

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, May 25, 2021, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the special meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Brady, Bruck, Brummett (via Zoom conference), D'Amico, Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

Vacant Seat

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

POLICE CHIEF: Robert Trebes

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark Clark

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

Discussion relating to the proposed City of Bullhead City Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, including proposed revenues, expenditures, and programs for all governmental funds.

Public Safety

Police Chief Trebes said citizens had the ultimate opinion as to how policing should be run. He said he believed in community engagement. He said they were currently at 1997 staffing levels for police officers and dispatcher positions had decreased. He said they were taking many more calls than years before. He said they looked at positions that could be "civilianized" and other avenues in order to save money. He said the records management system (\$765,000) required updating to improve efficiency. He said their three part-time civilian investigators were able to perform a lot of the same functions as sworn officers, which freed up those officers to do other things. He said he was requesting an increase for two of those part-time positions to become full-time. He said they were requesting additional funding for the water safety program; including a security beach patrol. He said there was a request for an additional records person and additional part-time dispatcher positions that would cut down on overtime expense. He said he was requesting a community policing officer to serve in a second community service position. He said they explored bringing on veterinary services at the animal shelter (\$140,000), and said this function would serve the community better and save on the cost of sending animals to Kingman for the same services.

Police Chief Trebes said the Animal Care & Welfare building was in very poor condition and needed a huge amount of repairs. He said \$700,000 was included for some work on the building this year, and said this amount might not be enough to fully rehabilitate the building.

Vice Mayor D'Amico said Bullhead City citizens appreciated the police and said he agreed with the requests from Chief Trebes. He said the city was spending \$60,000 last year for vet services, plus spending more to send animals to Kingman for additional services.

City Manager Cotter said the vet program had not firmed up yet and said there were ongoing conversations. He said they did not want any local veterinarians thinking this was a threat to their businesses. He said they would move forward after July 1st.

Mayor Brady asked about the net moving forward and could the city sustain those additional police department positions in the future. City Manager Cotter said they believed the city would save hundreds of thousands of dollars in future years, and said the proposed changes would help the department reach its objectives. Mayor Brady said he was in favor of the proposed plan and said he would be in favor of additional funding if required.

City Manager Cotter said the dispatch part-time help amount was included at \$87,087, and dispatch overtime at \$105,000. He said overtime for dispatch in 2020 was \$278,123. He said they had been working to reduce overtime and not burn people out. He said they hoped that hiring the additional part-time staff would alleviate this situation.

Mayor Brady asked if the police department had a dive team and if a dive team was necessary because the fire department also had one. Chief Trebes said their dive team served the evidence, recovery, and investigation portion and the fire department team served to provide life-saving efforts. He said both dive teams would be cross trained in order to provide the highest benefit to the community. City Manager Cotter said the specialty dive team and SWAT officers also performed in their regular police officer capacities.

Larry Tunforss said the citizens of Bullhead City supported the Police Department.

Human Services

Human Services Director Tipton introduced the members of the department. He said a part-time person was added to assist the pest abatement division. He said recreation services and park maintenance line items have increased. He said funding was included for the homeless resource center (\$52,000) and the River Fund transportation assistance program (\$50,000) which were eligible under the federal appropriation as well as other social service program-related expenses. He said a full-time parks maintenance worker position was added to help maintain the new Heritage Trail and Gary Keith Park. He said they added hours for the park rangers. He said \$350,000 was included under Recreation for the biker event. He said \$50,000 was included for the new Marketplace at Community Park that would generate revenue from the sale of food, beverages, tents, sunscreen, charcoal, hibachis, and other items.

Transit

Human Services Director Tipton said they changed their operational processes in order to sanitize the vehicles on a daily and weekly basis. He said \$150,000 was included for an update to the short and long range transit planning study, and said the federal grant would pay for 80 percent of the study. He said they were requesting two new replacement buses (\$55,000) and a new Intelligent

Transit System Tracking System (\$75,000) which would be reimbursed at 80 percent through the federal grant.

Suddenlink Center

Human Services Director Tipton said funds to strip and wax the basketball court (\$3,500) and router and equipment upgrades to the Wi-Fi system (\$7,500) were included. He said \$27,500 was included for necessary repairs and maintenance at the center.

Pest Abatement

Human Services Director Tipton said there was a carryover from last year. He said the district reimbursed the city for all pest abatement costs.

Senior Campus

Human Services Director Tipton said senior activities were conducted mostly by volunteers. He said funds were included for volunteer appreciation and for specialty supplies such as plastic utensils.

Council Member Bruck suggested having another full-time person, in addition to Senior Services Program Manager Kim Cool, working at the senior center.

City Manager Cotter said currently a full-time shared person was assigned half of the time to the Transit Division and the other half to Senior Services.

Council Member Wegmann asked about the number of volunteers at the senior center. Program Manager Cool said there were about 40 in total, with 4 volunteers to help with the food service each day. She said she appreciated volunteers dearly but said they could call off anytime. She said she did not have a vacation day since she started in September and worked about 50 hours per week. She said it would be nice to have a full-time person to rely on.

Council Member Zehri said this was an opportunity for the city to do more for the seniors.

Transit Manager Peluso said their plan was to have a new facility operational for transit within three years. He said he would need more staff at that time. He said they could work around not having a part-time person. He said their demand response service would keep increasing due to the aging population.

Vice Mayor D'Amico said he would like to see the current full-time person employed at senior services stay there full-time, and the city hire another part-time person for transit.

Barbara Pape said Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath, Transit Manager Peluso, and Human Services Director Tipton were dedicated, hardworking, and loyal city employees.

Mayor Brady called for a dinner break at 4:41 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Capital Improvements

Public Works Director Johnson said the risk mapping for flood control was an ongoing project in conjunction with the county, and said they had re-mapped multiple areas since 2016. She said Miracle Mile drainage improvements and related improvements were planned. She said the Bullhead Parkway and Silver Creek Road lighting project would be funded through ADOT. She said lighting along the Parkway would be installed in 2024 with highway improvement funds, and would be included sooner if the city received federal funding for the entire parkway. She said the Landon Drive roadway extension design would begin next year, and said it would alleviate traffic from the north side of Highway 95, with better access to the parkway. She said the Arcadia Blvd. roadway extension to North Oatman Road design would begin in 2022. She discussed the Secret Pass at Parkway grade control structure replacement project, rights of way and median beautification projects that improved older neighborhoods. She said the Community Park culvert extension was planned to begin this year, and said it would extend the existing culvert 40 feet to create a roadway and walking path along the west side of the culvert.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath said funds were included to begin the Community Park Athletic Complex, complete the municipal pool slide replacement project and the Rotary Park skate park improvements. He said the Community Park commercial boat launch project was ready to be bid out in July 2021 and should be constructed by early spring. He said rest rooms would be added to the Rotary Park Tri-plex area.

City Manager Cotter said when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appraisals were completed, the city could begin the process of purchasing some land at Community Park. He said there would always be a Park and Public Purpose lease with BLM at the park for public recreational use, but there would be an opportunity to include a restaurant and other amenities.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath said a second splash park was planned for Community Park, and another capital project was planned to erect the perimeter fence at Community Park. He said the design and construction of mountain bike trails throughout the community would depend on future grant funding.

Police Chief Trebes said three Ford Interceptors and two Ford F150 trucks, police package upfits for police replacement vehicles, mobile data computers for replacement vehicles, mobile radios for replacement vehicles, two patrol boats, three police motorcycles, mobile radios for replacement motorcycles, and the police records management system were included as capital items. He said the city received a grant that paid for half of one boat, and said the second boat would only be purchased if grant funds could be used.

Utilities Director Clark discussed upcoming projects including the rehab of the wastewater plant lift station wet wells, repair and replacement of ductile iron pipe, manhole rehabilitation, installation of a corrosion/odor preventive system, Section 10 wastewater treatment plant blowers and controls replacement, Section 10 effluent line and pump station, Section 18 wastewater treatment plant electrical controls and equipment upgrade, Section 18 plant drum screen, and the replacement of the communication radio system.

Utilities Director Clark said there was one CIP project for the water service budget. He said \$200,000 was included for the development of a comprehensive water master plan within the city's corporate limits.

Public Works Director Johnson said the city was awarded a grant from HUD for \$1,117,696 to construct the new senior center complex.

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

Barbara Pape said the itemized budget was important to the community, and said she was impressed with the details included in the presentation.

Council Member Zehri congratulated staff for presenting a transparent and balanced budget.

City Manager Cotter said the total compensation for all employees had to be finalized, specifically final discussions with the FOPOA. He said based on the economy in the last few months, the "rainy day fund" would grow to more than \$18 million. He said this was a product of the improving economy and people buying online. He said the Council would consider approval of the tentative budget at the June 1st meeting, and the final budget at the June 15th Council meeting.

Mayor Brady said he commended the Council and city staff for keeping the city as conservative as possible while moving the city forward with all of the improvements made over the past years.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 6:31p.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 25th day of May 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of July 2021.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk