

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 10, 2022, 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, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Wegmann

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark Clark

DEPUTY UTILITIES DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER: Marti Blad

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT: Dave Heath

SENIOR SERVICES MANAGER: Kim Cool

TRANSIT MANAGER: Michael Peluso

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR: Robert Drexler

BUDGET ANALYST: Debbi Catalfamo

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

Discussion relating to the proposed City of Bullhead City Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, including proposed revenues, expenditures, and programs for all governmental funds.

Human Services

Human Services Director Tipton said the receptionist position was moved under the Finance Department, and said the new positions requested were one transit driver and one transit dispatcher. He said the animal shelter manager and two animal shelter technicians would be moved to Human Services. He said they were requesting additional funds (\$197,000) for the homeless shelter to be open 24-7. He said the shelter was closed for three hours per day, and said they were asking for the difference to keep the shelter open for at least the next year.

Mayor Brady said he was not happy with the homeless shelter hours and said they were told it was closed for cleaning for three hours. He said he did not see why they needed an additional \$145,000 to clean. He asked if this was their business policy.

City Manager Cotter said this was the first year the shelter has been open. He said they needed time to figure out how they could best help the community and solve the problem. He said Catholic Charities never talked about being open 24-7. He said very few churches or groups in the city were

helping or partnering, and there was a lack of volunteers. He said there was a cost to keep it open 24-7.

Council Member Hecht asked where people would go if the shelter was full. City Manager Cotter said they had the legal right to sleep on the sidewalk under the Boise law, and said the shelter had available beds at this time. He said the city was in a much better place now than most other cities.

Council Member Wegmann said progress had been made, and asked how the city could help form more partnerships. City Manager Cotter said now was an opportunity to reinvigorate the community for more assistance, volunteers, and donations. He said the city could take the lead through the homeless task force.

Vice Mayor D'Amico suggested setting up programs for the homeless to get involved in at the shelter. He suggested including additional funds for half a year, having more meetings and working toward a solution, and then re-addressing the situation in six months.

Council Member Hecht said they were very thankful for the services of Catholic Charities. She agreed to fund for six months.

Mayor Brady suggested decreasing the funding to \$75,000 and re-addressing the issue after six months. He said the need was great and it was important to support the program. All of the Council Members agreed with Mayor Brady.

Human Services – Senior Campus

Human Services Director Tipton said WACOG (Western Arizona Council of Governments) reimbursed the program approximately \$325,000 per year. He said WARMC (Western Arizona Regional Medical Center) had kept the price the same for meals at \$3.92 for the past seven years, and said the new rate was \$5.24. He said additional funds were included for congregate and home delivered meals. He said specialty supplies increased in order to expand their programs, and the volunteer appreciation fund increased slightly.

Council Member Head asked if a built-in sound system was considered for the new senior campus building, and said he hoped enough money was included for it in the budget. City Manager Cotter said they were looking into adding that improvement and others in the new layout.

Human Services – Pest Abatement

Human Services Director Tipton said the Pest Abatement District funded \$160,000 each year for pest abatement. He said the reserve amount rolled over to the next fiscal year if not needed. City Manager Cotter said the programs had been extremely successful over the past few years since Dr. Cavallero was hired.

Human Services - Transit

Transit Manager Peluso said they received notice of the 5311 grant award and said there was a \$52,000 reduction. He said the mobile fare solution, full radio replacement upgrade, and plastic sign holders at stops would be removed from the budget. He said two new positions were requested, and

said the positions would be reimbursed at 80 percent through the 5311 grant. He said the positions of one transit dispatcher and one driver for demand response service were requested.

Vice Mayor D'Amico asked about route maps. Transit Manager Peluso said the funds for an automated system still had not yet been awarded, and said there were maps available at each bus shelter, on-board vehicles, and on the city's website.

Mayor Brady asked about shelters at bus stops. Transit Manger Peluso said about 45 percent of the stops had shelters, and said they were currently reviewing each stop location for potential enhancements through the long and short-range transit plan.

Human Services – Animal Shelter

Human Services Director Tipton said their goal was to add three more volunteers and expand the hours and days of the shelter. He said \$140,000 was added for veterinarian services, and \$4,900 for Petpoint chips. He said they secured a van for the shelter and added funds for a washer and dryer. He said they formed a partnership with Best Friends Animal Shelter, which had been a game changer.

Vice Mayor D'Amico asked if funds could be increased from \$6,000 to \$30,000 for services for sick or injured animals, in lieu of not having an on-staff veterinarian. He said the city relied on S.A.I.N.T. (Saving Animals in Need Together) to help more injured animals, and said the city should include more funding to assist the organization with medical transport and vet services. After more discussion, the Council Members agreed to increase the funding to \$30,000.

City Manager Cotter said animal shelter volunteers could now be hired as workers, and not as police department employees; as the application standards were different. He said they hoped to have more volunteers in order to keep the shelter open for more hours. He said people were surrendering their animals to the city every day and asking the city to put them down.

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

Scotty McClure said he hoped the shelter's hours could be expanded with more volunteers. He asked if the city could partner with the county in funding the animal shelters. He said he wanted a bus stop located at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Waheed Zehri said S.A.I.N.T. and the shelter were doing a good job in helping animals. He said the organization was looking for a newer vehicle, and asked if the city could provide funds in the amount of \$50,000 for a transport vehicle for S.A.I.N.T.

Vice Mayor D'Amico said S.A.I.N.T. had purchased a vehicle for \$38,000 last week.

Utilities Department

Utilities Director Clark said there was a significant increase in the budget and much more detail since last year, as the city took over the system in 2021. He said the department included 51 employees, and said they were adding a warehouse person this year. He said approximately \$9.3 million was included under capital expenditures, \$2 million in contingencies (\$1 million for water

and \$1 million for wastewater), and \$1.1 million in the construction budget. He displayed slides of some equipment and projects requested for repair or replacement; such as manhole rehabilitation, Section 18 headworks screw, Section 10 ditch mixer, Section 10 wastewater treatment plant flood repair, well 16-3 control valve and column pipe, broken water mains, 10-4 lift station, well 16-4 motor, and well pump pipes and wiring. He said some portions of the system had reached the end of useful life and would soon need replacement.

City Manager Cotter said the utility budgets were funded and balanced, and said they were pursuing numerous grant opportunities. He said the city saved the ratepayers more than \$1 million dollars when the city took over the water company.

Utilities Director Clark said there were 1,118 water service connections per employee, and said the employees were also managing more city wastewater than the average ratios. He said \$10,000 was included for the NPDES permit and \$37,786 for testing the reuse water to make sure it was safe according to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. He said the reuse water would become very valuable in the future as the water shortages continued. He said \$100,000 was included to continue cleaning large diameter sewer lines for odor control, \$50,000 for air release valves, and \$128,000 for additional odor control chemical masking agents. He said they were working on coming up with a final solution to correct some of the odor issues, especially with the Lakeside Drive and Rotary Park area systems.

Utilities Director Clark said the construction budget was broken out this year, totaling \$1,161,402. He said the water resources/water impost account was similar to an enterprise account. He said the fees received were used to fund the impost account; such as the Bureau of Reclamation fees, water entitlement maintenance, and the city's water conservation plan. He said the city was very water conscious and had worked very hard to conserve water. He said \$500,000 was included under the water conservation program.

Deputy Utilities Director/City Engineer Blad said it was exciting to be here at this time, and said the department was very busy. She said there was a collaborative effort with the Public Works Department and other city departments.

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

Scotty McClure asked if the city could look into utilizing a push pull system for more efficiency and to bypass some lift stations.

Dan Alfonzo asked if algorithms were used in determining the budget numbers. He asked if the city could provide 5 to 15-year projections for the utility system.

Dr. Waheed Zehri asked about the amount of funding included for grants and the amount coming out of the general fund. City Manager Cotter said no money would come out of the general fund.

Mayor Brady called for a dinner break at 5:26 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Public Works

City Manager Cotter said Parks Maintenance was moved under Public Works. He said a lot of capital projects were included this year, and said their excellent team had already delivered numerous positive results and performed at the highest level possible.

Public Works Director Johnson said the administration portion had not substantially changed from last year. She said the department was requesting one full time facilities maintenance worker, a two-main lift, and a replacement vehicle.

Public Works - Parks Maintenance

Parks Superintendent Heath said the overtime wages increased due to an increase in events, and some of the labor cost was offset by revenue collected from promoters. He said \$150,000 was included for a Community Park master plan, and \$305,000 for landscaping materials. He said the cost of grass seed had doubled since last year (\$240,000) due to bad weather events in the southwest, and the cost of pool chemicals had also increased. He said they would send more people this year to become certified in chemical spraying and pool operations. He said they requested two replacement parks trucks in the total amount of \$80,000.

Public Works – Street Operations

Public Works Director Johnson said last year, street crews slurried and sealed 1.5 million square yards and was expected to do more this year. She said funding for traffic studies was added, \$60,000 for sign blanks and materials, \$50,000 for crack sealant, and \$20,000 for annual slurry truck cleaning and maintenance for two trucks. She said they requested additional iPads for staff in the field.

Public Works – Fleet Services

Public Works Director Johnson said two new mechanic positions were requested. She said they were previously outsourcing services and would now take this operation back in house. She said adding the iWorQ work order software provided the capability to track the maintenance history on every vehicle. She said the general maintenance line item had substantially increased from last year. She said the cost of oil, tires, auto parts, gasoline, and diesel fuels had increased.

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

Dr. Waheed Zehri asked if the funding for the Rotary Park trail lighting project was included in the budget.

Public Works Director Johnson said the project was bid out and the project cost came in at almost \$1 million. She said they had budgeted less, approximately \$360,000; and said they would re-bid the project at a later date.

Capital Improvements

City Manager Cotter said Parks and Recreation CIP requests included Rotary Park: Pickle Ball Courts and Tennis Court, Fitness Court; Community Park: Athletic Complex, New Playground Equipment, Splash Pad, Restroom and Mechanical Room, Land Purchase, River Walk Improvements, Additional Restrooms; Rotary Park: Restrooms, Pump Track and Ballfields; Water Trailer; UTV Trail; Gary Keith Park Improvements; Community Garden; and Ken Fovargue Playground and Shade Structures and Storage Facility.

Council Member Lizarraga said he would like to see a Handball/Racquetball Court included in the future parks plan.

City Manager Cotter discussed the Public Safety Requests: Five New Patrol Vehicles, Can-Am for patrol of all parks; Van for the BACCUP Program; and two New Patrol Boats.

City Manager Cotter discussed transportation requests including: City Risk MAP project; Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements; Landon Drive Roadway Extension; Pickup Truck Replacement; Riverbend Flooding Improvement; Rights of Ways and Median Beautification; Traffic Signal Technology Upgrade; Backhoe; Rotary Park Drainage Improvements; Bullhead Parkway Reconstruction; Ramar Road Drainage Improvements; Hancock Road Mill and Fill; Bullhead Parkway Center Median and Street Lighting; Dump Truck Replacement; Bullhead Parkway and Silver Creek Road Lighting; and the Secret Pass Culvert Extension. He said staff had been applying for both federal and state grant funding.

Public Works Director Johnson said the lighting project at Silver Creek Road would run from Gold Rush to the hospital and up to the Bullhead Parkway for safety enhancements. She said the Bullhead Parkway median and street lighting project would be located at Arroyo Vista and the Parkway.

City Manager Cotter discussed General Government requests including: Municipal Court Remodel; 911 EOC Parking Lot Wall; Air Conditioner Replacements; Two-Man Scissor Lift; Annex Swamp Cooler Replacements; Water Softeners for Annex; Service Truck Replacements for Fleet and Facilities; Impound Yard Upgrades; Van for Meals on Wheels to replace county vehicle; Lower Police Department Deck Roof; Replacement Transit Bus; Expansion Dial A Ride Van; Senior Nutrition Center Expansion; Transit Facility; and Animal Care and Welfare Facility. He said the nutrition center cost (CDBG funded) had increased to make the facility larger for the future and growing community (\$2,244,446).

City Manager Cotter said the transit facility was a long term project, maybe two or three fiscal years away. He said the animal care and welfare facility project included \$100,000 for architectural work, and said the full cost of construction would be included in next year's capital budget.

City Manager Cotter said Water Service Requests included a new North Well; a new South Well; North and South Transmission Lines; Water Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System; Generators; Fire Hydrant Replacements; and DIP Pipe Replacement.

City Manager Cotter discussed Wastewater Requests to include SCADA Wastewater Network Upgrade; Section 10 New Headworks; Section 10 Generator; Section 10 Blower Buildings; Section Reuse Pump Station; Section 10 Blowers and Controls Replacement; Wastewater Supervisory

Control and Data Acquisition System; Citywide Manhole Rehabilitation; 7th Street Line Replacement; Section 18 Plant Electric Controls and Equipment Upgrade; LS 16-2 Wet Well Rehabilitation, LS 18-1 Wet Well Rehabilitation; LS 18-2 Wet Well Replacement; and the Lakeside Line Replacement. He said all of the projects were funded and staff was ready to proceed with the work.

City Manager Cotter discussed Technology Service requests to include a PD Directory Server; PD Data Links; Storage Server; MDC Replacement; Fiber Optic Backbone Upgrade; VPN Connection PD MDCs; Network Firewalls; and Host Server.

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

Dr. Waheed Zehri and Irene Reyna thanked the city for the community garden and fitness court projects. He distributed information about their idea to create a “Jack Hakim Adult Day Care Center” that would provide programs to help bridge the gap between home and nursing home care, and help seniors live life more fully every day.

Harvey Pryor said he was concerned the budget for the RC Track was eliminated.

City Manager Cotter said the additional work at the RC Track was budgeted in this current fiscal year.

Mayor Brady said the city had never been so blessed to be where it is right now, with the ability to move forward like never before. He said now there were enough funds in the general reserve to take the city into the future. He said he hoped the city would continue doing everything it could to help the members of the community.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 7:18 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 10th day of May 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7th day of June 2022.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk