

CARL HARBERT <i>Council Member, Place 1</i>	DAVID RUTLEDGE <i>Mayor</i> 	ERIC ANDRUS <i>Council Member, Place 4</i>
KIRK ROCCAFORTE <i>Council Member, Place 2</i>		TERRI GAUTHIER <i>Council Member, Place 5</i>
TAMMI FISETTE <i>Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member, Place 3</i>		LUCY FIELDS <i>Council Member, Place 6</i>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
February 20, 2018

The City Council of Bridge City met in a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at the City Hall of Bridge City, 260 Rachal, Bridge City, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Council Member Carl Harbert
Council Member Kirk Roccaforte
Mayor Pro-Tem Tammi Fisette
Council Member Eric Andrus
Council Member Terri Gauthier
Council Member Lucy Fields

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT:

Mayor David Rutledge

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Jerry D. Jones
City Secretary Sherry Tisdale
City Attorney Paul M. Fukuda
Finance Director Karen Morgan
Personnel/Purchasing Director Jeanie McDowell
Chief Paul T. Davis
Mike Lund, Utility Superintendent
Mike Die, Asst. Utility Superintendent

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG

Following the invocation given by Mr. Fukuda, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette 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 Fisette thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and welcomed visitors.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Fields made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Andrus.

With no discussion or questions, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetto called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetto, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge.

4. REPORTS & COMMENTS

(a) City Manager

City Manager Jerry Jones had the following report for Council:

1. A/C out: warm in Council Room because the air conditioning went out – should be fixed in a week or so
2. Drainage Issues: City is trying to get as many of those issues before the rain starts again – in contact with Drainage District and also applied for funding to clean most of the roadside ditches in Bridge City through FEMA funding that will be available
3. Romero Water Well: still in limbo – State has not given anything back – still waiting on them and the City is ready to go
4. Planning & Zoning Commission: reminder to meet next Monday night with Planning and Zoning Commission on zoning changes
5. Monthly meeting with supervisors: will have a budget analysis for the first quarter and will get it together for Council – a workshop will be held at Council's convenience

(a) City Council

Council Member Carl Harbert stated the only thing he had to discuss was the tool that they (Council Member Harbert and Andrus and Street and Drainage Superintendent Richard Harmon) went and looked at. He said he would like to go ahead and start building this if they can get approval from Council. He can go to different businesses to see if they will assist. He and Council Member Andrus both had a video of the tool and it works fantastic. It costs \$3,000, but if they can get the businesses involved in it, he thinks they can get them reasonably cheap. He said that is what he would like to work on this week.

Mr. Jones said the money would have to come out of the fund that is already set up in the budget. Council Member Harbert said he is going to go to several businesses that he used when he was running a plant and see if they might donate materials. They might even build the tool.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetto asked Council Member Andrus if he had anything to add to Council Member Harbert's comments. Council Member Eric Andrus said the mechanism is so simple

but it worked phenomenally well. The guys over there knew the “ins and outs” of it. Just pull it through and it cleans the ditch. He said staff might run into some issues, but it’s not anything that our guys couldn’t handle. Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette asked what Mr. Harmon thought. Council Member Andrus said, like us, Mr. Harmon was amazed by it and ready to put it to use.

Mr. Jones said they had one of these that they used for a long time. It’s back there somewhere but it had a different design. He said their problem with it was it had more of a shovel look, and it did get hung up a lot. This one is more of a flat surface and goes through at an angle. It creates a little easier pull. Biggest thing about them is the material in the ditch has got to be wet so it needs to be used after rains. With dry materials, he said you will pull something out of the ground before you will pull it through. He said the City crews are familiar with this and can operate it.

Council Member Kirk Roccaforte said he’s working on a meeting between all the entities in Orange County. They are getting together on drainage situations. He stated Mayor Rutledge asked him to join with him and all the other entities. He said John Gothia is involved, the Drainage District is involved, and any other cities that are interested can be involved. They have one common goal and will work together to get it all done. They originally scheduled a meeting next Monday, but since Council Member Roccaforte had a meeting, they are trying to re-schedule so everyone can put their heads together and have one common goal. Council Member Roccaforte said he thinks everyone is all for this. He said the problem over the last year has been how wet it is. They can’t get in big ditches. They can’t get their machines out there, and it’s just a mess. They are going to work in areas together. It’s a good thing.

Council Member Eric Andrus said he been issued Chairman of the Beautification Committee. He said they haven’t gotten started on this but they do have a plan. He said that within the next couple of weeks they will finally iron this out to go along helping with drainage. They are going to clean up and pick up certain parts of the City that are really trashy. He said he is going to meet with some of the non-profits and schools next week and try to get them “on board.”

Council Member Andrus said he would also like to thank Mike (Lund) and Mike (Die). He stated he called them out Sunday and low and behold, they found a problem. They worked all day Sunday and into the night. He said he knows that this is their job, but he would really hate to have somebody call him out on Sunday. He thanked them very much.

Council Member Lucy Fields said she has been speaking with some citizens that were concerned about a truck parked in front of a fire hydrant. She said she doesn’t know if this is a common occurrence in the City. She’s only seen this one truck. Is there so many feet from a fire hydrant that they are required to leave. Mr. Jones said they got a notice today to move that truck. If this doesn’t work, they will be issued a citation.

(c) City Staff

Utility Superintendent Mike Lund said he wanted to remind Council that they still have Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the sewer line service lines. He said they are doing surveys right now. They have to do close to 200 and they have about 75 or 80 of them done. He said he is trying to push the notice out there if anyone knows of somebody with old

yard lines, from the house to the property line, give them his phone number or get them to come here and see him. He asked Council to get the word out. He said it is also on the Facebook page, and on the website.

Mr. Jones said this is part of the I & I (Infiltration and Inflow) work that the City is having to do for TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). Mr. Lund said they did about 180 lines last year. Mr. Jones said they are looking at doing several hundred over a two-year period. The key to this grant is there's an income level attached to whether or not the City can do an individual. He said that's why they have to do the survey. Anybody that thinks they will qualify he said he wants to hear from them. They want to do as many as possible. The money is free and the City needs to get them done.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette asked if people don't know they have an old line. Mr. Jones said to tell them to call the City.

(b) Mayor

*In the Mayor's absence, **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette** had the following comments:*

1. Animal Control Officer: The City has hired an Animal Control Officer and he begins Monday moving here from Alabama
2. New hires: The City has hired two individuals - waiting on physicals results – one can start immediately – one has to give two-week notice

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phil and Sarah Badgwell, 114 Robin Avenue

Mr. Fukuda advised Mr. Badgwell (Guest Sheet #1 along with drawing) that he would be limited to three minutes, and Council would not be able to discuss the situation with him.

Mr. Badgwell said he has applied for ICC and has been approved. He has demolished his structure on the property. There is no home there anymore. He said he already has the design for a beach style house. It's a 4,000 square foot house and the design is complete. He did compaction last week and it's in the process of the foundation being engineered. He said he would have this back within the next ten days. The initial drawings have already been submitted to Ms. Scales. He said now he understands that there have been some complaints from one of his neighbors about a beach house maybe lowering the value of his property. Mr. Badgwell said he is building a \$500,000 home, and he is already \$30,000 into it even though the structure is not up. He said he understands that Council is now discussing what height to build and other things. He stated he is a long way down that path and a lot of money down the path. There is already beach type homes in his neighborhood that are just as high as what he is building. He asked Council to take this under consideration. His neighbor next to him has already bulldozed her home and it's at dirt level. It's in the same process. Mr. Badgwell said that he knows there are others in the City. He explained that he is rapidly trying to get back in his home. Right now, he is living in a mobile home in a mobile home park on Hwy 62. He stated he runs a facility with 500 people in it and works 60 hours a week. He said he wants

back in his house and the property he bought. He mentioned that he is building a beautiful house. "It's not going to be something that anybody's not going to want to look at." He asked Council to take this into consideration as they evaluate heights. He said he will send all his plans again to Ms. Scales so Council can review them. He handed out a picture of the house for Council to look at. Mr. Badgwell said he wanted Council to understand how far along and how much money he's in and take this into consideration. He then thanked Council.

6. RESOLUTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2018-04(R) in support of the application of Port Arthur Barge, Inc. to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a Municipal Setting Designation for property located at 1500 Intracoastal Road in Port Arthur, Texas**

Mr. Fukuda read Resolution No. 2018-04(R) in its entirety, in support of the application of Port Arthur Barge, Inc. to the TCEQ for a MSD for property located at 1500 Intracoastal Road in Port Arthur, Texas.

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-04(R), as read. Council Member Harbert seconded the motion.

Council Member Roccaforte stated that this is on the other side of the river.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consideration and possible action to approve the December 5, 2017 City Council Meeting minutes**

Council Member Gauthier made a motion to approve the December 5, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Fields.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisetete asked Mr. Jones – referring to Page 7 of the Council Packet– that staff was working to get all the disaster projects downloaded to the computer by December 18. Mr. Jones said that was completed thanks to Ms. Morgan. He said she spent a lot of extra hours and a couple of weekends and stayed up here real late at night. She managed to get everything they piled on top of her. Council thanked Ms. Morgan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette referred to page 11 of the Council packet regarding the 2018 rate schedule that was discussed on the LJA Engineering contract. She said they discussed they didn't see a 2018 rate vs. a 2017 rate and Mr. Jones was going to check on that. She said he told Council he didn't think there would be an increase. Mr. Jones said the rates are the same as before. They didn't increase them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette asked if there was any more discussion on the minutes. With no further discussion, she called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge.

(b) Consideration and possible action to approve City bills for the month of January 2018

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to approve the January 2018 City bills, seconded by Council Member Fields.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette asked if there was any questions or discussion.

Council Member Harbert asked a question on page 15 of their Council Meeting Packet regarding a Garbage Pickup charge of \$170.18. Ms. Morgan said this charge was for the dumpster at the Sewer Plant. Mr. Jones said the City has a contract on this one, too.

With no more questions, Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge.

(c) Consideration and possible action on requests by Jim and Sharon Torres, residing at 335 S. Clover, and Samuel J. Galbreath, residing at 315 S. Clover, regarding drainage and flooding problems on their street

Council Member Roccaforte made a motion to consider and take possible action on requests by Jim and Sharon Torres, at 355 S. Clover, and Samuel L. Galbreath, at 315 S. Clover. Motion was seconded by Council Member Andrus.

Jim and Sharon Torres
335 S. Clover

Mr. Torres said he has resided here for 30 years. The City comes over occasionally and drains and cleans up the ditches. He said he thinks the major problem is S. Clover water is going into that pipeline along with N. Clover and E. Clover. They all merge into the same common pipeline. This line is underground and he's never seen it cleaned. He said when they have heavy rains it backs up in the street like a lake. He said he has built up his ground but it still fills up with water. He said just recently, after he worked on his house, he was afraid he was going to get water in his house. He said he worries about his house and the neighbors downstream. He said you have two major streets going to that pipeline and it backs up. Again, it could be further downstream. There are other streets that also merge at that line. He suggested that maybe the City needs a camera to see where this line is clogged up. He said that is his major concern. And when this happens, they can't flush the toilets and can't do laundry. They just have to wait until the water subsides completely. This could be four or five hours later. This is the problem he has, along with his neighbor.

Council Member Harbert asked Mr. Torres if the pipeline he was talking about was between him and his neighbor. Mr. Torres said it is at the point of 310 S. Clover. It goes down into the ground and after that he has no idea. Council Member Harbert asked does it go into the ditch behind his place. Mr. Torres said there is no ditch there anymore. It was mentioned how they aren't able to flush as long as there is water in the ditch – even if the yard isn't flooded. If they do flush it backs up – can't even take a shower. Council Member Harbert said sewer is a different issue. Council Member Roccaforte answered it is a separate issue, but this is why the City wants to do all these lines. Mr. Torres said there may be cracks and the water seeps in there. City did place a check valve in his line but the water still backs up into his sewer line to the house. Mr. Lund said the City has a lot of I & I. Mr. Jones said this is a real bad area. Mr. Lund said, unfortunately, when it rains and the ditches are full – the sewer lines are also full because of the I & I. Mr. Jones said there's a separation in that pipe somewhere that's letting the water in. He said that's what the City is trying to work on now – reducing that. He said the City does try to put in check valves to stop that water from going back into people's houses. It normally works, but the problem with that is once you put a check valve on it and you have a head of water on the outside – you can't use the bathroom and you can't run water on that side because it has no place to go. It can't push that check valve open. Once that water gets in there and fills that line up – they don't have a sewer system they can use. He said that is what the City is trying to correct now. He said the City will be doing smoke testing this year and it has nothing to do with the other programs in effect. He stated that they feel like there are some manholes that are still taking on a lot of water. Some areas are worse than others, and they are going to work on those. Mr. Jones said the City will try to get them some relief pretty quickly.

Mr. Jones said he would like to address the drainage issue. He said he went out today and looked at it and walked to the back. The major issue the City has is the outfall ditch Mr. Torres is talking about probably hasn't been cleaned in a number of years because it's in the back of a private lot. There's no buildings on it, and he said he's been trying to get in contact with the owner to get him to let the City go back and cut the ditch behind the Torres' house and get it opened up into the big ditch. Also, he would like to get the Drainage District to come in, cut all the brush down that line, get their machine and get the big main ditch that goes all the way behind the welding shop. The Torres are on this ditch. Mr. Jones said they are going to try to get that ditch open from one end to the other. This will give them some relief. He stated another problem is, in that subdivision, they built what is called square culverts. A lot of them

have collapsed and water can't get through. Mr. Jones said they are going to get in there and try to get as many people as they can to change over and put a real culvert under there. Mr. Jones said they will camera the long culvert that Mr. Torres was mentioning. He said they will see if there are any stoppages and see if the City has a machine that can blow it out. Mr. Jones said the City is going to do quite a bit of work over there. He asked Mr. Torres to give him a day or two because they have a bunch the City is working on now, but he promised the City will be over there. He said he is going to continue to try to get permission to go behind their house and dig that ditch up. He mentioned this should help them a lot if the City can do this. Mr. Torres said he will maintain the section of his property that is behind there and do his part, too. Mr. Jones said the City appreciates that, and once the City gets it dug out, they will ask everybody to do that. It will be hard for the City to get in and out because there is no easement – that's the problem. If there was an easement, he said City staff would clean it right now. Since there isn't an easement, he will have to get permission from that property owner to come on his property and clean the ditch. An audience member asked isn't there an easement on every property. Mr. Jones replied no, but the City is going to try to get back there and help them.

Council Member Roccaforte asked since he has lived there for 30 years, has this been a problem for over 30 years? Mr. Torres said it has been over 30 years, and when he comes in to pay his water bill he tells the employees about it. He asked if things had changed over that time. Mr. Torres said no. Council Member Roccaforte said if there is a high tide, the water has nowhere to go. He said the City has spent over \$20 million on the sewer system, and it's disheartening that not all of this work has remedied this.

Discussion was held on smoke testing of the sewer lines. Mr. Jones said staff will notify the homeowner when they are testing the lines. This will show up on yard lines and City lines. Yard lines will show up first because they are more shallow.

Council Member Roccaforte said, since Mr. Torres has been there for 30 years, his sewer line might qualify for the grant that Mr. Lund was talking about. He told him to get with Mr. Lund after the meeting and give him his name and address.

Mr. Jones told Mr. Torres that there is one thing they can do in the next day or two is get the front cleaned out. He told him that their end is not as bad. At the other end of it somebody has been using that ditch for a driveway. He said it has made a mess.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fissette thanked Mr. and Mrs. Torres for coming to the meeting. It sounds like Mr. Jones has a plan, and she thanked them for listening to what City officials had to say.

Samuel L. Galbreath
315 S. Clover

Mr. Galbreath said what concerns him most is on the first part of Clover when you drive in – these guys are using the ditch for a driveway. There's ruts all up and down that ditch. He referred to pictures of the square culverts and how you can't even see them. He said when they have a normal rain, their yard still floods. It's like from Mr. Torres' house to the end of the street – it

gets water. Council Member Roccaforte said, with what the City is going to be doing with this program, it should help take care of this. Mr. Galbreath said if the City can get to the property behind them and get the ditch cleaned out – he said they all would thank Council. Ever since the guy bought the property behind them, he won't let anybody back there. He said he has brought it to the City's attention a couple of times. The grass is six feet high – it's so high it's growing through his fence. Mr. Jones said City staff will get a letter done on that tomorrow. He said he thinks there has already been a letter on high grass sent to owner. They cut that lot recently but they won't cut that ditch. Mr. Jones said if they get it dug out – it will be gone. Discussion continued on the existing ditches and the neighbor's ditch where they park in it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette thanked Mr. and Mrs. Galbreath for coming and thanked them for the pictures they brought to the meeting. She asked them to give the City a little time to work on this but it will be done.

NO ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL.

8. ADJOURN

Council Member Andrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m., seconded by Council Member Fields.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Fisette, Council Members Harbert, Roccaforte, Andrus, Gauthier, and Fields.

Noes: None.

Absent: Mayor Rutledge.

/s/ Tammi Fisette

Tammi Fisette, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry Tisdale

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary