

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 7, 2023, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor D'Amico called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, Brummett (via Zoom conference), D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark Clark

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Year-End Review and Discussion regarding the Water Master Plan.

Utilities Director Clark provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Council, and briefly reviewed the history of the city's water operations. He said the city took over operational responsibility of the water system on September 1, 2021. He said the city took ownership of EPCOR's water operations in and around Bullhead City on January 28, 2022. He said the new utilities department hired employees to staff water operations and implemented a major training program for those new employees. He said certified water operators were hard to find, and said the city began its own training program in order to certify its operators.

Utilities Director Clark said one week after the city took over operational responsibility in September 2021, electrical malfunctions and water outages occurred in the SunRidge and Punta de Vista areas. He said there was a major 12-inch water main break on Bullhead Parkway near Laredo Village on November 16, 2021. He said because no maintenance was performed by EPCOR on those valves, a water outage in that area occurred due to the break for about 4 to 5 days. He said, on December 22, 2021, the Desert Foothills well motor broke down and required replacement. He said it took two days for the motor replacement but no one was out of water. He said in February 2022 and March 2, 2022, the 16-4 well site pipe screening was completely clogged and collapsed the motor. He said the motor was replaced with a turbine which lasts about 20 to 30 years. He said the Big Bend well pump and column pipe replacement was required on March 24, 2022. He said they have rehabilitated 134 control valves and pressure reducing valves in the system due to the lack of maintenance. He said the Big Bend control valve also required replacement on May 11, 2022. He said a fire hydrant was damaged on River Gardens and needed replacement in June 2022. He said in July 2022, the 16-2 well pump and column pipe required replacement. He said the pump was more than 20 years old and close to the end of its life.

Utilities Director Clark said the Laughlin Ranch Well 1 started to break down in January 2023. He said they discovered that all of the screening in the well was completely plugged, and said additional maintenance was required before replacing the pump. He said within the span of

eighteen months, more than five wells required replacement, which was not typical for any water system.

Utilities Director Clark said the water master plan would provide a guide for operations over the next 15 years. He said the City Council approved the water master plan at the February 15, 2022 regular meeting and the work on the water master plan began at the end of February 2022. He said the plan would develop a GIS (graphical information system) base map for the city, develop a hydraulic model used for system integration, and develop a waterline replacement program. He said there were 82 miles of 4-inch pipe line in the city and some 6-inch lines. He said they would slowly replace the fire hydrant lines with 6-inch lines. He said the master plan would also provide an asset assessment, develop a water demand study, analysis of system deficiencies, pressure zone conversions, system integration planning, air release valve requirements, fire flow analysis, and a capital improvement plan. He said Bullhead City had 46 pressure zones; and said the city of Houston, Texas had one pressure zone, because of the flat topography. He provided an outline of the master plan.

Utilities Director Clark said they conducted a water demand study. He said the bulk of the users were residential and said they were planning for new growth in the future. He displayed a map showing the additional anticipated development within the city limits. He said the city currently used an average of 6.5 million gallons of water per day. He said that number varied from 5 million to 9.5 million gallons per day. He said they had to make sure there was enough water supply to meet the demand. He said in 2030, the average demand would be 7 million gallons and in 2040, 9 million gallons per day. He said at build-out with 110,000 people, the demand was estimated to average 23 million gallons per day. He said they were looking at adding storage capacity to the current situation. He said the plan helped them to prioritize what areas they needed to focus on. He said they were planning to add three additional wells after the current test hole drilling project was completed.

Utilities Director Clark said they anticipated eliminating six pressure zones in the city and said the system would become more efficient. He discussed the high priority projects to be completed within five to seven years. The projects included: main storage and pressure zone conversion, North Mohave/Lake Mohave Highlands integration, River District reliability improvements, Fox Creek reliability improvements, harden existing facilities, and strategic capital water main replacements.

Council Member Ring asked about the wells that were proposed to be abandoned. She asked why the wells were built originally.

Utilities Director Clark said the wells were very small producers and used more electricity, and said they could get more water out of the wells closer to the water than those up the hill, as well as reducing costs. He said originally those wells were drilled because they were located closer to the developments.

Council Member Alfonzo asked about the number of city staff members working in the water division. He asked if the city had considered purchasing the Bermuda Water assets in the city.

Utilities Director Clark said currently there were 15 water department employees.

City Manager Cotter said there had been some discussions with Bermuda Water, but nothing serious except about how to help each other in the future. He said Bermuda Water was committed

to their customers.

Council Member Hecht asked about the maintenance of fire hydrants and the reason there were so many pressure zones.

Utilities Director Clark said the city was responsible for the fire hydrant maintenance. He said they would replace a certain number of hydrants each year, and said staff repaired the hydrants as soon as service calls were received. He said the city's topography called for the pressure zones due to development in higher and lower areas.

City Manager Cotter said this was the first workshop of many, and said there would be more discussions and updates regarding the water system and master plan as the process moved forward.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor D'Amico declared the special meeting adjourned at 5:06 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 7th day of March 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of March 2023.



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 7, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor D’Amico called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Council Member Hecht to deliver the invocation. Mayor D’Amico led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, Brummett (via Zoom conference), D’Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring

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

1. Proclamation declaring Saturday, March 18, 2023, as the “27th Annual Carrie A. Edgmon Bicycle Safety Rodeo” Day in Bullhead City.

Mayor D’Amico read the proclamation and presented it to Lorrie Duggins of the Bullhead City Police Department and Lori Viles of the Bullhead City Fire Department.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor D’Amico opened the call to the public.

Misty Devenney talked about the injustices within the state and political hostages from January 6th.

Donna Doyle from the S.A.I.N.T. organization said they were working to decrease the pet population through spay and neuter programs, and continue to improve the lives of the animals in the community.

Steven Lee representing “Voices for Freedom” said the community should determine how to survive an attack on their survival. He said they opposed government-run digital currency as it was a threat to America’s liberty and privacy.

Sue Demarco from Saving Animals In Need Together provided information on upcoming fund raising events.

Grace Telsner said the senior nutrition center's proposed expansion was needed now. She asked the Council to upgrade the timetable for construction.

Jeanne Brooks, the founder of Saving Animals In Need Together, spoke against the abuse and neglect of animals. She said the local dog fighting locations must be found and the activities stopped.

Mike Connor from the River Fund invited the public to participate in the Duck Race on the Colorado River fund raising event on April 15th.

Jerry Hardy from the Mohave Electric Cooperative introduced Jeremy Brunk from TWN. Mr. Brunk said there were many stages of construction and said the restoration work would be completed 30 days after the area had been turned on and tested.

Gary Genovese provided information on the Honey Baked Ham fund raising event that would support the Colorado River Historical Society and Museum.

Scotty McClure said the city cut down the grassy areas along the river at the Veterans Memorial Park, leaving no areas for the ducks to lay their eggs. He said there was trash inside of the monuments.

Harvey Pryor invited the public to participate in a remote control car drag race to be held in Gary Keith Park on March 19th and a scale crawling competition on April 1st.

Ivy Yeomans said the city needed a place for young adults to congregate so they would not get into trouble with drugs or alcohol.

Eva Corbett provided information on the upcoming car and home show to be held at the Anderson Auto Group Field House.

Having no one else present wishing to speak, Mayor D'Amico closed the call to the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

WAIVER MOTION

MOTION: Vice Mayor Brummett made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member Lizarraga seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Bridge Update

City Manager Cotter played a video from the Fox 5 news channel in Las Vegas regarding the progress of the second Laughlin Bullhead City Bridge.

2. Legislative Update

Assistant to the City Manager Travis Pruitt said they were about half way through the legislative process this year. He said SB 1588 was a criminal justice collection system bill that asked for all court and police agencies to collect all of their data into one central reporting system. He said they expressed opposition to this bill and would continue to watch it. He said the state land transfer under HB 2375 was moving ahead, and said Mayor D'Amico and he would visit the Legislature this week to lobby in support. He said HB 2543 included funds for the restoration of Hancock Road and said some of the funding had recently been decreased. He said they had meetings scheduled with state representatives and would push for an increase in those funds for Bullhead City. He said HB 2555 would require agencies to accept cash for services. He said the city expressed opposition and would continue to monitor this bill.

3. Special Events Calendar

City Manager Cotter said the months of March through May would get very busy with sports tournaments and other events taking place within the community. He provided information on the upcoming shows, tournaments, and other events.

4. Weed Abatement

City Manager Cotter said it had rained a lot this year and that meant weeds would be abundant. He said weed abatement would be enforced by the Code Enforcement Department. He said they would give people time to abate the weeds.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Hecht provided information and updates on upcoming city events and the food giveaway to be held on March 18th.

Vice Member Brummett provided information on Colorado River Concert Association performances.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Lizarraga 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 Ring seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Brummett, D’Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring
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 21, 2023; and the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 21, 2023. (City Clerk Stein)

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

None

Other Business

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of the real property located at 2435 Miracle Mile (Mohave County ID: 220-15-031K, J, and 030D) for \$1,750,000; and authorize the City Manager to enter purchase and sell agreements, execute all required real property transfer documents, and issue payment to complete the transaction. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said this was a request to authorize the purchase of a building and parking lot located at 2435 Miracle Mile for \$1,750,000 from Brehm Communications. He said the building was currently utilized as an office building for the Mohave Valley Daily News, pending its move to other local office space; and said printing activities had already been relocated. He said the city would purchase the building to remodel it and turn it into a new modern animal shelter, along with limited police storage. He said the site was a total of 1.59 acres and the building size was 27,353 square feet. He said the need for a new animal shelter had persisted for more than 20 years. He said

the city had been saving money to fully fund a new animal shelter for the primary purchase of sheltering and adopting out dogs and cats, but also to provide hospice for other occasional animals. He said other services that could be offered in a new facility included low-cost spay and neuter, enhanced community engagement, and limited veterinarian services. He said the current draft plans for a newly constructed shelter provided for only 13,754 square feet.

City Manager Cotter said the building was appraised in 2014 for \$1,780,000 and the offered purchase price to the city was \$1,750,000. He said the facility included the adjacent half-acre parking lot. He said the city was getting the fair price that did not include realtor or broker percentages or contingencies, and was a fairly quick sale and provided a beneficial use to the city. He said Brehm Communications had a long-standing relationship with Bullhead City and this sale was an acknowledgement of that special connection to the community. He said the city's architect, Rob Sampson of Selberg Associates, Inc., and he recently viewed the property along with Mayor D'Amico. He said no concerns were discovered during the site visit. He said the facility remodel would cost approximately \$2 to \$3 million. He said this amount was in line with the amount the city anticipated spending for a new shelter on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leased property. He said the city would gain an additional 14,000 square feet of space and the building would also accommodate current Police Department storage needs for future growth and expansion. He said an additional new police storage building was being planned for \$1.6 million. He said, with this purchase, the new police storage facility would no longer be needed as the former printing press space could be used for storage of police boats, UTVs, and other equipment.

City Manager Cotter said the city's animal shelter staff fully supported this location and believed the new shelter would significantly improve community engagement, fundraising, volunteerism, and increase partnerships with other animal service agencies. He said it was anticipated that additional hours of operation would also be available once the new shelter was open.

Mayor D'Amico said the building was on private land and it was nice the city could finally own the building and the land underneath it, rather than leasing them on BLM land. He said he would like to have an indoor and outside play area for the shelter animals.

Council Member Hecht asked about the number of animals that could be housed in the facilities.

Development Services Director Tipton said the current shelter could hold 31 dogs and 51 cats; and the proposed new building could have housed 50 dogs and 60 cats. He said the numbers could increase even more at the Miracle Mile property.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if there were any liens or lawsuits pending on the property. He suggested having a 24-hour on-call medical service available as this would help a lot of people. He asked if some of the space could be used as a cooling center during a power outage.

City Manager Cotter said the city's legal team was in the process of discovery before the city purchased the building. He said a generator would be placed in the building in order to keep the animals cool during a power failure, and said this could be another opportunity to use the generator as another cooling station available to the public.

Council Member Lizarraga thanked Selberg Associates and Brehm Communications for working with the city and making this possible.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Terry Constantino spoke in support of purchasing the new shelter. She said animals should be allowed access to the outside.

Eva Corbett spoke in support of the new shelter. She asked about the future of the old facility.

City Manager Cotter said the facility was very old and needed renovation, and said it could possibly be used for storage.

Jeanne Brooks spoke in support of purchasing the new shelter, and said she hoped it would be a no-kill shelter.

Human Services Director Tipton said currently the shelter had a 91 percent save rate, which had gone up from previous years.

Scotty McClure said he was concerned about water collecting in the easement adjacent to the property, and asbestos inside the building. He spoke in support of the purchase.

Ivy Yeomans said she would like the shelter to be open for adoptions on Fridays and weekends, and employ staff at night to help more animals.

Human Services Director Tipton said they were currently looking at holding adoption events on weekends and would be open more days once the new shelter was completed.

MOTION: Mayor D'Amico made a motion to approve the purchase of the real property located at 2435 Miracle Mile (Mohave County ID: 220-15-031K, J, and 030D) for \$1,750,000; and authorize the City Manager to enter purchase and sell agreements, execute all required real property transfer documents, and issue payment to complete the transaction. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Brummett, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion and possible action to: 1) approve and direct the Mayor to execute opioid settlement agreements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens; 2) authorize the Mayor, or any other person succeeding to that office, to execute future settlement agreements reached under the umbrella of the One Arizona Settlement Agreement; and further; 3) direct city staff to receive settlement disbursement amounts, account for, and expend funds in accordance with controlling agreements and applicable law. (City Manager Cotter)

City Attorney Emery said under the original One Arizona Settlement proposed by the Arizona Attorney in 2020, a number of opioid manufacturers and distributors had agreed to settle the claims of a myriad of private and public claimants. He said the City Council approved the One Arizona

Settlement which provided an umbrella approach to funds that would be distributed within Arizona. He said the first settlement netted the city approximately \$1.5 million over a number of years and now; five additional defendants have settled, which would provide another \$1.5 million over a number of years. He said the funds would be allocated to drug response and related mental health services being programmed by the city through the Police BACCUP (Bullhead Area Community Crisis Unification Program) that was in the process of being staffed and resourced. He said settling parties had requested affirmative acceptance of the settlement and this action was requested to authorize the Mayor to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the city. He said due to anticipated further settlements, it was also requested as part of this action that if other similar settlements were reached as part of the One Arizona umbrella, that the Mayor be authorized to execute those settlement agreements as well.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Billy Pershing asked if the funds would help the homeless population.

Police Chief Trebes said the BACCUP program would include trained responders, separate from the police force, that would assist with mental health, substance abuse, and homeless issues.

Ivy Yeomans asked for the reason that Teva was included in the lawsuit.

City Manager Cotter said Teva was an opioid distributor.

MOTION: Council Member Head made a motion to: 1) approve and direct the Mayor to execute opioid settlement agreements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens; 2) authorize the Mayor, or any other person succeeding to that office, to execute future settlement agreements reached under the umbrella of the One Arizona Settlement Agreement; and further; 3) direct city staff to receive settlement disbursement amounts, account for, and expend funds in accordance with controlling agreements and applicable law. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lizarraga, Ring
NAYS: None ABSENT: Brummett (inaudible)

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None

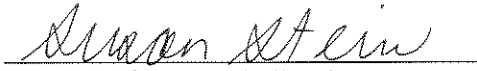
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 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 7th day of March 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of March 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Stein", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk