that Ms. Smith has participated in. Infrastructure application is the monies that HUD allocated for the disaster, which started off at \$5 billion dollars that trickled down through the General Land Office to administered it. The General Land Office left it the Planning Commission and COG's to define the method of distribution per region, and through that process the City of Bridge City was allocated \$2,034,182.54 for Infrastructure and \$1, 566,004.73 for Local Acquisition and Buyout. What is important about the monies is that 70% of the total funds allocated, per HUD regulations are to be spent to benefit low to moderate income individuals. The City currently has a request into the General Land Office to waive those requirements. Ms. Smith said that Traylor and Associates will be working under the assumption that it will be approved. The last correspondence she had is it had been presented to the Governor's Office and they were proceeding with helping us make the case for the approval of the request. Ms. Smith said Gary Traylor & Associates has been told to move forward as if it has been approved, but has no official word of the approval on it as of this date. The application is for the proposed HMGP Funds, and the City has received notification from FEMA that it has been selected for funding, but we have not made it through the whole process. This is very preliminary not definitive until a contract with FEMA for those funds has been put in place. The biggest portion of the monies will be for the replacement of the water well at Sunnyside. Mr. Jones pointed out anything that is not spent for HMGP will be absorbed back into the funds that will reduce the amount of local contribution required. Ms. Smith said she has a draft of the application that will be left here at the City. There is some information for the public on how and where to comment. The application will be in the City Manager's office for review and comment for the next 30 days. After the 30 days, Ms. Smith will ask for approval officially to submit the application to the General Land Office.

Council Member Roccaforte asked if the City will need to have public hearings on this application.

Ms. Smith told Council Member Roccaforte the City has already had the public hearings back in December. She said it is not much of a requirement as the 30 day comment period.

Mayor Rutledge asked when does the 30 day comment period begin. Ms. Smith told Mayor Rutledge as soon as Council approves it, the 30 day comment period will start. She also told Mayor Rutledge that July 2, 2019, is dated on all material in anticipation of it being approved in that council meeting.

With no further discussion, Mayor called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(b) Consideration and possible action of the City's CDBG-DR Local Acquisition and Buyout Program application

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the City's CDBG-DR Local Acquisition and Buyout Program application, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Ms. Smith said she would be back again and this will be a larger discussion but she would like to remind everyone until there are actual applicants these are all just place holders. Anything you will see moving forward is just a guess. This is very preliminary, but it will get contracts in hands, monies flowing and monies to residents.

Ms. Masters said she thinks the City is very proactive and is moving along very well. Ms. Smith's organization is one of the few that has turned in applications. So the City is well ahead of other cities in the Harvey zone, so you are to be commended for taking the actions and moving forward. Ms. Masters said together we will get there, but we will have to work through processes and guidelines.

After further discussion, Mayor called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

9. 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members, Roccaforte, Fissette, Andrus, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary