

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, January 5, 2021, 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 Bill Jones of Bethel Community Church to deliver the invocation. Council Member Brummett led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Present

Brady, Bruck, Brummett, Clark, Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

D'Amico

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF: Dennis DeSantis (via Zoom conference)

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera (via Zoom Conference)

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson (via Zoom conference)

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton (via Zoom conference)

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Saritti Chooniyom

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Brady opened the call to the public.

Gail Moscato said she was the President of Saving Animals In Need Together (S.A.I.N.T.). She said they had come a long way towards promoting animal welfare but they had much more to do. She said she received a call from the new Bullhead City Supervisor of Animal Care and Welfare informing her that the city wanted to continue the relationship between S.A.I.N.T. and the city. She said they wanted to work together and find ways to reach a level of zero tolerance for animal abusers. She said there were other ways instead of putting people in jail. She said all lives mattered, including the pets in the community.

Sue Demarco said she was the Pledge Director for S.A.I.N.T. She thanked all of their supporters in 2020 and said the organization needed continued funding to help to keep their programs running. She encouraged members of the public to consider fostering an animal.

Billy Pershing said he hoped the City Council would not consider gender neutral language.

Scotty McClure said the Mohave County Board of Supervisors no longer allowed public comment during their meetings, except at the end of the meeting when they had already voted on all of the items. He said prior notice should have been provided before decreasing the speed limit on

Highway 95. He said a four-way stop was needed at Riviera and the liquor store. He said the entrance to Dairy Queen from the highway needed to be corrected in order to avoid rear end collisions. He said he was in favor of term limits.

Grace Hecht provided information on upcoming events in the community; including a free choir concert at Mohave High School, free sign-ups for girls' fast pitch softball tournaments, and a trash pick-up day to be held on February 5th.

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

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

None

### **WAIVER MOTION**

**MOTION:** Council Member Clark made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member Bruck seconded the motion.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### 1. COVID-19

Mohave County Public Health Official Denise Burley joined the meeting via Zoom conference. She provided an update on the vaccine progress and said they were currently in the 1A phase. She said they were addressing the challenges experienced with the process for the vaccine allocation. She said they learned about their allocations each week from the Arizona Department of Health Services. She said more information would be provided in press releases and on their web page.

Council Member Clark asked for clarification on the different phases for vaccine distribution.

County Health Official Burley provided information on the categories included in each phase of the vaccine distribution. She said the Moderna vaccine was for persons 18 years of age and older.

#### 2. Building Abatement Projects

Development Services Director Chooniyom provided a power point presentation on the city's nuisance abatement program and budget from 2017 through 2021. He displayed photos of some properties before and after they were cleaned up. He said the city worked closely with the property owner on each case before any demolition work was performed.

City Manager Cotter said a lien was placed on each property that was in disrepair and legal notices were sent to the owners before bringing the property into compliance. He said most cases were reported to the city from someone in the neighborhood.

### 3. EPCOR Rate Cases

City Manager Cotter said the Johnson Utilities sale to EPCOR recently went through in Arizona. He said the city submitted a public information request for the amount of the sale and discovered the sale price was \$110 million. He said EPCOR had bloated the city's water system sale price for years, and said the city was ready to make a deal with EPCOR to buy the water company for \$55 million. He said the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) agreed that EPCOR should not hide the sale price from the citizens of Arizona. He said they did not need to go to court if EPCOR would settle before the February court date. He said the city was ready to go to court and take over the operations.

### 4. Southwest Gas Rate Case

City Manager Cotter said the final order and opinion on the rate case could be viewed on the ACC's website. He said the ACC did approve the rate increase and said the city intervened. He said Mayor Brady was the only citizen in Arizona that spoke against the rate case. He said there was not much the city could do on this particular rate case. He said the approved rate would increase the average monthly gas bill by approximately \$4 per month.

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS**

Council Member Zehri said the New Year would be a year of love, health, and peace. He said many citizens had suffered from COVID, drug addiction, and unemployment; and said 2021 would be a good one for the city. He discussed recent accomplishments and economic development opportunities that would take place in 2021. He said he asked WARMC and Mohave County if one of his elderly patients could get a vaccine in his place. He said he was told that this could not happen, and said there was an additional phase in vaccine distribution called the VIP phase. He said they had a life-saving COVID antibody treatment at WARMC. He said today it was announced that Arizona had the highest rate of COVID in the world. He said the citizens needed the city's help more than any time before to help decrease the spread of the virus. He requested the Mayor issue an executive order for a mask mandate in the city to decrease the virus spread and help the health care workers.

Mayor Brady said the City Code allowed him to act in the case of a natural disaster when there was no time for a vote of the City Council. He said he used this power twice to issue a mask mandate and to effectively close the local beaches when the numbers were surging, the hospital capacity was in doubt, and they did not know as much about the virus as they did now. He said he did not regret doing this. He said as time passed and cooler heads prevailed, the City Council wanted to vote on future decisions. He said the Council had voted 6-1 to re-open the beaches, and 4-3 to continue the wearing of masks and bring the issue back one month later for re-consideration. He said a second vote one month later took place and at that time, the Council voted against continuing the mask policy. He said Dr. Zehri asked for the mandate to be brought back again before the Council last month, and said the Council had voted against the mask order. He said Dr. Zehri was asking him to use the heavy hand of the Mayor to go against the Council's vote to impose a mandate. He said he

was not a dictator and would not take it upon himself to issue a mandate in opposition to what the Council had already decided. He said if any Council Member that voted against the issue wanted to bring the mask order back for consideration at any time in the future, to please let him know.

**ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Council Member Clark made a motion that Item No. 1 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member Bruck seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 15, 2020; and the Minutes of Regular Council Meeting held on December 15, 2020. (City Clerk Stein)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

2. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for an Interim Permit and New Series 10 Liquor License No. 126423 submitted by Skylar James Maxwell for Gas N' Grub located at 2996 Highway 68 in Bullhead City. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said staff had reviewed the application and had no objections.

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing. Having no one requesting to speak, Mayor Brady closed the public hearing.

**MOTION:** Council Member Wegmann made a motion to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for an Interim Permit and New Series 10 Liquor License No. 126423 submitted by Skylar James Maxwell for Gas N' Grub located at 2996 Highway 68 in Bullhead City. Council Member Bruck seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Building, Planning and Zoning Items**

None

**Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases**

None

**Other Business**

3. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-01 recommending that the Nevada Department of Transportation and Clark County officially name the bridge commonly referred to as the Laughlin Bridge, the "Laughlin Bridge." (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said as they moved into the construction phase of the new second bridge, the process of naming the bridges had come to their attention. He said the Laughlin Bridge was currently called "B-1847" and was never given an official name. He said he spoke to Matt Laughlin about what his grandfather, Don Laughlin, would like the bridge to be named, and they agreed to call it the "Laughlin Bridge." He said Don Laughlin was instrumental in the design, engineering, and construction of the bridge connecting both communities, and was the principal financier paying more than \$3 million for the bridge between 1985 and 1987. He said the bridge connected Bullhead City to Laughlin via Nevada Highway 163 with Arizona Highways 95 and 68, and provided a necessary and vital transportation route for local residents, commercial vehicular traffic, and millions of visitors to the region annually. He said the resolution would ask the Nevada Department of Transportation and Clark County to officially name the bridge as the "Laughlin Bridge" in honor of Don Laughlin and his family for building the bridge and contributing significant time and resources for the betterment of Clark County, Laughlin, and Bullhead City.

Council Member Clark said this was a great idea to officially name the bridge after Don Laughlin.

Mayor Brady said he remembered the days when Don Laughlin and his staff overcame many hurdles to construct the bridge and provide another means to cross the river. He said he could not think of a better way to name the bridge in Don Laughlin's honor.

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

Scotty McClure spoke in support of the resolution. He said he was very impressed with the actions of Don Laughlin to improve the community.

Billy Pershing asked if there had been discussions regarding naming the new bridge.

City Manager Cotter said there would be future discussions between Clark County and the Bullhead City Council regarding the name of the second bridge.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruck made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-01 recommending that the Nevada Department of Transportation and Clark County officially name the bridge commonly referred to as the Laughlin Bridge, the "Laughlin Bridge." Council Member Clark seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:38 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 5th day of January 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of January 2021.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM

City Clerk