

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, November 21, 2023, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor D'Amico called the special meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, Lizarraga, Ring

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Captain Jason Harms

PUBLIC WORKS: Angie Johnson

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

1. Discussion regarding the City's future jurisdiction of Highway 95: City Council's objectives and priorities.

City Manager Cotter said ADOT would relinquish Highway 95 from the Laughlin Bridge intersection south to Sterling Road at the city's southern limits after total reconstruction. He said the project had begun and was expected to be completed in February 2024. He said the state was now spending more than \$27 million to reconstruct the entire stretch of Highway 95 throughout the community. He said the State of Arizona also approved \$8 million for right turn lanes on Highway 95 to improve traffic conditions on the roadway.

City Manager Cotter said the list of proposed right turn lanes from the June 8th City Council work session was modified based on additional discussions at the workshop regarding costs, design, accidents, and possible development funding, as follows:

Mohave High School/Thunderstruck SB
Central Avenue SB
Rising Sun SB
Sterling SB
Mohave Drive SB
Newberry NB
Safeway area (2)/Georgia Lane & E. Shore Villas Drive SB, SB
Community Park at Laughlin Ranch SB
Rainbow Drive NB
North Avenue NB
Meadows SB
Richardo NB
Richardo SB

Laughlin Bridge/Parkway NB
Potentially Development funded:
Rainbow Drive SB
Riverview Drive SB
Lost Hills (Rio Rancho) NB

Public Works Director Johnson reviewed the proposed right turn lanes at each location, as follows:

1. Mohave High School/Thunderstruck SB – relocate two street lights, move signal pole and ADA ramp
 2. Central Avenue SB – start at parking lot, relocate two street lights
 3. Rising Sun SB – relocate three street lights, continuous right turn lane
 4. Sterling SB – fairly quick to construct, move curb and gutter
 5. Mohave Drive SB – could construct over the box culvert, move signal pole
 6. Newberry NB – fairly quick to construct, move two street lights, move curb and gutter
 7. Safeway area (2)/Georgia Lane & E. Shore Villas Drive SB, SB - \$2 million cost with drainage, retaining walls and culvert, would take longer
 8. Community Park at Laughlin Ranch SB – intersection had been previously designed, move push button and add signal head, fairly easy, move a few street lights
 9. Rainbow Drive NB – fairly easy and quick to construct, move street lights
 10. North Avenue NB – fairly easy and quick to construct, move street lights
 11. Meadows SB – steep slope, needs retaining wall, move signal light and street lights
 12. Richardo NB – complicated, have to extend pipe
 13. Richardo SB – have to go into medical area to have enough room for a turn lane
 14. Laughlin Bridge/Parkway NB – move traffic signal pole, move ADA ramp back
- Potentially Development funded:
15. Rainbow Drive SB – need some right-of-way
 16. Riverview Drive SB – move traffic light, deal with gas company in corner
 17. Lost Hills Drive (Rio Rancho) NB – install traffic signal and close Merrill, plans to bid will be available in spring 2024

Vice Mayor Head asked about the maneuverability for vehicles to turn at Mohave Drive, and said the turn radius was very tight.

Council Member Lettman asked if commercial properties would participate in the cost sharing of the right turn lanes. City Manager Cotter said they might be interested in the design only, and said some could be development driven.

Mayor D'Amico asked if the condominium entrance would get backed up if one of the turn lanes was closed. City Manager Cotter said the right turn lane would become very long at the stop light, with room for about 40 cars.

Council Member Lizarraga said there would be a lot of RVs and vehicles towing boats in that area.

City Manager Cotter said there was a continuous highway turn lane from Marina to Riverview in the development plan.

Council Member Hecht asked about the construction timeline. Public Works Director Johnson said

the city was recruiting for a roadway engineer and said they hoped to have someone on staff soon. She said they are currently working with consultants and should be ready to go out to bid for some of the easier locations shortly after the highway was turned over to the city.

Mayor D'Amico said he agreed with the projects on the list, and said he hoped the Safeway lanes could be completed with the first \$8 million.

Council Member Lettman said he was in agreement with the project list.

City Manager Cotter said the city was already functioning as the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for many facets of the roadway. He said the city was currently performing slurry seal projects, filling cracks, filling potholes, reconstruction intersections, picking up all trash, fixing sidewalks, paying for street lighting, sweeping streets, and storm clean up.

City Manager Cotter said other opportunities would include more efficient approvals of access points, right turn lanes, new signals, new third lanes of traffic with deceleration and acceleration lanes and other modifications for business access; placement of military banners and any other banners/signs, painting of utility boxes, removing homeless in culverts, center lane medians, traffic control, landscaping in medians, culverts and drainage, neighborhood signage, and tree trimming.

City Manager Cotter said the city was in receipt of the \$8 million and would ask the Arizona Legislature for more money for additional turn lanes in next year's budget. He said grants would be applied for through the city and/or the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

City Manager Cotter said they would save at least \$250,000 per year and deposit those funds into a highway repaving fund, and budget for \$50,000 annually from HURF funds for highway signal light maintenance along with other already budgeted items.

Mayor D'Amico said he would prefer to save \$500,000 in an interest bearing account each year toward a Highway 95 reconstruction fund.

Council Member Hecht asked if the traffic counting cameras would monitor the intersections. City Manager Cotter said the cameras were cycling traffic, but there were not actual "cameras." He said they could set up an upgraded system in the future if desired.

Council Member Ring said she was in favor of removing some medians near the Target Center.

2. Discussion on the proposed improvements at the Optimum Community Center.

City Manager Cotter said the school district approved the agreement and it was time to move forward with the proposed upgrades. He said funding for the initial work was included in this year's budget. He said the parking lot should be completed first, and said the big hill to the east would come down. He said the gymnasium was in good shape but required a new floor and minor modifications, as well as the library/multi-purpose room next door. He said those projects should be completed first as it would take more time to determine the next steps in the process.

Mayor D'Amico said he agreed with the proposed upgrades as the first step.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if the dirt removed from the hill could be sold, and if the facility would be used as a cooling center. City Manager Cotter said most of the dirt would be used for the parking lots, and said the facility was used as a cooling center last summer. He said a generator would be included in the long-term discussions.

Vice Mayor Head asked if the organizations using the spaces at the center would be affected during the first phase of renovation. City Manager Cotter said most would not be affected, except for some pickle ball players. He said they would have to look at how to manage those spaces in the future.

Council Member Hecht asked if a designer would be used for the center. City Manager Cotter said staff could accomplish the first planning phase and conduct a survey, and said a professional designer could be consulted regarding future upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor D'Amico declared the special meeting adjourned at 4:35 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 21st day of November 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of December 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, November 21, 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 Pastor Malcam Moberly of Valley Christian Church to deliver the invocation. The United Veterans Honor Guard presented the Colors, Sierra Dimare of Mohave High School sung the National Anthem, and Sergeant Matthew Burns, U.S. Army recruiter, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, D’Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, 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: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Absent

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Absent

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Retirement of Military Banners Presentation by the Tri-State Military Moms, Inc.

Mayor D’Amico presented “Welcome Home” certificates to the retiring military members. Members of the Tri-State Military Moms read the biographies of each member and the retired highway banners were presented.

Mayor D’Amico called for a short break at 5:57 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor D’Amico opened the call to the public.

Steven Lee said he did not stand for the pledge because the Council Chambers’ flag was not constitutional. He said the country was in the midst of political tyranny, and said concerned citizens should look at the proposed bills.

Tom Passata said he was a local entertainer. He invited the community to dine at the Indian Oven on Friday and Saturday nights to enjoy his music.

Donna Doyel said the local animal welfare organizations wanted to participate in discussions regarding local animal ordinances. She said the S.A.I.N.T. organization supported veterans and their animals.

Sean Regan said the Arizona Veterans K-9 Services needed more support from the city and the community. He said this was a free country and every one had a right to speak. He thanked all the men and women that served the country. He said the Four Paws golf tournament was postponed until February.

Hildy Angius wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays. She said she was thankful for the relationship the county had cultivated with the city.

Rebecca Vaughan from Catholic Charities said the homeless shelter would be serving a Thanksgiving meal from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Heather Holmes from the Mohave Community College Foundation invited the public to attend a fundraising event to be held on December 6th and 7th at the Anderson Auto Group Field House.

Nichole Tracy said the Bullhead City Morning Kiwanis Club would participate in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program this year. She said there would be bell ringing and different types of music during the holiday season.

Scotty McClure said there was a newly formed Conservative Club of Bullhead City. He said he was not sure if the votes would count in the next election. He said he was running for County Supervisor. He asked City Manager Cotter to provide information on the constitutionality of the American flag displayed in the County Chambers.

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

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

WAIVER MOTION

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Farmers' Market

Recreation Supervisor Claire Adams provided information on upcoming city events.

9. Christmas Festival

Recreation Supervisor Claire Adams provided information on upcoming city events.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Hecht provided information on upcoming community events and Thanksgiving Day meals.

Council Member Alfonzo provided information on the Christmas Boat Parade and a fundraising event to be held at the Aquarius Casino.

Council Member Lizarraga wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice Mayor Head congratulated the Mohave High School football team for an amazing season.

Mayor D'Amico said a meeting with local animal welfare organizations would be held on December 6th at the Optimum Community Center at 5:30 p.m. and said it would be open to the public. He said he had an open door policy to any person in the city.

Council Member Ring said people were very generous and the "free" food offered was not "free." She requested that people that did not need the food to not take it and leave it for those in need.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Vice Mayor Head made a motion that Items No. 1 through 7 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, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, 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 City Council meeting held on November 7, 2023; and the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on November 7, 2023. (City Clerk Stein)

2. Approval of the request to release any remaining cash bond for Laredo Canyon Trails at Fox Creek, Tract 5192, Unit 2; and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
3. Approval of the request to release the Financial Assurance for Canyon Trails at Fox Creek, Tract 5192, Unit 3, Amended, under the "Property Escrow Agreement recorded under Mohave County Recorder Fee No. 2021052523;" the release of any remaining cash bond, and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
4. Approval of the request to release the Financial Assurance for The Ridge at Fox Creek, Tract 5147, Unit 5, under the "Termination of Property Escrow Agreement recorded under Mohave County Recorder Fee No. 2021007087;" and any remaining cash bonds, and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
5. Approval of the request to release any remaining cash bond for Canyon Trails at Fox Creek, Tract 5190, Unit 6; and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
6. Approval of the request to release the Finance Assurance for Canyon Trails at Fox Creek, Tract 5190, Unit 7, under the "Termination of Property Escrow Agreement recorded under Mohave County Recorder Fee No. 2020071369;" and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
7. Approval of the request to release the Financial Assurance for Canyon Trails at Fox Creek, Tract 5190, Unit 8, under the "Termination of Property Escrow Agreement recorded under Mohave County Recorder Fee No. 2021010445;" and to accept the required improvements into the city system for maintenance. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

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

8. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2023R-52 approving a Funding Agreement with Mohave County for the receipt of ARPA funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used towards the development of an ADA/Inclusive Children's Playground in Rotary Park. (Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath)

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Heath said County Supervisor Angius coordinated the approval of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds from Mohave County to help in the procurement of an ADA inclusive playground in Rotary Park for children with mobility challenges. He said the playground would include some state-of-the-art amenities. He said the estimated amount to complete the project would be \$150,000, and said local clubs and agencies have expressed support to contribute towards the final cost.

Mohave County Supervisor Angius said the word; "inclusive" was just about the park, and not included in the grant language. She said this playground was very much needed in the community, and said she was excited to see the completed playground.

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

Steven Lee said an oversight committee should read the bills to make sure there were no strings attached to any grants. He said the city needed help to thoroughly read the bills.

City Manager Cotter said he, City Attorney Emery, and the City Council Members read everything in the packet. He said they spent hours and hours reviewing all of the documents presented to the Council.

MOTION: Council Member Hecht made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023R-52 approving a Funding Agreement with Mohave County for the receipt of ARPA funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used towards the development of an ADA/Inclusive Children's Playground in Rotary Park. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the contract with JTR General Engineering Contractor LLC of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, in the amount of \$228,378.00 for the resurfacing of the municipal pool deck at Ken Fovargue Park; and to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said the project would include engineering, construction drawings, materials, and labor to remove the existing worn deck and re-coat with a new cool deck. She said the project was advertised for bids and two bids were received. She said funds were budgeted for the project this fiscal year.

Council Member Alfonzo asked about the longevity of the pool surface. Public Works Director Johnson said the pool deck had not been re-surfaced since the pool was constructed in 1992.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to approve the contract with JTR General Engineering Contractor LLC of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, in the amount of \$228,378.00 for the resurfacing of the municipal pool deck at Ken Fovargue Park; and to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. Council Member Lizarraga seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

10. Discussion and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-26 amending Chapter 9.24, Fireworks, Title 9, Public Peace, Morals, and Welfare, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code, "Fireworks Amendments 2023" by reference; and adopt Resolution No. 2023R-53 declaring the code amendment a public record. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the Legislature, under Senate Bill 1188, again amended fireworks regulations by further limiting the use of consumer fireworks in December. He said earlier this fall, state law allowed use of fireworks from December 24 through January 3. He said this amendment changed the permissible use timeframe from December 26 through January 4. He said the state would withhold the city's state shared revenue if this law was not followed by the city.

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

Sean Regan said there were 1,100 calls about fireworks and only 2 citations issued, and asked if more enforcement could be provided.

Mayor D'Amico said in order to enforce the fireworks law; people have to be witnessed by law enforcement at the time when they set off fireworks.

Vice Mayor Head said he hated this with every fiber of his being, as the state was forcing this down their throats. He said he would vote "yes," because he had to, and said the State Legislature had failed them.

MOTION: Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-26 amending Chapter 9.24, Fireworks, Title 9, Public Peace, Morals, and Welfare, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code, “Fireworks Amendments 2023” by reference; and adopt Resolution No. 2023R-53 declaring the code amendment a public record. Council Member Alfonzo seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, D’Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, Lizarraga, Ring
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

11. Discussion and possible action to approve, and direct the City Manager, to establish a one-time payout for employees to redeem up to 25 hours of personal time and up to 25 hours of vacation time; 50 hours maximum, for hours accrued. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said this was a one-time allowance giving employees the opportunity to redeem their already earned and accrued personal and vacation hours, up to 50 hours maximum.

Council Member Alfonzo said this was a liability on the books, and said this was earned money by the employees.

Mayor D’Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to approve, and direct the City Manager, to establish a one-time payout for employees to redeem up to 25 hours of personal time and up to 25 hours of vacation time; 50 hours maximum, for hours accrued. Council Member Alfonzo seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, D’Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, Lizarraga, Ring
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29 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 21st day of November 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of December 2023.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk