

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
October 1, 2019

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Council Member Carl Harbert
Council Member Mike Reed
Council Member Tammi Fisetete
Mayor Pro-Tem Terri Gauthier
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

Mayor David Rutledge
Council Member Danny Harrington

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
City Attorney Paul Fukuda
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Personnel/Purchasing Director Mitzi Nolan
Utility Superintendent Mike Die
Public Works Director Mike Lund

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by City Attorney Paul Fukuda.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier 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 Pro-Tem Gauthier thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Reed.

With no corrections, additions, or deletions, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fissette, Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge, Council Member Harrington.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Elsie Ditch – pre-construction meeting will be this Friday, October 4, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. then the City will issue the contractor a go to work order, hopefully within a day or two they will be laying pipe.
2. Center Street Ditch – meeting with LJA Engineers on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, to discuss a way to incorporate funds to get the project done.
3. Acquisition Program – meeting on October 14, 2019, pertaining to the houses the City was buying, but there has been so many changes to the program. Mr. Jones said every time the City talks to them whether it be the people we have working on it or the State it changes. He said no one has this program in place yet, the State is trying to work it out and hopefully, City Staff will have a face to face meeting with the people that say yes or no.
4. Filter press – City Staff did get all the plans together and will advertise on October 2, 2019, and bids will be opened on October 24, 2019.

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert said National Night Out is tonight and 1st Baptist Church has the Pumpkin Patch opened. He asked Mr. Jones if the City will do any street work this year. Mr. Jones said the City has applied with the County, they are trying to figure out how to handle it. In the past, the City pays for the material and the County uses their manpower and equipment to repave a mile of streets. Mr. Jones also said the City is still working on the street

projects, but the State has not approved the them, yet. The City had a meeting not long ago and the State wanted to do away with most of the streets based off information, like aerial photographs, City Staff is in the process of arguing about it, but yes the City will still try to do some street work this year. Mr. Jones said the City has two or three streets that was promised to be done this year.

Council Member Harbert said like Franklin.

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette said I heard today the County had a meeting on the drainage. Did any of the City Officials make that meeting? Mr. Jones said Mike Lund attended the meeting for him, because he was out in town. I was called the night before and was given the information on it. Basically, the County met with all the parties that will be involved in the ditches they want cleaned out that goes through the marsh. There are three or four ditches the County needs to do to get the water levels down. I called Don Corona, Drainage District, after the meeting and he went over it with me. He said things look good for now because the Corp of Engineers is letting them clean the ditches out. The County invited Mayors and City Managers to the meeting so that everyone could listen to what the Corp was doing.

Council Member Fisette said she heard today they were discussing countywide not just for the city. Mr. Jones said it will be countywide. This whole project is centered through the Drainage District. Mr. Jones also said the City as a group will not have a say as to what is going on, but we have expressed our problems to Mr. Corona. The Drainage District has taken our concerns and will approach the project as a group. Mr. Jones said he believes it is a perfect way to do it. Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier asked is this what they are calling regionalization, they are trying to regionalize..?

Mr. Jones said yes, what they are basically doing is taking a drainage area in the state it may be four or five counties wide, it will not be just one. The County does not want to start at the top and make things worse, one of the subjects that was discussed is starting from the bottom and working back up as they clear ditches, then it will have a place to go.

Dan Perrine, KOGT Reporter told City Council Commissioner Roccaforte said they will be doing each precinct, but did not have a date for precinct 3, he said it will be later this month.

Council Member Lucy said she went to a Census meeting last week and they asked her to hand out this information that she will be explaining to the Council. To all of the City workers, and City Personnel, to people who are out and about all the time that is aware of what is going on, we already have Census workers with boots on the ground and they are canvassing addresses. The Census Workers are finding if the structures are still at a certain address or if it is a new structure. The information Council Member Fields has given to the City Council, the Census would not allow her to show the badges, the Police Department and Chief Davis have received this information, and they know what the badges look like. If you see someone walking around a neighborhood, especially City workers as they are going out and doing their everyday jobs, the Census workers should have a lanyard, should have an ID badge with their picture on it and reads US Department

of Commerce Census. The US Department of Commerce does not want her to show the badges so someone cannot duplicate them and get out there and scam. The Census workers who are out there canvassing addresses, should have a brief case that reads Census 2020 and a bag. If they only have the badge and do not have the brief case and the bag they are not a Census worker, please call the Police Department immediately. It also gives numbers to call to verify someone. The Census wanted to make all the cities aware that there are boots on the ground, Census Workers, but they are just canvassing addresses. The Census is trying to have accurate addresses for the Census mail outs, which will go out in March. Also, Council Member Fields gave City Council a copy of a sample of the actual Census, you will see there is only nine questions and that is for the head of the household. Also for every person in the household past the head of household will answer questions, each person will have their own page. It can be done online, over the phone, or as a mail in. People will be getting these in the mail beginning in March and Census Day will be April 1st. Council Member Fields said she was trained on the first part, and will be trained on October 25th on the second part. As she is being trained, the Census will ask her to give out information, she will bring it to the City Council. If the City Council has any questions, please refer them to Council Member Fields and if she cannot answer them she will have a contact person in Beaumont that she can call. Even though, the Census has boots on the ground now with the canvassing, the Census still needs enumerators. If the City Council knows anyone, the Census is looking for people who are familiar with the City, both Bridge City and Orangefield, because that will be the areas she will be responsible for. The Census is looking for people who would be willing to knock on doors. If the Council Members know anyone who is bilingual, it will be a definite plus. The Census has a breakdown of the City, and they do not have a lot of bilinguals in the City according to the information given to her. Council Member Fields said it definitely would be in the City's favor if the Census had a worker that was bilingual. The Census wants to make sure every person in Bridge City is accounted for and they are counting babies this time. In 2010, the Census did not count anyone under the age of five, and it was a big misnumber on the governments part, they are counting everyone including babies.

Council Member Fisetete told Council Member Fields one of the churches this past Saturday had a meeting and the person logged onto a Census website and gathered information two miles from Highway 1442, he showed what the Census is saying now, like homes and number of families. Then he pulled up 2024, five years from now.

Council Member Fields told Council Member Fisetete it is called ROMA and the Census is training her on that. It is showing her information on 2010 and then projections as to the growth.

Council Member Fields said it is showing the City right at 8,000 and that is the projection for 2020, so we will see how close it will be. They also estimate how many different people are in the City such as Hispanic, African American, or Asian. It is all estimates.

Council Member Fisetete said she saw the number of families and then the estimated number of homes which was drastically different.

Mr. Jones said the City has to use a lot of this information on our federal grant applications.

Council Member Fields said in January, the Census workers will be going to schools, churches, and anywhere they can share as much information as possible, and will be giving presentations so everyone will understand why the Census needs the information they are asking for.

(c) **City Staff Report**

Student Representative: Keegan Smith

1. Mr. Smith said he had an update on the Trees for Bridge City project. He spoke with Cheryl Royal, Activities Director, and she informed him the school is looking at getting volunteers to help with this and getting signs made as well.

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

(d) **Mayor Pro-Tem**

Mayor Pro-Tem had the following report:

Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier said she knows everyone received their packets for the TML meeting, which they are leaving on October 8th and returning on October 11th. Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary has given the City Council a packet that has information, such as tickets, dinner schedules, and name badges. She said she looks forward to seeing everyone that will be able to attend and hopefully the Council will learn some things that will apply to some of the decisions we will need to make.

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. RESOLUTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2019-21(R) nominating Tim Schossow as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2019-21(R) in its entirety.

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-21(R) nominating Tim Schossow as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Orange County Appraisal District, seconded by Council Member Harbert.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetite, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge and Council Member Harrington.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve minutes of the September 17, 2019 City Council Meeting

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 City Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member Fisetete.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetete, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge and Council Member Harrington.

(b) Consideration and possible action authorizing the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with the Bridge City Police Association for the period effective October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020

Council Member Harbert made a motion to enter into a contract with the Bridge City Police Association for the period effective October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, seconded by Council Member Fields.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetete, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge and Council Member Harrington.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Fields made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m., seconded by Council Member Harbert.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gauthier, Council Members Harbert, Reed, Fisetete, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge and Council Member Harrington.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary