

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 SPECIAL MEETING

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

April 6, 2021

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 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 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor David Rutledge
 Council Member Carl Harbert
 Council Member Mike Reed
 Council Member Tammi Fisette
 Council Member Danny Harrington
 Council Member Terri Gauthier
 Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
 City Secretary Jeanie McDowell
 City Attorney Paul Fukuda
 Finance Director Karen Morgan
 Police Chief Paul Davis
 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 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 Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Fields.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. Yard lines – will be awarded next week and the City will get that project started.
2. Water Well at Sunnyside – City Staff has a meeting with the Engineers, Thursday, April 8, 2021 to get that project going.
3. Major outfall ditch – across the marsh, the Drainage District has a meeting with the Corp of Engineers to work on the plans. The project should get started soon.
4. Generators – at City Hall and the Public Works Building will be tied in soon.

(b) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert

None.

Council Member Mike Reed

None.

Council Member Tammi Fisette said she noticed as she was riding around town, there were a lot of street signs missing. She asked if City Staff were getting a lot of reports.

Mr. Jones said no the City has not received any reports, but he will get staff to check and replace any missing signs.

Council Member Danny Harrington said he had a neighbor that had an issue. They had a leak in their ditch, it had been holding water for a couple of months. He said he talked to Mr. Lund and his crew went out and accessed it, and took care of it today. Council Member Harrington said his neighbors were extremely happy how quickly it was taken care of, and the work was nice and neat. He said he would like to give a shout out to the water crew.

Council Member Gauthier asked Mr. Jones if the City Council could get a report on the corrections being made on the self-reading water meters.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Lund to give the City Council an update.

Mr. Lund said a crew started last Monday changing out the erts and registers on the meters. They have completed approximately 110 as of now and averaging about 10 per day. So far, all the erts and registers being installed are reading on the system. The contractors have about 800 more to change.

Council Member Fisette asked Mr. Lund if this would be something with software updates the City would have to look at it again in the future.

Mr. Lund said yes with a computer system there will always be an update. He said Itron is working with the City to keep it updated as needed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lucy Fields said she would like to give an update on the hot tax that was approved last month for the repairs on the Chamber of Commerce building, the contractors are real close to having it completed and they are repairing it very quickly. The Chamber has had so many people stop by to tell them how nice it looks. If you have not been by the Chamber, go by and see how nice it looks. It is something that Bridge City needs to be proud of and the Chamber says thank you.

(c) City Staff Report

None.

City Attorney Paul Fukuda

None.

(d) Mayor

Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:

None.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mandy Jackson

9095 Bessie Heights Road

Orange, TX 77630

Ms. Jackson said she wanted to express the distaste in this town, and she would like to tell you why. You talk about roots, her roots run deep here. Casey Bryant, her family don't get any deeper, half of the people in this room has known her since she was a baby. People seated on this bench has known her since she was a baby. So let her talk about decency, on June 13 her husband was run over and hit like a dog, left to die in the middle of the road on one of the busiest roads in this town. Your Chief of Police, Paul Davis, you ask him why she never got a visit, not

one visit after her husband was killed to tell her he had been killed. Do you know no one in the Bridge City Police Department ever contacted her. She was looking for her husband, and she had to find out that he died on a road alone through social media. She said she had to drive to the Police Station the next day to talk to this lovely officer right here, (she pointed at Captain Richard Teague) let me give him his dues he was at least polite. He told her they knew who it was, they saw that black F-150, we have got him and we got the evidence. She said she has not heard from no one else. She said she found out Brittany Beard Hilton, who is not qualified to investigate a dog napping, was put on his case. She said she was never contacted, not once. She said she had to go to the police station and beg, where she gets told by Robert Bergeron that she is asking for too much for a call or an update. And then better yet, she has to go through Mayor Rutledge, her dad has to call Mayor Rutledge to get the Chief of Police to even return a phone call for her. She said let her tell you, three witnesses in the room sat in his office, and he said Ms. Jackson I can promise you one thing, once a month I'm going to call you, the thirteenth is your day. He told her he would give her an update the thirteenth of every month. She asked do you think she has gotten it, absolutely not. She said she didn't get it, on March 26th he calls her. She told him she sure has been waiting a long time for that update and do you know what he told her, he had been on vacation. She said she runs a whole business, she said she takes care of people, probably people you know. She said she would never, because what you do is if you run a place and you have some type of empathy, you say I'm going on vacation, but what you are going to do is call Ms. Jackson for me. You are going to tell her I can't tell her anything else but you know what I thought about Robert today and he deserves justice. She said she has not gotten that from one officer in this police department, so you can't answer me today and that's fine, but let me tell you something you love your town, and your worried about drainage ditches, and your worried about street signs, you worry about somebody who has grown up in this town and loved Officer Bryant. Mr. Bean and Officer Denton has more respect for the police department than Paul Davis his own self does and you ask them... you look into this because there is wrong doing there. So thank you.

Bryan Mulhollan
9113 Bessie Heights Road
Orange, TX 77630

Mr. Mulhollan said he was here for the same reason his daughter is. He said from the beginning of this we have been lied to, one officer tells us this is what we know, then the next officer you talk to says oh no that is not what we had. It's a continuous lying situation. He said he knows there were friends and it should have never been investigated by the Bridge City Police Department. They should have immediately called DPS to handle this situation. He said we would not be here right now. He said the bad thing is they know who did it, he is still walking free, still drinking his beer, showing him on Facebook drinking, nothing has changed in his life he don't care. He said that was his son-in-law and he cared. He said they had their differences, they butted heads, but he loved that guy, still do. He said he wanted somebody to do what they are suppose to do. He said there is no way a guy can get hit like he got hit and there is no evidence of any hair, any blood, any body tissue, there is no way someone can hit the windshield like that and not have evidence. He said all of a sudden there is no evidence there, and that is bull. He said it has been covered up from the night it happened, whenever that officer said he didn't smell alcohol or didn't think he was drinking when two EMT's told him, he is drunk. He said plain and

simple, they told him he is drunk, and he choose to call the ol' boys daddy to come pick him up and bring him to the hospital. He should have been going to the hospital in the police car and then back to jail. He said he has never spent the day in jail, killing two people. He said two people and your free to do whatever you want to do. He said all he is saying is this police department needs to be looked at from Bergeron, to Hilton, to the officer that was on the scene, and the ultimate one that is responsible is Paul Davis because he is their boss. He said so he is the one that let it happen and he has done nothing to change it. He said all he tells us is I ain't got nothing else to tell you, we ain't got nothing else. He said they are tired of hearing that. He said April will be a year, one year. He said that is plenty, long enough to try to do something.

Steven Hilton
177 Ridgewood
Bridge City, TX 77611

He said he sat there today, you know my current speech just goes out of the way, because I actually hear everybody and what you said and it's true. He said it's all true. He said there is one person to blame for this and it is him (he pointed at Paul Davis) no doubt. He said evidence has been lost, cases have been thrown out, people have been falsely arrested. He said he does have names in case anybody thinks he is not telling the truth. He said never anyone is disciplined or wrote up, why? He said when you mess up a case, when you mess up people's lives you have to be accountable. He said if it gets to be this far, it's too far, it just is. He said he sits here and he sees friends amongst us and that is why he is not saying names, but it really, really hurts his feelings that he has to sit here because he got trespassed warned today. He said he wanted to have a crawfish boil on Sunday, because my Mom died on Saturday. He said he went and got his crawfish boil. He said you need to have accountability Chief, just saying.

7. ORDINANCE

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2021-05 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint's Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 4, 2021

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2021-05, 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. 2021-05 suspending the rates proposed by Centerpoint's Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City of Bridge City on March 4, 2021, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields , Councilmembers Harbert, Reed, Fiset, Harrington, Gauthier.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

8. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2021-03(R) reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas, Investment Policy

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2021-03(R).

Councilmember Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-03(R) reviewing/amending the City of Bridge City, Texas Investment Policy, seconded by Council Member Reed.

Mayor Rutledge said there were no changes to the policy.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields, Councilmembers Harbert, Reed, Fiset, Harrington, and Gauthier.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution No 2021-04(R) to LJA Engineering firm for engineering services for the City's 2021-2022 Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) to provide application assistance and project implementation, if awarded

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2021-04(R).

Councilmember Harbert made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-04(R) and the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award LJA Engineering firm for engineering services for the City's 2021-2022 Texas Department of Agriculture, TxCDBG to provide application assistance and project implementation, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Fields, Councilmembers Harbert, Reed, Fiset, Harrington, and Gauthier.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

(c) Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution No. 2021-05(R) to Gary R. Traylor & Associates as grant writer/administrator in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2021-2022 Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas

Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) to provide application preparation and project administration, if awarded

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2021-05(R).

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-05(R) and the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award Gary R. Traylor & Associates for grant writer/administrator in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2021-2022 Texas Department of Agriculture, TxCDBG to provide application preparation and project administration, 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, Councilmembers Harbert, Reed, Fisette, Harrington, and Gauthier.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) ***Consideration and possible action to approve minutes for the March 22, 2021 City Council Special Meeting***

Council Member Harbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

10. ADJOURN

Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 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, Fisette, Harrington and Gauthier.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary