

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, March 1, 2022, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brady called the special meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Present

Brady, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Wegmann, Zehri

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

POLICE CHIEF: Robert Trebes

POLICE CAPTAIN: Jason Harms

POLICE SERGEANT: Nathan McConnell

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

PARKS AND RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT: Dave Heath

**DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**

1. Discussion on the Summer Watercraft Safety Program: wristband requirement for commercial rentals, buoys, lifeguards, policing.

City Manager Cotter said over the course of many years, the Council held numerous meetings regarding water safety; and said their last meetings took place in the fall of 2021. He said during that time, they had robust discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission, community members, police and recreation departments. He said opportunities for safety education were made available for watercraft rental operators within the city, and said a new commercial boat launch was under construction in Community Park. He said there would be a lot of signage at the new boat launch location, including posting the costs for safety violations.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath displayed the new signage that would be displayed at the various locations for public information. He said handouts and other marketing materials would also assist in getting the information out to the public. He said "No Swimming" and "Wear Your Life Jacket" signs would be placed at the commercial launch ramp location. He said there were two swim beaches at Community Park, and between those two beaches was a public safety dock to be used for fire and police operations. He said they were investing in a stronger and more obstructive rope and buoy system around the beaches. He said the new rope and buoy system was also more visible which would help keep watercraft from entering the swim areas. He said they created a zone locator system along the beach areas in order to improve communications with public safety personnel.

City Manager Cotter said a lot of thought and effort went into creating the separation of the five-lane commercial launch and the public launch. He said this also helped with enforcement, and said

he wanted the public to know that the city was performing a lot of enforcement activities.

Police Chief Trebes said the number of calls for service they responded to had increased from 377 in 2016 to 924 in 2020. He said they had all four boats in operation during the busy summer weekends. He said they issued 332 citations in 2019 and 254 in 2020. He said he liked to look at data over seven years in order to establish a trend. He said the water and safety program that began in 2017 also had an increase in calls over the years. He said every violation did not need a citation, but said they had a way of tracking repeat offenders. He said he thought they were doing a good job in patrolling the river and working with the water rescue personnel.

City Manager Cotter said the consumer protection form was in force that mandated every single person that rented a watercraft in Bullhead City sign the form indicating they watched the safety video. He said the accident that occurred last year was caused by a friend of a person renting a watercraft from the Regency Casino in Laughlin that did not watch the safety video or sign the safety form. He said the idea of wristbands came up in discussions with the community last year. He said the Bullhead City watercraft rental industry was the most regulated in the country. He said there were a lot of rentals in a small area, and about 1,000 to 1,500 rentals on a busy weekend each day by people that never operated a jet ski before.

City Manager Cotter discussed the possibility of wristbands to assist with the summer safety program. He said the wristbands would be color coded for each agency and imprinted with the agency's phone number. He said he heard the Council did not want to charge the agencies for the wristbands. He said they were meeting today because they wanted to make the river safer and to save lives.

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

Najib Noori said he represented FastTrip. He said he was frustrated because many of the jet skis on the river were not rented from their operations, but were privately owned or rented in Laughlin or Davis Camp, and not regulated by the city. He said their operations were discriminated against because they were located in Bullhead City, as they had the only businesses that had to pay a fee per ski. He said this was unfair, and they should not be charged for the lifeguard expense. He said they did not want to pay the fee anymore and suggested the city charge more for beach parking fees instead.

Pamela Smith spoke in opposition to the wristband program.

A representative of the local jet ski rental industry said the city did a great job at the parks and said the only issue was about money. He said he did not want their businesses to pay more than the agencies located outside of the city. He said nothing was free and the government would eventually end up charging them more fees.

Mayor Brady said he did not want to charge the agencies for the wristbands now or in the future. A representative from Davis Camp asked who would pay for the labor to administer the wristbands and their credit card charges.

Mayor Brady read an excerpt from the Bullhead City Code pertaining to watercraft rental operations. He said no additional personnel should be required to put a wristband on a renter who

had just signed the form and watched the video.

Dan Alfonzo spoke in opposition to the wristband program. He suggested the police perform more safety check stops.

Harvey Pryor said boater safety courses should be made available, as education was most important. He suggested that police and fire personnel teach the boating safety courses.

Regina Guarisco said she was not hearing any concerns about the health of the river. She said the wristbands would help keep a count of how many were using the water, as more users added more stress on the river. She said Bullhead City needed a treaty with Laughlin to keep the river and the environment safer.

A representative of the local jet ski rental industry spoke in opposition to the wristband program.

City Manager Cotter said the city established these programs to save people's lives. He said the river was a federal waterway and they could not regulate the number of watercraft on the river. He said they only had control of what they could and did not have the cooperation of Clark County or Mohave County. He asked the Council if they wanted staff to bring back an ordinance establishing a wristband policy.

Vice Mayor D'Amico said their priority was public safety. He spoke in support of the policy.

Council Member Zehri said there were many other agencies involved than just the city. He asked about the percentage of commercial and private watercraft on the river, and about the number of consumer protection forms issued last year.

City Manager Cotter said they believed there were way more rental watercraft than privately owned on the river during the summer months. He said they would know the exact number by the end of this summer because they would count the number launched at the private and commercial launch ramps. He said the city collected about 26,000 consumer protection forms last year.

Council Member Wegmann asked about the enforcement aspect.

City Manager Cotter said they would need to establish who would be held accountable.

City Attorney Emery said it came down to what the Council wanted the wristbands to do. He discussed different scenarios. He asked if the businesses should apply the wristband to the person signing the consumer protection form, how to distinguish if the wristband was in effect or out of date, and said there had to be a determination of liability.

Mayor Brady said the rental contracts were supposed to be on board the watercraft, and said the officer could check the contract to confirm that the names on the contract matched the operators.

Council Member Brummett asked if private operators would be subject to the city regulations. She said she hoped the commercial boat launch users would feel differently about the fees they paid after this summer.

Council Member Hecht said having a wristband was an important issue with the public during the

past work sessions, and said the wristbands would help the police with enforcement activities. She said the wristbands were an added layer of protection.

Council Member Head said as a former law enforcement officer, he saw the benefits of wristbands; and he was not opposed to the policy.

Fred Doten, a member of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board, said their Board was just an advisory council. He said he believed that public safety was the responsibility of all citizens, and many times there was always that one percent that did not comply with the rules. He said wristbands would help, and asked how the city would handle enforcement with the numerous agencies involved. He said he would try to get the issue placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Mayor Brady said the law stated that residents of Nevada must show proof that they completed an approved boater course in order to operate a water craft. He said he guessed that all Nevada residents were not complying with the law and most were not aware of the law.

City Manager Cotter said the city's jurisdiction went to the middle of the river. He said all emergency dispatch calls on the river went to the city's police and fire departments for a response.

## 2. Discussion on the Bullhead Area Community Crisis Unification Program (BAACUP).

City Manager Cotter said this program was an opportunity to engage people that needed more help with treatment after the police left. He said under this program, the city could provide services and support not currently provided by the community and have the ability to connect with social services. He said the program would be funded by the nationwide opioid settlement distributions over the next seven to ten years.

Police Chief Trebes said there were more and more people in crisis that needed certain health care and services that law enforcement was not equipped to provide. He said the program addressed those issues and provided a critical service to citizens that were badly needed now.

Police Sergeant McConnell said mobile crisis intervention provided for less restrictive care and a more comfortable environment, which was more likely to produce more effective results than hospitalization or emergency department utilization. He said collaboration would exist with hospitals, medical and behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and other social services. He said a community-based mobile crisis response was an effective and efficient way of resolving mental health crises and preventing future crisis situations. He said mobile crisis teams engaged individuals in counseling throughout the encounter and intervened to de-escalate the crisis. He said the goal was to determine the needed level of care to which an individual should be referred, and resolve the situation so a higher level of care was not necessary. He said strong partnerships between crisis care systems and law enforcement were essential for public safety, suicide prevention, connections to care justice system diversion, and the elimination of psychiatric boarding in emergency departments. He said the absence of comprehensive crisis systems had been the major "front line" cause of the criminalization of mental illness. He said collaboration was the key to reversing these unacceptable trends. He said crisis services must be designed to serve anyone, anywhere, and anytime. He said communities that have committed to this approach and dedicated resources to address the community needed decreased psychiatric boarding and reduced the demands on the justice system. He said these two benefits translated into better care, better health

outcomes, and lower costs to the community.

Police Sergeant McConnell said the BACCUP Team would be a part of the COPPS (Community Oriented Police & Problem Solving) Unit. He said the Civilian Team Leader would report to the COPPS Supervisor, and oversee the team's function and training. He said the Team Leader's duties would include recruiting, scheduling, training, performance evaluations, and responding to calls for service. He said the program would mobilize two-person teams consisting of a medic (nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker who had training and experience in the mental health field. He said the BACCUP Team would utilize sworn officers for initial call response to secure the scene. He said the officers would clear once the BACCUP personnel determined the scene was stable for the BACCUP Team. He said the BACCUP Team would continue working with the citizen to connect them with resources and available services, and conduct follow-up with the citizen or recommend a care facility for accountability. He said the program would initially operate seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the team would be dispatched to calls through the emergency 911 communications center.

Police Sergeant McConnell said the BACCUP program would have five primary goals: 1) to de-escalate crisis situations; 2) to reduce the necessity for the use of force; 3) to decrease recidivism among those who experience mental health challenges; 4) to create a working collaboration with community agencies; and 5) to increase lawful self-reliance and health enhancing behaviors. He said the program would be created by consulting with local mental health provides, consulting with agencies that had similar programs in place, and by using the guidelines provided by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). He said the National Guidelines for Crisis Care, a best practice toolkit for Mobile Crisis Team Service, would support program design, development, implementation, and continuous quality improvement efforts. He said the guidelines and toolkit were intended to help agency administrators, service providers and local leaders think through and develop the structure of crisis systems that met community needs. He said the toolkit included sections for defining national guidelines in crisis care, tips for implementing care, tools to evaluate the program, de-escalation, and resolution.

Police Sergeant McConnell said the capital project budget amount for fiscal year 2022-2023 was \$208,513. He said the team leader and 14 team member wages would be approximately \$148,980, \$2,250 for team uniforms, \$2,000 for team training, \$5,400 for a laptop and equipment; \$33,478 to purchase a vehicle, \$9,131 for four Motorola portable radios, \$4,729 for one Motorola APX8500 mobile radio, and \$2,545 to purchase and install shelving, locking storage, safety partitions, seat reconfiguration and mounts for fire extinguisher and jacks to be installed by Bullhead City Fleet Maintenance.

Police Chief Trebes said people fell through the cracks and said this program would provide a follow-up mechanism in order to conduct checkups and get citizens into services that would help them get the treatment they needed.

Kristin Ott and Chris Luciano from Rivvyve Behavioral Health said they were excited to hear that this program was being created. Ms. Ott said their facility had beds available and they would support the program.

3. Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

The discussion on Agenda Item No. 3 was moved to the end of the March 1, 2022, Regular Meeting Agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 3:43 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 1st day of March 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of March 2022.

  
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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, March 1, 2022, 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 Council Member Annette Wegmann to deliver the invocation. Vice Mayor D'Amico led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Present

Brady, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, 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: Angie Johnson

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark R. Clark

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Saritti Chooniyom

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Brady opened the call to the public.

Pastor Roy Hagemyer expressed his displeasure with the non-Christian behavior of the bands that played at a local skate park event.

Donna McCoy introduced herself and said she was running for election to the State Representative position in District 5.

Michael Vampley introduced himself and said he was running for election to serve as the Bullhead City Constable.

Nan Nichol from Fort Mohave expressed her displeasure with the bands' behavior at the recent skate park event.

Randy Barker expressed his displeasure with the bands' behavior at the recent skate park event. He asked if the disc golf course could be expanded.

Scotty McClure said he won the weekly drawing from the newspaper, and said he thought it was false. He said some areas in the city were not taxed by the Pest Abatement District.

Naseem Akbari from Bullhead Jet Ski Rental said he felt discriminated because their businesses were charged more fees each year and they could not afford it.

Najib Noori from FastTrip said the local watercraft rental agencies would not pay the additional \$10 lifeguard fee. He said the wristband program would not work and would put more responsibilities on their families.

Harvey Pryor invited the community to attend the RC track ribbon cutting event on March 4th, and discussed the rules of the newly formed Bullhead RC club.

Julie Hassett provided information on upcoming performances offered by the Colorado River Concert Association.

Billy Pershing invited the public to attend the Tea Party meeting to be held on March 12th at the public library.

Roger Irwin suggested the city could look into block grants in order to fund improvements and rehabilitation projects for deteriorated properties.

Regina Guarisco said the city and watercraft rental companies needed to work together and help each other in order to keep the river safer in the future.

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

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

None

### **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 Wegmann seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** AYES: Brady, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Wegmann, Zehri  
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### 1. Update on Neighborhood Slurry Program

Public Works Director Johnson said staff was about half way through the slurry program this season, and said they completed 15.36 percent of the city's roadways. She said slurry work was held up for six weeks due to a parts delay for one slurry truck, and said they did expect to hit their



goal for the year. She said they have maintained 71 lane miles to date, and expected to reach 100 lane miles by the end of the season.

## 2. Wastewater and Water Update from Utility Department

Utilities Director Clark said they should be finally fully staffed in the water operations by the end of the month. He said they were kicking off their water master plan this week, and said the SCADA system plan should be completed soon. He said the new uniforms for utilities employees arrived. He said well 16-4 went down and contractors were helping them assess the problems. He said the pump was under warranty and the city would not be charged. He said another old well pump was also going out, and said they were currently working to replace it. He said a power outage occurred last week that affected some lift stations and caused overflows. He said all issues were addressed immediately and effectively.

## 3. Ribbon Cuttings and Grand Openings in City

City Manager Cotter discussed ribbon cuttings for the Alano Club, RC track, and the municipal pool slide. He said the Heritage Trail grand opening might be moved from the original May date to later in the fall. He said the Holiday Inn Express grand opening should take place within a few weeks.

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

Vice Mayor D'Amico said the MALC high school basketball team were now the State Champions.

Council Member Hecht invited the public to attend the Farmers' Market on March 5th and the Swap Meet on March 12th.

Mayor Brady said the Jerry Ambrose Veterans organization would hold a Resource Fair for veterans at the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce on March 4th.

## **ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** AYES: Brady, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, 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 February 15, 2022; and approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 15, 2022. (City Clerk Stein)

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

None

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

2. Discussion and possible action to accept Mayor Brady's appointment of a citizen to fill the citizen-at-large position on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board for a partial term beginning upon Council approval and expiring on June 30, 2024. (City Clerk Stein)

City Clerk Stein said the former citizen at-large member recently resigned. She said it came to the attention of staff that public notices advertising the open position were not required. She said citizens could be directly appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council.

Mayor Brady said he would like to appoint Mel Stein, who has served as the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission for many years.

Mel Stein said he would be honored to serve on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board.

**MOTION: Mayor Brady made a motion accept his appointment of a citizen, Mel Stein, to fill the citizen-at-large position on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board for a partial term beginning upon Council approval and expiring on June 30, 2024. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.**

**VOTE:** AYES: Brady, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Wegmann, Zehri  
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Building, Planning and Zoning Items**

None

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

None

**Other Business**

3. Discussion and update on the State of Arizona Legislative Activities in 2022. No action will be taken. (Assistant to the City Manager Pruitt)

Assistant to the City Manager/City Intergov Pruitt provided a general update on legislative activities. He said there had been a lot of activity but no bills had been finalized. He said there were four bills on short term rentals, and discussed the proposed legislation. He said there was a lot to be done on the bills and said staff would be staying on top of the progress. He said a proposed affordable housing bill would take away all authority for cities to regulate affordable housing, and said a study committee would be formed that would look at reasonable options. He said the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) bill proposed to make funds for grants only, and said there had been little opposition. He said a fireworks bill SB 1275 was proposed with time restrictions, and said they would continue to track this bill.

City Manager Cotter said HB 2776 dealt with an attempt to regulate the minimum age to operate a motorized watercraft of 14 years. He said the bill would go nowhere this year but might come back next year. He said they had asked state representatives to look at increasing the legal age for operators a number of times.

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

**COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the regular meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

The Council took a break at 6:32 p.m. Mayor Brady reconvened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. for discussion on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Comprehensive Fee Schedule. This item was continued from the Special Work Session on March 1, 2022. No legal action was taken on this item.

City Manager Cotter said this was an annual process to discuss proposed increases in the city's comprehensive fee schedule. He said they would propose deleting the boat launch fees at Community Park.

Development Services Director Chooniyom said there were small increases under Manufactured Homes, Factory Built Building, and Park Trailer fees. He said increases were made in the zoning clearance fees for attached accessory structures. He said the state guidelines were included for inspection fees for manufactured and factory built homes. He said the \$50 business license fee had been in place since 1993. He said the cost of operating with the new program would be offset by a \$10 increase in business license fees.

Council Member Hecht asked about the abandoned shopping cart fees and fines. City Manager Cotter said they would propose deletion of these fees.

Mayor Brady asked about the increase in special event vendor permit fees. City Manager Cotter said the city did not charge fees to non-profit/charitable organizations. He said the fees were charged to private promoters.

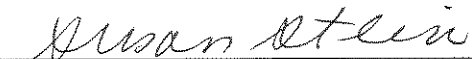
Finance Director Vera said sewer use charges for penalty fees changed from \$7.00 to 1.5 percent of the balance.

Utilities Director Clark said the previous fee for reclaimed water was one-third of the average fresh water rate charged by the three utilities operating within the city limits. He said it was rather confusing. He said they looked at what the Bureau of Reclamation was paying and took a percentage of that to come up with a rate closer to their actual costs of \$0.468 per 1,000 gallons. He said the administrative fees for service establishment, re-establishment, and reconnection charges were included, and said these fees were mostly paid for by developers. He said the normal monthly water bills would not be affected by these fees. He said service and meter installation charges were included, which were mostly paid for by the contractors or developers. He said the fees would be made non-refundable as the city needed to recover the costs. He said they were changing fees to make the rate structure consistent for both the Mohave and North Mohave Districts.

#### **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 1st day of March 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of March 2022.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk