

CARL HARBERT <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i>	DANNY HARRINGTON <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
MIKE REED <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
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
August 20, 2019

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 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
Council Member Mike Reed
Council Member Tammi Fisette
Council Member Danny Harrington
Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier
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 Fukuda
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Police Chief Paul Davis
Assistant Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Assistant Police Chief Brad Frye

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier.

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

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fiset, Harrington, Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Members Harbert.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed 2019-2020 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

"This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$193,515 or 10.39%, and of that amount \$46,283 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 6:03 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.

(b) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2019 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas, levied as follows:

***\$0.19790 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate
\$0.35560 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate
\$0.55350 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate***

After reading Agenda Item 5(b) Mayor Rutledge opened the public hearing at 6:04 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 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Rutledge then announced, "A vote on the tax rate for the City of Bridge City 2019 Tax Year will be held by the City Council on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, located at 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. The City has not received much information on the grants through the government for the storm related damages, but still pursuing those.
2. Sewer replacement lines – all but 25 have been installed and replaced. City Staff is taking names for the next year.
3. Filter press – specs are in and will be bidding it this week.
4. The City received feedback from the Water Development Board grant, the sewer manholes, and there were six additional questions for City Staff to answer. The City has sent the answers and now waiting on the release of funds to begin the work.
5. Elsie Project – received the plans, specs and revisions. Mark Kelly, Action Engineer, will try to get the bid in the paper today or tomorrow. It is a real short form and will not take long to fill out. Mr. Jones said he told Mr. Kelly do not give them a lot of days. It will be very easy to get a bid and the City will get the project moving soon.

(b) City Council

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette said she went by and checked on Ms Penny Benfield, because Council Member Harbert asked her to go by and check with her. She said apparently the City Staff did the wrong side of the road. Do you know anything about that? The right side of the road looks really good, I saw it and it is cleaned out.

Mr. Jones asked if it was a ditch clean? And what is the address?

Council Member Fisette said it was a ditch clean and the address is the corner of Nevils and Stewart.

Mr. Jones told Council Member Fisette he would check on this in the morning.

Council Member Fisette asked for updates on the Public Works position, have we received applications?

Mr. Jones told her that he had not posted the position, but will do so this week.

Council Member Fisette asked if we had a time limit on that.

Mr. Jones said he would probably post it in-house first.

Council Member Fisette said that Brenda Robicheaux , 300 Henry, called her and asked if the City will look at her ditch. Ms. Robicheaux said she was on the books for last year. Ms. Robicheaux also said it is the ditch on the Gilmer side and small ditch on the Henry side.

Council Member Danny Harrington

None.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier

None.

Council Member Lucy Fields said she had two citizens who have had their sewer line replaced by the grant and are very thankful for them and said the crew did a great job replacing their front lawns. The citizens wanted to tell the City thank you for the sewer line replacement. Also, the person who had the concern about the grass under the bridge would like to thank the City for getting it mowed.

Council Member Fields said she attended the Census Orientation last week, and handed out to each council member a sheet with Key Data Collection Dates on it. This will keep everyone posted. Council Member Fields said she is on the core committee for the Census, and will have training on the August 25, 2019. The kick off for the Census will be October 10, 2019, and Census Day will April 1, 2020. May of 2020 will have the non-response follow-up starts and that is people Who do not respond either by phone, text, computer, etc. Council Member Fields said they need enumerators, people who go out and do the actual visiting of the homes of people who do not respond. If you know anyone who is interested in a part-time job, the pay is very good. Anyone interested can go to census.gov and it will lead them to the spot where they can apply for the job. They will begin contacting these people in October, because they will need to have fingerprints and background checks. The Census personnel will be at the Chambers National Night Out on October 1, 2019, and will have a table set up to give out information regarding the census.

(c) City Staff Report

City Attorney Paul Fukuda said he just returned from the Legislative Update.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

1. Census – City Staff can put the information on the website to advertise about being a census taker.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

8. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2019-20(R) adopting the proposed 2019-2020 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2019-20(R), in its entirety, adopting the proposed 2019-2020 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas.

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-20(R) as read, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

Votes were orally given as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER HARBERT	ABSENT
COUNCIL MEMBER REED	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER FISETTE	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER HARRINGTON	YES
MAYOR PRO-TEM GAUTHIER	YES
COUNCIL MEMBER FIELDS	YES
MAYOR RUTLEDGE	YES

MOTION CARRIED and RESOLUTION PASSED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

a) Consideration and possible action to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2019-2020 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas in accordance with TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §102.007(c)

Council Member Reed made a motion to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2019-2020 Budget for the City of Bridge City, Texas in accordance with the TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §102.007(c), seconded by Council Member Fields.

With no discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the August 6, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Council Member Fisetette.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisetette, Harrington and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve the City bills for the month of July 2019

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the City bills for the month of July 2019, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisetette, Harrington, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

(d) Consideration and possible action to approve a City employee receiving benefits under Section 504.052 of the Labor Code elect to receive previously accrued sick leave benefits, whether statutory or contractual, in an amount equal to the difference between the benefits under this chapter and the weekly compensation that the employee was receiving before the injury

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier made a motion to approve a City employee receiving benefits under Section 504.052 of the Labor Code elect to receive previously accrued sick leave benefits, whether statutory or contractual, in an amount equal to the difference between the benefits under this chapter and the weekly compensation that the employee was receiving before the injury, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Paul Fukuda explained that the agenda item is talking about worker's compensation benefits and it is making up the difference between the 100% salary the person would make. It is authorized under the Labor Code for the City to be able to do this. It is not double pay, it is up to that 100% level.

Mr. Jones asked City Attorney Fukuda if the City needs to change Personnel Policy to make it related to the same wording that is on the agenda or what is in the policy sufficient.

City Attorney Fukuda said this is fine and it would be incorporated in the Personnel Policy and would authorize you to approve it.

After brief discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Reed, Fisette, Harrington, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harbert.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary