

Upon notice duly given under Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431, et seq., as amended, the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Discussion on COVID-19 and the requirement of masks within city limits.

City Manager Cotter said the city's mask requirement ended on September 16, 2020. He said the resolution would be presented at the Council meeting tonight and additional discussion would occur. He said this work session was meant to be informative as well as to obtain public comment.

Emily Stevens, Chief Nursing Officer at Western Arizona Regional Medical Center (WARMC), and Lisa Townsend, Education Coordinator and Nurse at Valley View Medical Center, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Stevens said a mask was a "seat-belt" to provide the first line of protection against COVID-19. She said wearing a mask was the first line of defense against the virus. She said both hospitals cared about what was happening and required masks to enter the building. She said patients were coming back to the hospital with COVID a second time, sicker and more difficult to treat. Ms. Townsend provided statistics on the history of masking in Arizona and the spread of COVID. Ms. Stevens said WARMC numbers indicated there had been 3,527 tests completed, 1,043 positives, 2,362 negative, and 60 COVID deaths to date. She said they recognized hospital ICU nurse Jeannie Rodriguez for the outstanding care she provided to her patients. She said heroes worked in both hospitals and urged everyone to mask up to protect those around them and save lives. Ms. Stevens said tonight was not about the popular vote, it was about the right vote. She requested the Council consider re-adopting the mask requirement.

Chaz Martinez from Talas Harbor Behavioral Health Hospital discussed some personal experiences he had with friends who had suffered and died from COVID. He said some people had a separation from reality and what was really happening. He said masks and PPE were very effective in preventing the virus spread. He said the COVID virus did different things to the body than the flu. He said they had worked very hard to maintain a sterile environment at their hospital. He urged the Council to adopt the mask requirement.

Mayor Brady asked what would happen if someone was wearing a mask and touched the mask after being exposed to someone with COVID. Ms. Townsend said the person would need to prevent from

touching their mouth or nose in order to prevent any droplets from entering. She said any type of barrier was better than no barrier at all.

Vice Mayor D'Amico said the virus also spread from people touching contaminated surfaces. Ms. Stevens said everyone could be spreading COVID in the room without knowing that they had it. She said the barrier of a mask would help control the infection rate.

Dr. Will Humble, Executive Director of the Arizona Public Health Association, joined the meeting via Zoom conference. Mr. Humble said he provided information via a separate link regarding a systematic review (a "poll of polls") and study that looked at public articles that examined the spread of COVID-19. He said they found that surgical and cloth masks when used properly and distance substantially reduced transmission. He said he looked at wearing masks as a huge return on investment rather than the high cost of closing bars and other establishments.

Vice Mayor D'Amico asked if elective surgeries at WARMC had been stopped. Ms. Stevens said elective surgeries could be diagnostic for cancer and were not stopped, but said they had stopped plastic surgeries.

Council Member Wegmann asked about the hospital's capacity. Ms. Stevens said WARMC had 139 licensed beds but the issue was staffing. She said they had to hire traveling nurses which was very difficult now, and said they could currently staff only 78-83 beds.

Mayor Brady asked if the hospitals had taken advantage of state assistance to hire travelers. Ms. Stevens said under the Arizona Surge Plan, they were receiving eleven seasoned nurses that could handle critical care patients. Ms. Townsend said it was next to impossible to hire traveling nurses at this time.

Council Member Zehri said a team of at least 15 to 20 people was needed to assist one patient in the hospital. He said it did not matter how many beds the hospital had, but what mattered was the number of medical staff required to take care of each patient. He said it was hard to find critical care doctors in the Bullhead City area.

Council Member Wegmann asked about the supply of ventilators and other equipment. Ms. Stevens said the hospitals could pull necessary equipment from a larger supply source.

Council Member Zehri said both hospitals were taking very good care of all patients and doing everything they could for them.

Council Member Brummett asked about the percentage of second-round COVID patients. Ms. Stevens said she did not have a percentage, but said they were seeing more patients that had COVID a second time.

Council Member Zehri said COVID was a new disease and they were learning more about it every day. He said the cases of re-infection were more severe. He said the whole world was fighting this, and said they had to think about what they could do locally to fight this disease.

Denise Burley, Mohave County Public Health Director, joined the meeting via Zoom conference. She said their recommendations were based on the most current and credible scientific evidence

which provided biggest public health benefit with the least impact to citizens. She said Bullhead City had the highest number of infections in the county last week. She provided statistics on testing. She said people wearing masks protect everyone around them. She said they would continue to recommend wearing a mask in public, staying home when sick, and maintaining social distancing.

Council Member Wegmann asked about the number of people tested during the first peak versus the number of tests currently. Ms. Burley said there was more testing in the community now but there was also a higher rate of community spread.

Council Member Zehri said people thought there were more cases now due to the increased testing. Ms. Burley said the positivity rates were higher and this was not due to the amount of testing.

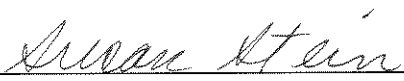
Council Member Brummett asked if the percentage of people that were dying was lower than the beginning of the pandemic and asked if more people were recovering. Ms. Burley said the treatments and therapies had improved over time and they were seeing less deaths, and more protocols had been instituted in long-term care facilities.

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct record of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held on the 15th day of December 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of January 2021.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk

Upon notice duly given under Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431, et seq., as amended, the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Pastor George Lyman of Desert Shores Community Baptist Church to deliver the invocation. Mayor Brady led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF: Dennis DeSantis

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera (via Zoom Conference)

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton (via Zoom conference)

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: S. Chooniyom (via Zoom conference)

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Brady opened the call to the public.

Susana Van Sloten provided information about the Honey Baked Ham fund raiser to benefit the Colorado River Museum and Historical Society.

Royanne Ortiz shared information she heard on a recent talk show about a drug that helped fight COVID-19. She said she wondered if the health department was aware of these types of drugs.

Jim Reyes said that he knew of three persons who signed in to be tested for COVID but did not actually get tested, and said they had received positive test results. He said he did not want to see false numbers affecting the adult soft ball tournaments held in the city.

Grace Hecht provided information on local Christmas events, a toy drive, and the Educators' Club event.

Vanessa Martinez said Dr. Zehri was not right for Bullhead City. She said she was a victim of his sexual harassment actions.

Eva Corbett invited the public to attend a fundraiser for We Care for Animals at That Dam Diner, and the Women's Republican Club luncheon at Chaparral Country Club.

Scotty McClure urged the Council to work with local law enforcement on future marijuana store licenses and locations.

Billy Pershing asked about the decrease in the speed limit on Highway 95 from 45 mph to 40 mph. Mayor Brady said the signs were up from Merrill to Marina Blvd.

Having no one else present requesting to speak, Mayor Brady closed the call to the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

MOTION: Vice Mayor D'Amico made a motion to move Agenda Item No. 15 to the beginning of the agenda for discussion and consideration. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

WAIVER MOTION

MOTION: Vice Mayor D'Amico made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. COVID-19

City Manager Cotter said this topic would be discussed under Agenda Item No. 15.

2. Financial Reporting Award

City Manager Cotter said Bullhead City's Finance Department had received an award for excellence in financial reporting.

3. EPCOR Rate Cases and Water Related Matters

City Manager Cotter said the court date for the condemnation case was February 22, 2021. He said this could happen sooner if EPCOR simply called his office and accepted the city's offer of \$55

million. He said EPCOR's legal billings were running in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and said it was time for them to accept the city's offer. He said they looked forward to owning and operating the water system in the city.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Brummett said the Colorado River Concert Association would hold a free virtual gift of music, "At Home for the Holidays." She provided dates and information on accessing the site.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion that Items No. 1 and 2 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Vice Mayor D'Amico seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 1, 2020; and the Minutes of Regular Council Meeting held on December 1, 2020. (City Clerk Stein)
2. Approval of Resolution No. 2020R-50 authorizing the abandonment of the 4 ft. x 25 ft. anchor easement lying within a parcel of land located at 2120 Del Rey Drive and described as Lots 757 and 758 of Riviera Mobile Gardens, Unit 2, Section 19, T20N, R22W, Bullhead City, AZ. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

Agenda Item No. 15 was moved for discussion after the approval of Consent Agenda Items No. 1 and 2.

After the vote on Agenda Item No. 15, Mayor Brady called for a break at 7:42 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

3. Discussion and possible action to appoint a citizen to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a partial term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said there were seven applicants to fill one position on the Planning and Zoning Commission that became available upon the election of former Commissioner Norma Brummett to serve on the City Council. He said the applicants were Dan Alfonzo, Jennifer Bell, Barbara Brandt, Eva Corbett, Ken Parrillo, Tami Ring, and Pamela Smith. Each Council Member marked their appointment selection on a paper ballot form and City Clerk Stein announced the tabulation. Pamela Smith received the majority of marks.

MOTION: Vice Mayor D'Amico made a motion to appoint Pamela Smith to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a partial term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion and possible action to appoint three citizens to serve on the Franchise License Commission to fill three-year terms effective January 1, 2021 and expiring on December 31, 2023. (City Clerk Stein)

Mayor Brady said Dan Alfonzo, Barbara Brandt, Gary Genovese, David Lipinski, Craig Powers, and Linda Saldana have volunteered to serve on the Commission. Each Council Member marked three appointment selections on a paper ballot form and City Clerk Stein announced the tabulation. Barbara Brandt, David Lipinski, and Linda Saldana received the majority of marks.

MOTION: Vice Mayor D'Amico made a motion to appoint Barbara Brandt, David Lipinski, and Linda Saldana to serve on the Franchise License Commission to fill three-year terms effective January 1, 2021 and expiring on December 31, 2023. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion and possible action to appoint a citizen to serve on the Municipal Property Corporation to fill a three-year term effective immediately and expiring on September 30, 2023. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said Paul Bull had expressed an interest in being re-appointed and no additional applications were received.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to appoint Paul Bull to serve on the Municipal Property Corporation to fill a three-year term effective immediately and expiring on September 30, 2023. Council Member Bruck seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

6. Discussion and possible action to appoint a citizen to serve on the Board of Adjustment to fill a partial term beginning immediately and expiring on June 30, 2021. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said Dan Alfonzo had applied to serve on the Board of Adjustment and no additional applications were received.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to appoint Dan Alfonzo to serve on the Board of Adjustment to fill a partial term beginning immediately and expiring on June 30, 2021. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

7. Discussion and possible action to appoint three citizens to serve on the Water Resources Advisory Committee to fill terms effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said the three current members had expressed their interest in being re-appointed.

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion to appoint John Deetz, John McCormick, and Fred Lamb to serve on the Water Resources Advisory Committee to fill terms effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022. Vice Mayor D'Amico seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

8. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-10 approving the request for a zoning map change from C2 (General Commercial) to R1L-D21 (Residential: Single-Family Limited with minimum 21,000 sq. ft. of lot area per dwelling unit) for a 1.51 acre parcel of land located at 1999 Havasupai Drive and described as Colorado River Estates Re-amended, Lots 128A & 128B, Section 26, T20N, R22W, Bullhead City, AZ. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

City Manager Cotter said the property owners requested the zoning change from C2 commercial to residential, as the nearest adjacent developed parcels to the west, east, and south were all single-family residential uses. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval of this item.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-10 approving the request for a zoning map change from C2 (General Commercial) to R1L-D21 (Residential: Single-Family Limited with minimum 21,000 sq. ft. of lot area per dwelling unit) for a 1.51 acre parcel of land located at 1999 Havasupai Drive and described as Colorado River Estates Re-amended, Lots 128A & 128B, Section 26, T20N, R22W, Bullhead City, AZ. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the finalization of and entry into a contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for a body-worn camera system, including technical support, equipment, and training, for the Bullhead City Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$410,821.20, plus applicable taxes, over the next five years; and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a final agreement, make necessary payments and engage in any other actions consistent with the authority granted herein. (Acting Police Chief DeSantis)

Acting Police Captain Robert Trebes said the purchase included 60 body worn cameras, data storage, a retrieval system, service and training under a five-year contract. He said the department issued a request for proposal and received proposals from four vendors. He said they evaluated the proposals and recommended that Axon Enterprise, Inc. be selected. He said Axon was the only vendor capable of complying with all aspects of desired outcomes.

Acting Captain Trebes said the Mohave County Attorney's office, the Lake Havasu City Police Department, and the Kingman Police Department were also utilizing the Axon system. He said the Mohave County Attorney's office recommended using Axon's system as it provided for the digital upload and use of critical information and data for use in evaluating and prosecuting submitted

cases. He said the utilization of this Axon efficiency would allow the city to save personnel hours and the use of separate physical media storage devices.

Council Member Brummett said she talked with a citizen that was concerned about the clarity of the system.

Acting Captain Trebes said it was up to the city as to the resolution to be used because it would affect the cost of data storage. He said the video was very good quality and the cameras were fantastic.

City Manager Cotter said the system provided high definition footage and said the city would not skimp on the quality of the product. He said this system did not have a low quality resolution.

Mayor Brady said he was impressed with the editing and other features of the system. He asked about the number of personnel required to monitor the system.

Acting Captain Trebes said one additional records clerk was approved during the budget process. He said they hired that records clerk, and said all records clerks would be trained in the redaction of the body camera footage. He said all officers except the administrative and narcotics sections would have a body camera.

Council Member Zehri asked where the data would be stored and what the retention requirements would be.

Acting Captain Trebes said the data would be stored in the cloud which saved on city staff time and equipment. He said there was a redundant system in place. He said each incident required a different retention schedule.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Dan Alfonzo asked if the city used any grants for the purchase of the equipment.

City Manager Cotter said the city received one grant, and said they would apply for other grants when they became available.

MOTION: Vice Mayor D'Amico made a motion to approve the finalization of and entry into a contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for a body-worn camera system, including technical support, equipment, and training, for the Bullhead City Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$410,821.20, plus applicable taxes, over the next five years; and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a final agreement, make necessary payments and engage in any other actions consistent with the authority granted herein. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

10. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2020R-51 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Arizona and the City of Bullhead City (IGA 20-0007979-I) providing for safety improvements on Bullhead Parkway and Silver Creek Road in the amount of \$968,100.00; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said this was a 100 percent grant-funded safety improvement project located on Bullhead Parkway between Canyon Road to Hillview Drive, and new street lighting would also be installed along Silver Creek Road. She said these improvements were made possible through the Federal Highway Administration Highway Safety Improvement Program administered through the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020R-51 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Arizona and the City of Bullhead City (IGA 20-0007979-I) providing for safety improvements on Bullhead Parkway and Silver Creek Road in the amount of \$968,100.00; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D’Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

11. Discussion and possible action to approve the construction contract with Perco Rock Co. of Panguitch, Utah (pages 1-185) in an amount not to exceed \$973,566.00 for construction of the Secret Pass and Silver Creek Flood and Erosion Mitigation Project; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute all appropriate documents and approve resultant payments. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said the project included approximately 1,600 linear feet of containment dikes near the inlet locations of two existing roadway culvert crossings beneath Bullhead Parkway, for Silver Creek and Secret Pass Wash. She said the project went out to bid and six vendors submitted bids. She said Perco Rock Company was the lowest responsive bidder. She said funding was budgeted and approved in the fiscal year 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Program. She said the firm of J.E. Fuller Hydrology & Geomorphology, Inc. was hired to evaluate and design mitigation measures for the Bullhead Parkway area. She said J.E. Fuller identified that the Secret Pass and Silver Creek Washes intersecting with the Parkway needed to be addressed, as large flows from rainfall traveled through those washes, forcing some closures of the Parkway after a heavy rain.

Cyrus D. Miller, P.E., CFM, design engineer for the project, joined the meeting via Zoom conference. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that showed the construction sites and discussed the proposed project that would mitigate flood damage in the area.

Council Member Bruck asked if the funds were coming from the Flood Control Account and if all the funds were available. She asked if the area along the Parkway near the car dealership had been studied for flood control.

City Manager Cotter confirmed, and said \$1,200,000 was budgeted for this project.

Council Member Clark asked if this project was part of the future Parkway re-build project.

City Manager Cotter confirmed, and said this was a permanent solution.

Council Member Zehri asked if there were grant funds available to help pay for the project.

City Manager Cotter said the funds came out of the county taxpayer fund for flood control. He said the city worked with the county flood control office, and would take every opportunity to seek grant funding.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to approve the construction contract with Perco Rock Co. of Panguitch, Utah (pages 1-185) in an amount not to exceed \$973,566.00 for construction of the Secret Pass and Silver Creek Flood and Erosion Mitigation Project; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute all appropriate documents and approve resultant payments. Vice Mayor D'Amico seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

12. Discussion and possible action to approve revisions to the Section 12 Plan of Development dated December 7, 2020 (Community Park Master Plan Update) to include the boat launch on the north side of Community Park and minor revisions on the east side of Highway 95 consisting of the addition of two baseball fields. (Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath)

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Dave Heath said the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend this change to the master plan. He said the plan included the proposed commercial launch ramp.

City Manager Cotter said the city's partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was very strong. He said they worked with the BLM on every major change made to the parks.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to approve revisions to the Section 12 Plan of Development dated December 7, 2020 (Community Park Master Plan Update) to include the boat launch on the north side of Community Park and minor revisions on the east side of Highway 95 consisting of the addition of two baseball fields. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

13. Discussion and possible action to approve an expenditure of up to \$2,500.00 from the Municipal Arts Fund for the replacement of the patriotic themed wall mural consistent in concept to that depicted in Bid #1 and as agreeable to the property owner; or direct staff to further negotiate with the property owner as to any other mutually acceptable alternative. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the city went through a bid process to update and replace the patriotic themed wall mural that received three bids. He said the panel of four judges met and recommended Bid No. 3 with changes, but the property owner liked Bid No. 1. He said since the project was on private property, the right of entry granted the owner the right of approval of the final selection. He said the project would be funded out of the City's Municipal Art Fund which had a current balance of \$5,420.

Lindsay Drew, the artist of Bid No. 1, introduced herself and said she remembered when the mural first went up. She said the mural was a vision of hope for the community. She said she was excited to have the opportunity to update the mural for the city.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Scotty McClure said he was not in favor of combining "church and state" but the work would be done on private property.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$2,500.00 from the Municipal Arts Fund for the replacement of the patriotic themed wall mural consistent in concept to that depicted in Bid #1 and as agreeable to the property owner. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

14. Discussion and possible action to approve: 1) directing the City Manager to establish a one-time allowance for all employees, exempt and non-exempt with accrued time, to redeem up to 15 hours of personal time and up to 15 hours of vacation time, for a total of 30 hours maximum, in consideration of the diligence and sacrifice of the employees who have given their time and dedication in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as otherwise outlined in the communication; and 2) directing a one-time transfer of up to \$212,505.00 from the General Services Contingency Fund to the applicable department. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said due to COVID-19, employees across all departments have been asked to work diligently for the community since March 2020. He said many employees had not been allowed to take vacations because of the work requirements of the city. He said this allowance was for employees having accrued time on the books, not a “holiday bonus.” He said this was a one-time allowance giving employees the opportunity to redeem their already earned and accrued hours.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion to approve: 1) directing the City Manager to establish a one-time allowance for all employees, exempt and non-exempt with accrued time, to redeem up to 15 hours of personal time and up to 15 hours of vacation time, for a total of 30 hours maximum, in consideration of the diligence and sacrifice of the employees who have given their time and dedication in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as otherwise outlined in the communication; and 2) directing a one-time transfer of up to \$212,505.00 from the General Services Contingency Fund to the applicable department. Council Member Bruck seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, D’Amico, Wegmann, Zehri NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

Agenda Item No. 15 was moved to the beginning of the agenda for discussion and consideration.

15. Discussion and possible action to consider the possible adoption of Resolution No. 2020R-52 re-imposing a face covering requirement for enclosed areas open to public access within Bullhead City. (Council Members Waheed Zehri and Mark Clark)

City Manager Cotter said an educational work session was held earlier that day for one hour, and said public comments would be heard under this item.

Council Member Zehri provided a Power Point presentation, “COVID-19 - Whoever Saves a Life Saves the World.” He said they were learning more about COVID-19 every day, and said they knew how it was commonly spread. He said the virus was transmitted through droplets, airborne, inhalation, and contact from contaminated surfaces. He said the majority of people were asymptomatic and spread the virus through the community. He said recommendations were to wear

a mask, maintain social distancing, wash hands frequently, and stay home when sick. He said cases in Bullhead City continued to rise and hospitals were being overwhelmed. He said the mask mandate should be re-instated to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, protect loved ones, allow businesses to remain open, and not overwhelm hospitals. He said it took at least 15 health care workers to take care of one COVID patient, and said some of those workers were getting sick themselves and not coming to work. He said their job was to keep the community as healthy as possible and slow the spread of the virus. He said wearing a mask and saving one life was like saving the whole world.

Ann-Marie Alameddin, President and CEO of the Arizona Hospital and Health Care Association, joined the meeting via Zoom conference. She requested the city re-instate the mask mandate. She said hospitals across the state were seeing an escalation of patients, and said Arizona now had the highest positivity rate in the country at 25 percent. She said there was a critical health care personnel shortage throughout the country. She said wearing masks proved to help flatten the curve.

Libby McDannell, CEO of the Arizona Medical Association, joined the meeting via Zoom conference. She said re-adopting the mask mandate would help save lives. She said the number of new COVID positive cases had increased more than 200 percent over the past month. She said she hoped the Council would agree that something had to be done for the sake of the people in the community. She said hope was coming in the form of an effective vaccine, but they had to take prevention measures until the virus was under control.

Dr. Howard Morris from WARMC said the Council's decision tonight was very important. He said masks were inconvenient, but they had not seen any flu cases this year, which proved that masks did work. He said wearing masks protects others, and urged the Council to re-adopt the mask requirement.

Amber Heffernan, Chief Nursing Officer for Accountable Care Management, said she worked at WARMC on the front lines. She said every day they saw patients die alone without their family with them. She asked the Council to re-instate the mask mandate to protect health care workers, loved ones, as well as the entire community.

Arden Lauxman, WARMC Chairman of the Board, said their Board Members were very concerned over the Council's decision tonight. He said their staff was very tired. He said they represented the voices of the community, and urged the Council had to pay attention to the numbers and what was going on. He said many people were staying home because it was the right thing to do.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Royanne Ortiz said no one should die from COVID because there were effective therapeutics that worked to save people. She asked if the hospitals had these types of drugs to help people. She spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Jason Alonzo said the death rate from COVID was very low and said many studies indicated that masks did not work. He spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

Barbara Pape said the virus had caused fear for everyone. She said there was proof that wearing masks was not effective as germs could enter the body through the eyes. She spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

William Hardt said the numbers were not segregated by people at risk or those that recovered. He said those at risk should be removed from the risk as much as possible. He said those at risk who died from other causes were counted as COVID deaths. He spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

Annie Severino said the mask mandate harmed small businesses and put people against each other. She said the idea of healthy people endangering others simply by breathing was a scam. She said people should mind their own business and not tell others how to live. She spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

Ken Parrillo said he appreciated when others wore a mask. He said he did not see any medical professionals rebutting the mask mandate.

Scott Anderson said the Council's job was not to protect his health, but to protect his rights. He said it was a personal choice whether or not to wear a mask. He spoke in opposition to the proposed mask mandate.

Deborah Leckie said the division within the city was really sad. She said the situation was serious, and said people should not be attacking the hospitals. She spoke in support of the proposed mask resolution.

Billy Pershing said he had not heard any reports about specific medications given to those who had recovered or needed to be hospitalized. He said most businesses required the wearing of masks, and asked about the reason why masks were not that effective. He spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

Pamela Smith said the statistics proved that masks did not work.

Emily Stevens from WARMC said the hospital had antibody treatments but said everything had to fit within specific criteria.

Scotty McClure said the medical professionals recommended wearing a mask and washing hands. He said he would be first in line to get the vaccine, and he would still wear a mask.

Dan Alfonzo said an increase in COVID cases would burden the medical staff and facilities. He spoke in support of the proposed mask resolution.

Tami Ring said wearing a mask was a personal choice. She said the resolution would be impossible to enforce. She spoke in opposition to the proposed mask resolution.

Nick Parsons said he would like to see more transparency from the medical representatives, and less doom and gloom.

MOTION: Council Member Zehri made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020R-52 re-imposing a face covering requirement for enclosed areas open to public access within Bullhead City. Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor D'Amico reviewed the Bullhead statistics of COVID infections, and pointed out that the infection and death rates remained the same with or without the mask mandate. He asked if the WARMC staff was understaffed prior to the COVID pandemic. He said there was no way to enforce the mandate as compliance was stated to be "voluntary." He said the majority of the citizens had been wearing masks without a mandate. He said he would vote "no."

Council Member Zehri said it was difficult to take care of the patients when the medical staff were getting COVID and staying home. He said the hospital was never understaffed.

Council Member Wegmann said there were a lot of negative reports and not a lot about positive results and recovered cases. She said she thought the statistics were not accurate. She said wearing a mask was a personal choice. She said she listened to the citizens of this community, and would be voting "no."

Council Member Clark said he was looking at this a little differently from other Council Members. He said the mandate would be voluntary, but he thought people would see that Bullhead City was trying to make things better for the community if the city supported the voluntary use of masks.

Council Member Brummett thanked the citizens for providing their input, and the medical community and first responders for their courageous efforts during the pandemic. She said individuals should be responsible for their personal protection, and wearing a mask was a respectful thing to do for other members of the community. She said she would vote "no."

Council Member Bruck said it was the individual's responsibility and choice to wear a mask. She said she would vote "no."

Mayor Brady said he had a personal experience with the impact of COVID. He said he was a strong advocate for the safety of the community, and acted three times on mandating masks in the city and closing the beaches as they were overrun with out-of-state visitors. He said, looking back, he wondered how much good it did, but said he was always looking out for the good of the citizens. He said other states had shut down their economies which negatively impacted the citizens. He said it was important to control the spread of COVID and most people were wearing masks in public. He said citizens were taking this disease seriously. He said there was no enforcement mechanism in place. He said the mask mandate was still in place at the state level for restaurants, bars, and gyms, as well as dozens of businesses throughout the country. He said they could not change people's behaviors and said he would be voting "no." He encouraged everyone to be responsible and practice all of the mitigation measures recommended by the health professionals.

Mayor Brady called for the vote.

VOTE: AYES: Clark, Zehri NAYS: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, D'Amico, Wegmann
ABSENT: None

MOTION FAILED – DID NOT PASS

At the end of Agenda Item No. 15, the City Council discussed Agenda Items No. 3 through 14.

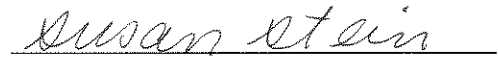
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct record of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held on the 15th day of December 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of January 2021.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk