

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

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

September 15, 2020

The City Council of Bridge City met in an regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, via telephone conference and face-to-face with the Mayor and City Council at the Community Center of Bridge City, 105 Parkside Place, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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 Mike Reed
- Council Member Tammi Fisette
- Council Member Terri Gauthier
- Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Danny Harrington.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

- City Manager Jerry D. Jones
- City Attorney Paul Fukuda by phone
- Finance Director Karen Morgan
- Utility Superintendent Mike Die
- Police Chief Paul Davis

2. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Council Member Fisette.

3. PLEDGES 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 Harbert made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Fisette.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were orally given as follows:

Ayes:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

(a) City Council to hear and consider public comments regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the 2020 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas, levied as follows:

\$0.15588 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)
\$0.38470 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate
\$0.54058 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate

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 6:04 p.m

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager Report

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report:

None.

(b) City Council Report

Council Member Carl Harbert

None.

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette asked Mr. Jones if he had an update on the Elsie Project. Mr. Jones said City Staff is looking at ditches that need to be cut and the cement will be taken care of.

Council Member Fisette said she talked with Mike Die about looking at the elevation of ditches. Mr. Die assured her he would look at it.

Mr. Jones said he would make sure they would get graded.

Council Member Danny Harrington

Absent.

Council Member Terri Gauthier said she was updating City Council on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, SETRPC has sent out flyers. The flyers has been posted on the City's Website and on the City's Facebook page. The date will be Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Bridge City Intermediate School Parking Lot.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields updated City Council on the food distribution at the Vietnamese Church. She also gave an update on the Census.

(c) City Staff Report

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

Miscellaneous City Staff:

None.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

He would like to thank the Citizens of Bridge City because they stepped up and took care of the themselves and each other during Hurricane Laura.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Barry Foster 1005 Charlotte Lane

Mr. Foster said he would speak later.

8. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2020-07 adopting and levying municipal ad valorem taxes for the 2020 tax year for the City of Bridge City, Texas as follows:

\$0.15588 per \$100.00 valuation - Debt Service Rate (Interest and Sinking)

\$0.38470 per \$100.00 valuation - Maintenance and Operations Rate

\$0.54058 per \$100.00 valuation - Total Tax Rate

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2020-07, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a total tax rate of 0.54058, which is effectively a .80 percent increase in the calculated No New Revenue tax rate. The tax rate is 0.38470 for maintenance and operations and 0.15588 for debt service with a total of 0.54058 per \$100 valuation. This rate is a 2.33% decrease from last years adopted rate." Motion was seconded by Council Member Harbert.

Council Member Fisette said FYI to the citizens, the City's last year tax rate was \$0.55350.

Mr. Jones said the rate is lower than two years ago.

Mr. Barry Foster said that was as well explained as anyone could explain it, it is hard to explain. He thanked the City Council for their hard work especially after Hurricane Laura.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Votes were as follows for Sections A and B:

Ayes:

Mayor Rutledge	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Fields	Yes
Council Member Harbert	Yes
Council Member Reed	Yes
Council Member Fisette	Yes
Council Member Gauthier	Yes

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(b) Consideration and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-08 amending the Personnel Policy of the City of Bridge City to amend the Holiday's General Policy

Mr. Fukuda read the caption of Ordinance No. 2020-08, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08 amending the Personnel Policy to amend the Holiday's General Policy, seconded by Council Member Fisetete.

Mr. Jones said there were two major changes, one is the additional holiday and the other is being paid for their birthday holiday instead of taking the day off. He said the additional holiday would be Veteran's Day.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

9. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2020-16(R) amending action items in the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan dated September 11, 2017

Mr. Fukuda read the entirety of Resolution No. 2020-16(R), amending action items in the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-16(R) amending action items in the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

Mr. Jones said this is something we had to do in order to apply for a Mitigation Grant. He said to be in consideration for the grant, it had to be in the City's Action Plan.

Council Member Fisetete asked if the grant will cover the entire cost.

Mr. Jones said hopefully it will be funded at 100%.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:**
August 18, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting
August 31, 2020 City Council Emergency Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve the August 18, 2020 City Council Meeting and August 31, 2020 City Council Emergency Meeting, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

- (b) Consideration and possible action to approve the City Bills for the month of August 2020**

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the City Bills for the month of August 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

With no further discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

- (c) Consideration and possible action to appoint/reappoint members for the 2020-2022 terms to the following City Boards and Commissions**

Board of Adjustment
Building Standards Commission
Planning and Zoning Commission
Library Advisory Board

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to appoint/reappoint members for the 2020-2022 terms to the Board of Adjustments, Building Standards Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Library Advisory Board, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

The Board of Adjustment Members whose terms will expire are Aaron Roccaforte, Richard Savoy, Alice Williams, Brenda Scales. All except for Brenda Scales agreed to serve another term. Brenda Scales was an alternate on this board.

The Building Standards Commission Members whose terms will expire are Mike Cole and Eric Reeves. All Members agreed to serve another term.

The Planning and Zoning Commission Members whose terms will expire are Lou Raburn, James Fiset, Kim Davis, and Judy LeBlanc. All except for Lou Raburn agreed to serve another term. City Staff suggested putting Annie Reeves in the open position.

The Library Advisory Board Members whose terms will expire are Joyce Dubose and Deborah Desper. Ms. Desper has declined to serve again. City Staff suggested the City Council place Ashley Bagwell in the open position.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(d) 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, 2020 through September 30, 2021

Council Member Harbert made a motion to authorize the City of Bridge City to enter into a contract with the Bridge City Police Association for the period effective October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

Mr. Jones said the only changes to the contract are adding Veteran's Day and the officer's choice to be paid for their Birthday Holiday or take the day off.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(e) Consideration and possible action to approve CDBG-MIT application(s) for posting to begin 14 day public comment period as required by the Texas General Land Office

Mayor Pro-Tem Fields made a motion to approve CDBG-MIT application(s) for posting to begin 14 day public comment period as required by the Texas General Land Office, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Mr. Jones said he will give City Council more information as it becomes available

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(f) Consideration and possible action to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for COVID-19

Council Member Harbert made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for COVID-19, seconded by Council Member Reed.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

(g) Consideration and possible action to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for Hurricane Laura

Council Member Reed made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster for Hurricane Laura, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

11. ADJOURN

Council Member Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Council Member Harrington.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary