

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, July 6, 2021, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Mayor Bruck called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Pastor Bruce Rahlf of the River Chapel Assembly of God to deliver the invocation. Council Member Wegmann led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Present

Brady (via telephone), Bruck, Brummett, D'Amico, Mieding (sworn in), Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

None

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: Absent  
UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark Clark  
HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Absent

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN MIEDING**

Bullhead City Magistrate Pete Psareas administered the oath of office to John Mieding.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Vice Mayor Bruck opened the call to the public.

Emily Dotter said the jet skis were flying through the river and the operators did not pay attention to her when she asked them to slow down. She said the problem was getting worse every year.

Sue Demarco invited the public to attend the Saving Animals In Need Together fund raising event to be held on July 18th at Mohave Steak House. She said illegal fireworks should not be allowed to be sold or set off in the city.

Mary Bonaventura said the city government was corrupt and committed crimes against her. She discussed a code enforcement matter.

Dan Alfonzo asked about the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city.

Harvey Pryor asked about the city's policy statement for LGBTQ.

Bill Hart thanked the city for paving the alley behind Buffalo Wild Wings.

Eva Corbett invited the public to attend the We Care for Animals fund raising event to be held on July 18th at the Dam Diner, and said the Annual Republican Picnic was scheduled for August 7th.

Scotty McClure requested the hours of operation be increased at the animal shelter and open to the public at 6 a.m. He asked how the city would handle future rescues and air lifts on the new trail to the dam. He said Mohave County should pay the city for its public safety efforts along the river.

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

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

None

### **WAIVER MOTION**

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

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

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### 1. Staffing for New Water Company – EPCOR Employees and Transition

City Manager Cotter said city staff met with some EPCOR employees regarding future employment with the city. He said more than 20 jobs were posted on the city's website.

#### 2. Grants Report

City Manager Cotter said the federal government had granted the city additional COVID relief funding in the amount of \$13 million over the next two years. He provided information on grants received by the city in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. He said a staff position was added this year to assist in administering the federal relief funds.

#### 3. Summer Activities and Events

City Manager Cotter said this information would be presented at the next Council meeting.

4. Community Park Improvements

City Manager Cotter said this information would be presented at the next Council meeting.

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

None

**ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Council Member Wegmann 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. Council Member D'Amico seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** AYES: Brady, Bruck, Brummett, D'Amico, Mieding, 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 Budget Meetings held on May 24, 2021, and May 25, 2021; the Special Council Meeting held on June 15, 2021; the Special Budget Meeting held on June 15, 2021; and the Regular Council Meeting held on June 15, 2021. (City Clerk Stein)
2. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021R-42 appointing and directing the City Finance Director to submit the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report to the Arizona Auditor General. (Finance Director Vera)

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

None

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Building, Planning and Zoning Items**

None

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

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the execution of the Digital Marquee Placement License Agreement (Baseline Road/Highway 95) contingent upon Lamar Central Outdoor's compliance with regulatory requirements imposed by the Arizona Department of Transportation; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. (City Manager Cotter)

Council Member Brummett declared a conflict of interest and left the dais.

Planning Manager Loera said the Planning and Zoning Commission heard the Lamar application for a conditional use permit on May 6, 2021. He said there were concerns from the Commission Members about the proposed location of the sign at Baseline Road and Highway 95, and other concerns from nearby businesses about their signs being blocked by the new sign. He said at that time, Lamar said they would relocate the business signs at their cost. He said the proposed sign was an 11 ft. by 22 ft. LED board with sight line technology facing the north and southbound highway lanes, and said the light would not be visible to the surrounding neighborhoods. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation was only the first step in the process. He said the item would still have to come before the City Council, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the City's Building Department.

Council Member Mieding said flashing lights from failed LED signs could be a distraction to drivers, and asked if Lamar monitored the sign operations.

Jaye J. Tilley from Lamar Advertising said their office monitored all of their signs 24 hours a day. She said the digital billboard would enhance the city, offer more opportunities for companies to advertise their services, and add more branding for the city to advertise community events and provide amber alerts.

Council Member Zehri said he had a public safety concern about the location of the proposed sign. He said Highway 95 and Baseline was a congested area with a curve, the city had many senior drivers, and there were many other signs in that area. He said drivers had to slow down on that curve and should not be distracted by a large billboard because it could cause a potentially dangerous situation. He asked Lamar to find an alternate location for the sign.

Council Member D'Amico said the curve was dangerous already and said a large billboard in that area would be exceptionally dangerous.

Council Member Wegmann said she was concerned about public safety and the businesses in that area. She asked for the reason that Lamar chose this location.

Ms. Tilley said there were only a few parcels owned by the city, one at Laughlin Ranch Blvd. and one on the Parkway. She said they met with the business owners and said they would make things work.

City Manager Cotter said the requirement for billboard locations was that the signs had to be on city owned land per the code. He said the city would prescribe the specifics for that particular board. He said the city had received compliments on the two existing Lamar boards and the Riverside board. He said Lamar could purchase a private site and give the land to the city. He said Lamar had the

right to ask the Council if they could put a billboard on this site. He said the existing billboards did provide some revenue to the city and said the city had an ongoing partnership with Lamar.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Harvey Pryor spoke in opposition to the proposed billboard location.

Steven Irgens said he and his wife were business owners and home owners in Bullhead City. He said he owned the building located within the peninsula between Baseline Road and the highway. He said traffic from his establishment caused congestion, and said there had been eleven accidents near his building. He said the billboard would interfere with the other signs and sight lines. He spoke in opposition to the proposed billboard location.

Dan Alfonzo spoke in opposition to the proposed billboard location, and said he was concerned with the liability issues that might occur.

Scotty McClure spoke in opposition to the proposed billboard location, and said the neighboring property owners would be affected. He said the sign would be a distraction to motorists.

Council Member Mieding asked the City Attorney about any liabilities the city might be exposed to.

City Attorney Emery said he expressed no opinion on the specifics of this presentation, except if he perceived there to be an unreasonable risk to the city's liability going forward; he would have expressed this during the conditional use permit process.

Mayor Brady said he was also concerned about the safety of the public because drivers had to keep their eyes on the road when negotiating the curve. He said the Council indicated that they did not want anyone in a residential neighborhood to be able to see the signs. He said a home on the hillside east of the shopping center was in the line of sight of the proposed billboard. He encouraged Lamar to find other sites.

Vice Mayor Bruck said she was also opposed to the proposed billboard location.

**No action was taken on Agenda Item No. 3.**

Council Member Brummett returned to the dais.

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-43 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bullhead City and Clark County for animal drop-off location. (Police Chief Trebes)

City Manager Cotter said this item was approved by the Council on May 18th agenda, and said there was a verbiage change.

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

**MOTION:** Council Member D'Amico made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-43 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bullhead City and Clark County for animal drop-off location. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

5. Discussion and possible action to approve expenses incurred from the disposal of sludge to the Mohave County Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$245,500 for fiscal year 2022; and to authorize the City Manager to approve resultant payments. (Utilities Director Clark)

Council Member Mieding declared a conflict of interest and left the dais.

City Manager Cotter said the expense had been approved in the budget for sludge disposal.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Harvey Pryor asked if the city could purchase land and operate its own landfill.

Utilities Director Clark said there were numerous regulatory requirements that would increase the cost more than the amount currently paid to the county.

Billy Pershing said the amount equated to approximately \$12 per housing unit which did not seem excessive.

**MOTION:** Council Member Wegmann made a motion to approve expenses incurred from the disposal of sludge to the Mohave County Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$245,500 for fiscal year 2022; and to authorize the City Manager to approve resultant payments. Council Member D'Amico seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Council Member Mieding returned to the dais.

**Other Business**

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the concept, design, and location of the U. S. Marines Navy Corpsmen Memorial at Veterans Park North. (Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath)

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath said this project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Marines Navy Corpsmen Memorial Committee. He said the committee was comprised of

representatives from Veterans United, Inc., the Colorado River Chapter First Marines Division Association and the Tri-State Military Moms, Inc. He said the proposed memorial would be located at the north peninsula of the Arizona Veterans Memorial Park. He said the contracting vendors for the project were Fairway Constructors and Desert Lawn Funeral Home. He said the target date for the completion and unveiling is November 11, 2021.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if there was any cost to the city.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath said there was no cost to the city as the entire project was sponsored by donations.

Council Member D'Amico said he was 100 percent in support of the project.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Scotty McClure said the memorial should be the first memorial and said the location was correct. He said there were five other Arizona corpsmen killed in action and asked if their names would be included.

Cindy Frizelle said she represented the Tri-State Military Moms. She said they discovered there were 26 Navy corpsmen from Arizona killed since World War I. She said they planned to include their names on bricks at the base of the memorial.

Mehdi Azarmi said he wanted to help sponsor the project because he could never say "no" to veterans.

Dick Patzold of Veterans United said they had been working on this project for a number of years. He said they appreciated the help of Mr. Azarmi and the city. He said they represented all veterans.

**MOTION: Council Member D'Amico made a motion to approve the concept, design, and location of the U. S. Marines Navy Corpsmen Memorial at Veterans Park North. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bullhead City and the Bullhead City Fraternal Order of Police Officers' Association (FOPOA) for the contract period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024; and authorize the Mayor to execute the MOU on behalf of the city. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the City Council made the final determination for compensation and benefits to be paid to those employees represented by the FOPOA for the contract period beginning July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2024. He said the city budgeted for this agreement. He said this was a continuation of the great relationship the city had with the police department.

Council Member Brummett said she was happy the City Council was able to show their support for the police department with realistic financial compensation and to provide the training and resources required to protect the community.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Sergeant Nathan McConnell said he was the President of the FOPOA. He thanked City Manager Cotter and his team for their efforts in working with them on this agreement.

Billy Pershing said he was encouraged to belong to a city that funded their police.

**MOTION:** Council Member D'Amico made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bullhead City and the Bullhead City Fraternal Order of Police Officers' Association for the contract period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024; and authorize the Mayor to execute the MOU on behalf of the city. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

8. Discussion and possible action to ratify the purchase of a new John Deere 5075M Utility Tractor and a John Deere H310 Loader from SunSouth LLC of Foley, AL, in the amount of \$60,150. (Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath)

City Manager Cotter said the Council previously approved this purchase at the April 6th meeting. He said due to the high demand and low supply of this item throughout the country, the original supplier was not able to fulfill that obligation by June 30th. He said the city acquired a similar tractor on June 16, 2021; thereby requiring ratification by the Council.

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

**MOTION:** Council Member D'Amico made a motion to ratify the purchase of a new John Deere 5075M Utility Tractor and a John Deere H310 Loader from SunSouth LLC of Foley, AL, in the amount of \$60,150. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the estimated total annual assessment of \$66,081 for all Improvement Districts listed for fiscal year 2022; grant the City Manager or designee approval to sign all Tax Levies & Rates Certification Forms on behalf of the Lighting Districts; and forward the information to Mohave County for inclusion in its fiscal year 2021-2022 Statement of Tax Levies and Rates. (Finance Director Vera)



City Manager Cotter this was an annual practice of the Council to adopt the expenses for fiscal year 2022.

Vice Mayor Bruck 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 estimated total annual assessment of \$66,081 for all Improvement Districts listed for fiscal year 2022; grant the City Manager or designee approval to sign all Tax Levies & Rates Certification Forms on behalf of the Lighting Districts; and forward the information to Mohave County for inclusion in its fiscal year 2021-2022 Statement of Tax Levies and Rates. Council Member Mieding seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

10. Discussion and possible action to approve the one-time COVID Essential Worker Premium Pay for city employees approved in the city budget and authorized by the State and Local Recovery Fund. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said as part of the federal relief, the city was able to provide compensation to essential workers required to work on-site and in the community, facing possible exposure to the coronavirus. He said this expense was paid for through funds from the Department of the Treasury.

Vice Mayor Bruck asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Scotty McClure said not all employees should have been considered essential, and said he thought the government was spending their grandchildren's and great grandchildren's money.

Council Member D'Amico said he considered every employee to be essential, and said he preferred to reward the people that were working.

**MOTION:** Council Member D'Amico made a motion to approve the one-time COVID Essential Worker Premium Pay for city employees approved in the city budget and authorized by the State and Local Recovery Fund. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice Mayor Bruck declared the meeting adjourned at 7:06 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 6th day of July 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 20th day of July 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Stein, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk