

<b>AARON ROCCAFORTE</b> <i>Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member, Place 1</i>	<b>DAVID RUTLEDGE</b> <i>Mayor</i>	<b>DANNY HARRINGTON</b> <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
<b>MIKE REED</b> <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		<b>TERRI GAUTHIER</b> <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
<b>TAMMI FISETTE</b> <i>Council Member, Place 3</i>		<b>LUCY FIELDS</b> <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

### CITY OF BRIDGE CITY

May 18, 2021

The City Council of Bridge City met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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Mayor David Rutledge called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor David Rutledge  
Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron Roccaforte  
Council Member Mike Reed  
Council Member Tammi Fisette  
Council Member Danny Harrington  
Council Member Terri Gauthier  
Council Member 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  
Utility Superintendent Mike Die

#### 2. **INVOCATION**

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Invocation given by Council Member Gauthier.

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

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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**

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

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

### **5. WORKSHOP SESSION – DISCUSSION ONLY**

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#### **(a) Discussion of the TMRS Buyback program**

Anthony Mills with TMRS said as you know the City has been in TMRS since 1973, what he provided to Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary, was a snapshot of the City's plan. He said he won't go over the provisions of the plan, but he will point out to you that all of the TMRS cities get to design its plan according to what the local Council decides what works best for that City. He said when he looks at the City's plan, we have been in TMRS since 1973, looking at the deposit rate all the employees are paying in at 7% since 1985, 2 to 1 match since 2004, we still have a 10 year vesting. He said most of the cities in our area are 5 year vesting, but the City has kept it 10 years vesting. The retirement eligibility is 10 years of service and age 60, or 20 years of service and any age would qualify an employee who works at the City of Bridge City for retirement benefits. He said all employees pay into the system at the same percentage, any employee who has ever worked at Bridge City, or any other TMRS city, who is currently working for the City, who has ever quit and refunded any account, what the buyback ordinance would do, if the City adopted it, is an optional provision and on the snapshot provided to you under the provisions, the City has adopted this once before, and it was December 1990. He said what the optional provision would do is permit any employee who is currently working when the ordinance is adopted to either qualify or eventually qualify to put the money back into the system to basically re-establish that credit in the system that had been previously forfeited. He said the reason employees refund their account

can be varied, some employees leave a city, whether it was Bridge City or any other TMRS city, they could have left that city and they are only given a certain amount of time to keep that account with them. After 5 years, by law they would have to take a refund or roll the money over to another qualified retirement account. When the employee does that, the time is forfeited. If they go back to work for a city, and that City has that buyback ordinance in place they are not eligible for that buyback ordinance unless the City adopts a new one. He said he also provided staff with a plan change study report. If you would take a look at that plan change study report, you would notice all of the plan provisions and the City's contribution rate is laid out for you. He said the disclosure at the bottom of the form you will see the notes related to the buyback provision. He said before he talked about the buyback and what it could actually cost the City, if they were to adopt it, he wanted to make sure they saw the same provisions that was laid out in the snapshot. He said the City's plan design is really how TMRS arrives at what it cost the City to fully fund the plan. He said anytime a plan improvement is made or a change in the demographic at the City, the cost of the plan can change. He said he would like to point out as he would to any governing body, in TMRS one of the things that distinguishes their plan from just about any plan you would compare it to in the public sector whether in Texas or across the nation, they are fully transparent with the liabilities they show and probably a little more aggressive than they need to be with showing the Council the liabilities in the City's plan. He said as it stands right now, the City is at 87.1% funded already based on the design of the their plan, based on the total liabilities in the plan and based on the assets that already accrued to pay for those liabilities. He said just to give you some perspective, to make sense of what is on the plan change study. He said he wanted to look at that unfunded actuary liability, this is something he knows Councils pay attention to, he wanted to make sure they understand what it means. He said that is not a liability that the City owes today, but over the life of the plan based on the employees that are currently working and the folks that actually retired from the City already. He said TMRS knows that the City's total liabilities in the plan amount to about \$21.5M, but the City already has \$18.7M in assets on the account. He said that is how they come up with that \$2.7M in unfunded liabilities. He said in over the next 20 years, the City would continue to pay into TMRS to pay off that \$2.7M, so by the time those liabilities come due for the employees who work for the City or who already retired from the City, the City would already have those monies their account. He said again they are fully transparent with those liabilities. He said what they like to show if a City would adopt something like a buyback ordinance, they want to show Council everyone as of the last valuation. He said currently the valuation they are looking at is the one that closed December 31, 2019. He said in one week and a couple of days from now on May 27, 2021, the TMRS Board will receive 2020 valuation. He said what it does every year they look at every one of the 895 cities in TMRS, and they look at the makeup of the plan, they look at the plan experience, how many people have come to work at each city, how many people have quit, how many people have refunded their

account, how many people retired and started drawing a benefit, and they fall into those liabilities. He said buyback is just another provision that can add cost to the plan, but there is something unique about this buyback ordinance. There is no cost to the buyback until someone takes action to buy it back. He said the City has eight employees, who have come to work over the years since the City's last adopted buyback, which was 1990, the City has eight current employees as of December 31, 2019 valuation. He said when the books close on 2020 and TMRS gets that report that number could change, it could be less than eight, it could more than eight, he would expect it still be around eight for a city the size of Bridge City. He said he would expect it to be about the same. He said those employees have at some point refunded an account from TMRS. He said if the City were to adopt a buyback, if those employees who are working on the date of adoption of the ordinance, if they work for 24 consecutive months they would immediately become eligible. They would be eligible from the date of adoption to buy back the time they had previously refunded. He said if the employee had not yet worked 24 consecutive months, once they get the 24 months and as long as they were employed on the date of the adoption, they too would become eligible. He said he wanted to make sure he was clear on something, the ordinance the City would be looking at, we are looking at the valuation from 2019, between 2019 and 2020 he can't say what has actually happened at the City of Bridge City, you may have another employee or one less, two less, two fewer employees who have left the City and are no longer eligible for a buyback. He said an employee would have to be working on the date of adoption. He said what he wants to make sure the Council understands is based on the eight that they know about, if they were all to immediately buy the time back, which never happens only about 20% of the people system wide that were eligible for a buyback actually do that. He said if all eight immediately make the purchase it would add to the total liability, you currently have 2.7M in unfunded liability, it would add \$711,000 to it. He said to fully fund that the City's rate would increase by 1.03%. He said when you look back at the study, you will notice the City's current rate is 15.05%, add another 1.03% that will give you rate of 16.08%. If you are wondering what that means in dollars, it comes out to a little over \$37,000 in annual contributions that the City would pay into TMRS for that additional liability in the plan. He said again let me remind you that everyone would have to make the purchase in order to have that type of effect on your plan, and we do not expect that to happen. He said what they do, he told them earlier that TMRS is a bit more aggressive than they probably have to be in showing these liabilities, they wanted the Council to know the absolute total liabilities that could impact the City's plan if they were to adopt the ordinance. He said the liability does not affect the plan until someone actually takes action. He said then it is captured at the year's end and the rate would change accordingly. He said that is the buyback ordinance itself, it is allowing an employee, one of TMRS members who has worked at the City, actually for the City of Bridge City, it is eight of them, who are currently working and who had previously refunded an account, they re-establish their membership at the City. He said if Council were to

adopt this ordinance, it would give those employees a chance to purchase the time they previously forfeited to re-establish that service. He said to help mitigate some of the cost to the City, TMRS charges the member a penalty interest, which is five percent per year that has gone by since they made the original refund. He said that is the total cost, the penalty interest does not go into the members account. He said the only money that goes back into the members account is what he/she actually refunded. He said the penalty interest is credited to the City to offset some of the liability that would have been accrued or incurred. He said that is what the buyback is, that is what it does, that is what it will cost, and with that he will open it up for questions that the Council may have.

Council Member Fields asked if this was adopted how long is the adoption for, how long will this last.

Mr. Mills said it is on the books going forward, it would basically take over the last buyback ordinance. As he said earlier, they still have the 1990 adoption, it was December 4, 1990 that is the last buyback the City had on file. He said if the City still had someone working there who had become eligible for a buyback when the City adopted back in 1990, they would still be eligible for it if they had never made the purchase. He said no one was still there and eligible under the old ordinance, so the new ordinance would take effect and would be there until everyone who would have been eligible has left the City. He said there would have been employees who were eligible for the old one, but they never made the purchase and when they left they lost that eligibility.

Mayor Rutledge asked if this ordinance was adopted, say tonight, the only people eligible for this program would be the eight listed here.

Mr. Mills said as far as TMRS knows that is correct, but they do not know what is happened between the 2019 valuation and December 2020 valuation.

Mayor Rutledge said assuming the City has not hired anyone that has been previously in TMRS and opted out and came back, just assume the City has no new employees between then and now then these eight people listed are the only eight eligible.

Mr. Mills said that is correct.

Mayor Rutledge said it does not go forward, if the City was to hire someone the night after this ordinance was adopted, that person would not be eligible.

Mr. Mills said that is correct.

Council Member Fields asked if the person came from another city, took their money out from another City can that person go back to that city to do the buyback instead of Bridge City or does it have to be from our City.

Mr. Mills said if the City adopts the buyback ordinance, that employee is eligible to buy back that time, but they would buy it back at Bridge City. He said then what would happen if the former city they worked for had a buyback ordinance in place when the employee left there, he/she may still be eligible to make a purchase at that city. He said TMRS would track that, but they are only eligible at the city they currently work for.

Council Member Fields asked if they cannot afford to buy back all of their time, can they partially buy back their time.

Mr. Mills said no it is an all or nothing deal. He said you have to buy it back in a lump sum.

Mayor Rutledge said you would have to pay the penalty and interest all at one time.

Mr. Mills said that is correct.

Mayor Rutledge thanked Mr. Mills for his time and knowledge.

***(b) Presentation by Council Members of ideas for discussion during Budget Workshops***

Mr. Jones said he would go over projects that the City has and some additional ones that is coming up in the budget year, so everyone will be on board with what City Staff has planned. He said he gave Council a project list and he was not going to go through all of that one. He told Council they could take their time and look through it. He said some additional projects, and some of them are included in the project list, that the City will be doing and applying for funds for the coming year. He said there are infrastructure funding opportunities that are out there now for different categories, such as flooding, streets, water projects, drainage projects, and so forth. He said the City has been working with the grant administrator, and they would apply for monies that would match the projects. He said if the President approves the infrastructure monies, the City would be eligible for about \$1.7M. He said if that happens the City would divert the monies to the water well at Roberts Street. He said that would be the City's second well and that would work out perfect if we were able to do that. He said he was going to go over some projects as follows:

1. The water well at Sunnyside is in the design phase. He said he and the Mayor met with the engineers and discussed options and where the City would like to go. He said the engineers are in the process of putting that together so that project can go out for bids.
2. The project on Roberts Street, the City would apply for funding through a grant, and that would be enough funds to do that project.

Council Member Fisette asked how much grant monies would that be.

Mr. Jones said it would be \$1.7M and hopefully that would be enough to do that project.

The City is getting with the new school superintendent to get the land swap done, and they would try to meet with him next week. He said it would be a long process, but the City does not need the land right now, they are still developing the process of how the \$1.7M will be distributed.

3. The service line project that is in place now, the letter of receipt has been issued. The contractor is getting their materials to the stock pile at the old nursing home. He said after the material were in they would be ready to begin the project.
4. The CDBG Grant the City will apply for 2022, we have exhausted the service lines in the low to moderate income area. He said that project will be diverted to David, Jeanette and Nancy replacing the actual sewer lines. He said sewer lines were giving City Staff a lot of trouble. He said Staff would like to go in and replace the whole system. He said that is what City Staff would do with the 2022 grant.
5. The drying bed repairs is something the City needs to look at and there was a lot of damage from the storms. He said they were old, they are deteriorated, they are falling apart, and the City has money for one section, \$145,000 and the entire project is about \$255,000. He said what they intend to try to do is replace one side of it, which would be the side the City is using, the side the filter press under it. He said the City would have the other side torn down and apply for funding to get it replaced at a later date. He said the City has \$145,000 committed through insurance.
6. Winterizing the water well system, which would be coming from the State. City Staff came up with a solution they feel would work, which is simply enclosing all the filters that gave them problems in a building or in a structure. He said basically it is just a shell and spray installation and have a heating system that can be plugged in during those times which would eliminate any problems. He said it would also protect the City's infrastructure from the weather, the sun and so forth. He said it was about \$54,000 for winterizing the water well system.
7. The City has 3 additional lift stations that need to be rehabbed that we did not get under the lift station work the City has done. He said Holiday, Dishon and Fishhook and the reason the City would have to do Dishon and Fishhook is they are single phase stations they need to be two phase or three phase so the City does not have problems with those lift stations clogging and the pumps and motors don't burn up as fast. He said those three need to be re-done and those are \$25,000 per lift station for a total of about \$75,000.
8. The sludge return pumps at the sewer plant there are a series of 4 that have been there for a very long time, and they need to be replaced. He said we can get by if the City doesn't come up with money, but City Staff will be applying for some funds and it will cost about \$100,000 to do those four big valves.

9. The City has 3 lift stations that are major lift stations that does not have SCADA. He said SCADA is basically a system the guys can operate the lift station and understand what is going on with computers. He said Bradford, Schofield and the one at Waterwood would all be addressed this year, if the City can come up with \$75,000. He said it was \$25,000 per lift station, but if we could get funding for one then the City will do one and get the rest on the next round.
10. He said one big project the City will have to do is to repaint Sunnyside water well. He said just to repaint that tank would be around \$500,000.  
Mayor Rutledge said that was a TCEQ requirement to repaint the tank.  
Mr. Jones said TCEQ is requiring the City to repaint the tank. He said he thinks the City can get by, because we are putting a well at that location. He said it is hard to put a well in and to repaint all at the same time, so they may give the City some lead way until the well is complete.
11. The screens at the sewer plant have not been changed in forever City Staff has had a lot of problems with them. He said they have to be changed which would cost about \$170,000. He said the insurance will be covering this for the City. He said the City will be proceeding with this and hopefully it would work and that would not be an additional cost to the City.
12. The sewer plant needs a facility to store all the equipment and City Staff would try to get it in the upcoming budget. He said equipment being stored would be the lawn equipment, extra pumps, and other equipment. He said they would like to install a 30 x 30 metal building with a concrete floor and a roll up door. He said it would allow the City to keep the pumps there and free up room in the warehouse.

Mr. Jones said that is all the projects out of the lines of budgetary items. He said the City will be applying for grants for most of these projects. He said most of the project list is updated.

Mayor Rutledge said that is a lot of big money projects and the City does not have much of a choice from now into the next several years to get them completed.

Mr. Jones said with the grant opportunities that are beginning to show up, the City would be able to get a large portion of these projects covered with grant money.

Council Member Fields asked Mr. Jones if we would be putting these things in the budget this year.

Mr. Jones said no.

Council Member Fields asked if these were wish list items.

Mr. Jones said these were wish list items that the City could get through different sources.

Mayor Rutledge said these are big ticket items the City would have to prepare for in the future. He said City Staff would work hard to get the funding that would become available to the City.

Council Member Fields said she knows of several complaints from the citizens about

communication and she asked if there would be anyway the City could set up like a robo call to let people know of things going on, such as water breaks.

Mayor Rutledge said City Staff is working on getting the STAN in place. City Staff has been putting flyers in the drive thru teller to the citizens when paying their water bills. He said the City will be pushing this out to all the media. He said City Staff is working to push a campaign out to get the citizens to sign up for STAN. He said the City can communicate to the citizens about water outages, turned over tanker truck, or a hurricane notice or anything the City would need to notify the citizens for. He said we would be able to target a specific area of the city, for example, if a flush valve is being changed out, Staff can figure out the houses that would be affect and send out a message to those houses only if they are signed up through the network. He said the Council would need to help get the citizens signed up on STAN for this to work. He said information could come out on social media, but it is not as quick as it would be through STAN. Council Member Fields asked if City Staff could put this on the citizens water bill.

Ms. Morgan said there is very limited space on the water bills.

Mayor Rutledge said we would need to get a media campaign, such as through KOGT, Penny Record, social media and the City's website to get this out to the citizens. He said a lot of this would be through word of mouth, talking with your neighbors.

Mr. Jones said STAN would not be for all of Orange County, the City can put messages on it for just the City of Bridge City.

Council Member Fissette asked if she could request Council get text messages so when citizens call them wanting to know what is going on, they would be able to answer them instead of them having to call City Hall to find out what is going on first. She asked if the Council could receive a text message ahead of time letting them know what is going on.

Mayor Rutledge said the Council would get the message at the same time as the citizens and it would all be the same message.

Council Member Fields asked if the City could get Wi-fi at the Community Center.

Mr. Jones said the City Staff is working on it.

## **6. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION**

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### ***(a) Proclamation declaring May 2021 as "Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month" in the City of Bridge City***

Mayor Rutledge presented the proclamation declaring May 2021 as "Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month" to Tanya Mills and Redneck, motorcyclists attending the meeting. She thanked the council for the proclamation and testified how important it was for motorists to watch for motorcycles on the road because she was fortunate to survive a hit-and-run accident on a motorcycle resulting in 35 broken bones. She also thanked the Council for participating in

2021 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.

## **7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM:**

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### **(a) City Manager**

**City Manager Jerry Jones** had the following report for Council:

1. Farmers Market – will open on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
2. Police Bargaining Committee - they would need to set up a meeting. Mr. Jones said he would call the President of the Police Association to schedule a meeting and he would let the City Council know.

### **(b) City Council**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte**

None.

**Council Member Mike Reed** told Chief Davis that he ran across two of his officers on Saturday afternoon. He said he was on his way to Market Basket and there was a SUV pulled up in the Cajun Adventure's parking lot. He said these two officers were busy around this SUV, and when he came out of Market Basket they were still there. He said he realize what they were doing, they were helping a family who was travelling through town change a flat tire. He said they were up to their elbows in brake dust. He said he stopped and told them how much he appreciated them, in fact, he asked them if it was the same police department he has been hearing about on social media. He said they said no and he asked are you sure. He said he let them know how much he appreciated seeing them doing a good deed for a family passing through town. He said he was glad he was able to be part of it and he is proud of the Police Department.

**Council Member Tammi Fisette** said she just wanted to say thank you to the employees. She said she has seen them working hard, there is a lot going on. She said and Mike being out in the public, she appreciates him for that. She said she mentioned about Council getting some kind of notification on what is going on. She said she still wanted the Council to look at stuff like that, still wanted the Council to have a workshop to say how can Council improve. Lucy mentioned communication with the citizens, what can the Council do about it. She said Council knows there is an issue, so she would like to see them get together. She told Mr. Jones to have the same workshop she mentioned to him before, let's get together and see what can be done.

**Council Member Danny Harrington** said he had a question asked of him and he did not know the answer regarding trash pickup or bulk pickup. He asked if the City had access to that at a certain time of the month. He said he knew the citizens would have to call in if they have trash to be picked up, he was not sure what the City would do about that.

Mr. Jones said the citizen would call in anytime of the month, City Staff would put them on a list and give that information to Republic. He said Republic runs either once or twice a month and the citizen lets City Staff know how much they have and Republic will go by and pick it up.

Council Member Gauthier asked if furniture was included.

Mr. Jones told her yes it was. He also said if it is something Republic cannot get in the truck the City will go by and pick it up. He said the City does not just leave it out there.

Council Member Harrington said a citizen had some things out on side of the road and the citizen said the trash had been out there for like six weeks before Republic came.

Mr. Jones said that is very unusual.

Council Member Gauthier said maybe they were missed.

Mr. Jones said not normally.

Mayor Rutledge said they may not have called in.

Mr. Jones said if they had something and it hasn't been picked up, tell them call the City and a city crew will pick it up. Mr. Jones said the City does not want it just laying out there, because with all the rain we just had it would wash off and stop up the drainage.

**Council Member Gauthier** said City Council has been talking about communication, she said she knew the City had at one time the Luke program which would help our citizens to communicate with City Staff. She asked if it ever took off.

Mayor Rutledge said he did not think it was being supported anymore.

Mr. Jones said it is still there and he asked if Staff still received messages.

Ms. Morgan said very little.

Mr. Jones said the process is still there because the City still pays the monthly fee.

Council Member Gauthier said the City would have to roll out a campaign to educate the citizens that they had the ability to use the Luke program.

Mayor Rutledge said City Staff was doing that, but something came up.

Mr. Jones said City Staff put out a lot of signs for it.

Council Member Gauthier said City Staff should look at it again because everyone thought it was a good concept.

**Council Member Lucy Fields** said she would like to say thank you to the City and they had a lot of compliments on Thursday night at the Chamber's Designer Purse Bingo, how nice the building was and how nice the City worked with the Chamber. She said a lot people asked questions about how the City works with out of towners. She said they were relaying to them how well the City and Chamber work together to promote the City. She said lots of compliments. She said she wanted to thank the City and everyone loved the building and thought it was great. She said she had a lot of different compliments from out of towners about how nice the City was.

### (c) **City Staff Report**

Mike Lund said a lot more rain is expected, City Staff has been out checking drainage and if any of you see anything due to drainage do not hesitate to call. He said City Staff will look at it and clean out any culverts.

Council Member Fisette asked Mr. Lund if City Staff could weed eat around the drains on Ferry Drive.

Mr. Lund said yes.

Council Member Fisette said she thinks it had a lot to do with the drainage problems.

### **City Attorney Paul Fukuda**

None.

**(d) Mayor**

**Mayor David Rutledge had the following report:**

None.

**8. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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None.

**9. ORDINANCE**

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**(a) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2021-06 allowing certain employees with the City who have terminated previous memberships in the TMRS System to deposit the sums so withdrawn plus annual withdrawal charges**

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2021-06, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-06 allowing certain employees with the City who have terminated previous memberships in the TMRS System to deposit the sums so withdrawn plus annual withdrawal charges, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Council Member Fields made a motion to table the agenda item until the end of July, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

Council Member Fields said in the bills the City is paying out \$118,950 and a few cents, is that yearly, quarterly, or is that how much we pay a month. She said if all eight bought back that would be \$37,000 per month added.

Mr. Jones said no that would be \$37,000 per year, not a month.

Mayor Rutledge said it would be about \$3,000 per month.

Council Member Fields asked if the City's budget could withstand it if everyone bought back. She said she was very encourage he said only 20% would buy back. She said so that would not impact the budget that much.

Mr. Jones said more than likely the first year would be zero return on it.

Mayor Rutledge said it only happens when someone opts into it and they opt into it before retiring.

Ms. Morgan said she could opt in to it tomorrow.

Mr. Jones said it keeps going up 5% per year, he said when they are gone they are out.

Council Member Fisette said these eight are it then.

Mayor Rutledge said he doesn't think there has been anyone else.

Council Member Fisette said she knew at one time this was discussed and she said they did not think it would cost the City any money and then that changed. She said one of the employees last year had asked for it and the Council said it would cost the City too much money. She said explain what the difference is from one person to now approximately eight.

Mr. Jones said City Staff never asked for it last year. He said there were nine eligible last year and it never came up.

Council Member Fisette said the employee asked for it.

Mr. Jones said it was never brought to City Staff or the City Council to address it. He said with his cost on it, it may have been a few dollars more. He said it depends on who is here at the time you pass the ordinance and the time has passed for him.

Council Member Fisetta said she knows the 2 to 1 is wonderful. She knew the employees put in one and the cities match it, which doubles it. She said the concern she has is the cost. She said a lot of things have been mentioned that needs to be done in the City, a lot of big ticket items. She said they did not think the budget could handle this without grant money, so she has a concern on the dollar amount.

Council Member Fields said she wished that this could be held off until after they looked at the budget and then vote on this ordinance. She said she wanted to make sure there is enough money in the budget. She said she is all for buying it back, she bought her time back and it has made a huge difference in her retirement, but her concern is if the City has money in the budget to go forward. She said \$37,000 a year and that is if it's all eight and she totally understands that, she understands what everyone is saying. She said the City does have a lot of things coming up, but if the budget looks good and the City can afford this then lets pass the ordinance. She said it was nothing personally, she is just thinking of the City finances.

Mayor Rutledge asked Council Member Fields if she was asking to table this.

Council Member Fields said yes sir.

Mayor Rutledge said if you make a motion to table and someone else seconds your motion, then Council will take a vote on the tabling motion.

Council Member Fields said she would like to make a motion to table this agenda item until the end of July when they take a look at the budget to make sure monies are available to take care of whoever wants to take part in this buyback.

Council Member Harrington said he would seconded that.

Mayor Rutledge asked if there were any discussion on the tabling motion, he called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, Councilmembers Reed, Fisetta, Harrington, Gauthier and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

***(b) Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2021-07 between the City of Bridge City and Entergy Texas (Franchise Agreement) therefore referred as public rights-of-way***

Mr. Fukuda read the caption only of Ordinance No. 2021-07, thereby constituting the reading of the ordinance as required by City Charter, Section 3.10.

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-07 an agreement between the City of Bridge City and Entergy Texas (Franchise Agreement) therefore referred as public rights-of-way, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ayes:** Mayor Rutledge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte, Councilmembers Reed, Fissette, Harrington, Gauthier and Fields.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

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**(a) *Consideration and possible action to approve minutes for the May 11, 2021 City Council Special Meeting***

Council Member Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 City Council Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Fields.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(b) *Consideration and possible action to approve the City bills for the month of April 2021***

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the City bills for the month of April 2021, seconded by Council Member Harrington.

After discussion, Mayor Rutledge called for a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**(c) *Consideration and possible action to approve the contract between South East Texas Regional Planning Commission and City of Bridge City for planning, development, operation and provision of 9-1-1 service and of 9-1-1 funds***

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the contract between South East Texas Regional Planning Commission and City of Bridge City for planning, development, operation and provision of 9-1-1 service and of 9-1-1 funds, seconded by Council Member Gauthier.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

## **10. ADJOURN**

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Council Member Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Roccaforte.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** None.

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David Rutledge, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeanie McDowell, City Secretary