

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, December 5, 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 Bill Jones from Bethel Community Church to deliver the invocation. Mayor D'Amico led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

**Council Present**

Alfonzo, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman (via telephone), 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: Mark R. Clark

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Absent

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Saritti Chooniyom

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor D'Amico opened the call to the public.

Jamie Bernier, Housing and Community Revitalization Manager for Mohave County Community Services, provided information on the community development block grant funding. She said a public hearing would be held on January 11th in Kingman to gather citizen input and accept applications.

Linda Saldana said she represented Veterans United. She invited the public to attend a live nativity performance at Gary Keith Park on December 14th and 15th.

Sue Demarco said she represented Saving Animals In Need Together. She said they were requesting that the City Council consider tightening animal cruelty laws, such as hoarding and neglect. She provided information on upcoming fund raising events. She said fireworks were still being set off in her neighborhood and asked the city to get rid of all fireworks.

Jim Fuller said he had been following the Bible for a long time. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Gary Genovese provided information on the Honey Baked Ham fundraising event for the Colorado River Museum and Historical Society.

Chris Bondi asked the city to create a safe sidewalk or walkway on North Oatman across from the Christine Stamper Center.

Sean Regan said the raised manhole covers and potholes on Highway 95 were dangerous to motorcyclists. He said he would be re-organizing the Arizona Veterans K-9 group.

Scotty McClure said some members of the Republican Committee interfered in the election, and said he was taking the issue to the Attorney General. He said he was running for office with Ashley Gerich. He said he requested documents on the Council's travel expenses, and discovered \$12,000 was spent to attend the League of Arizona Cities and Towns conference, plus more on other trips.

Mayor D'Amico said he was proud of their accomplishments and travel. He said they met with the U.S. Coast Guard in Las Vegas to organize safety on the river and spent just gas money. He said they went to Winslow and secured \$25 million to repave Highway 95, and they went to Phoenix to speak with Legislators and secured \$8 million for right turn lanes. He said they traveled again to Phoenix and the city was awarded the state land transfer. He said all Arizona cities participated in the annual League conference. He said they traveled to Washington D.C. to ask for funding for a \$300 million water system and to have Bullhead Parkway re-built. He said they spent a little of the city's money and accomplished big things for the city.

Eva Corbett invited the community to attend the upcoming River Cities Theatre Christmas performances. She provided information on other fund raising events.

Nicole Tracy provided information on the Kiwanis Club and Salvation Army Red Kettle fund raising events.

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

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 Ring seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

### 1. Legacy Foundation Update by Teri Tomlinson

Teri Tomlinson and Kristin Williamson provided a six-month update on the Legacy Foundation's activities. Ms. Tomlinson said they were able to serve all of the local schools this year, and said they added the purchase of pants this year. Ms. Williamson provided statistics on the number of youth served in the community, and said they purchased the school items locally. She thanked their partners and volunteers. Ms. Tomlinson said they were awarded funding for a shuttle bus that would be retro-fitted to be able to serve the kids onsite at the schools. She said they were constructing a building in Fort Mohave to be used as their permanent location.

### 2. Boat Parade

City Manager Cotter said the Holiday Boat Parade would be held on December 16th with great viewing from the Bullhead Belle and Community Park.

### 3. Winter Festival

City Manager Cotter said the event would be held on December 16th at the Anderson Auto Group Field House, and said this could be the largest event ever held at that location.

### 4. Utility Collections

Utilities Director Clark said they waited a while before starting the collection process since the city took over the water company two years ago. He said most people paid their bills on time without any issues. He said there were a small percentage of customers taking it to the extreme. He said customers had cut locks off their meters several times and some were stealing water. He said they would now escalate actions against those individuals and they would be prosecuted for breaking the law. He said there were also some customers on the sewer side with the same issues. He said they would be digging up some sewer laterals and disconnecting customers at the water main. He said a small percentage made it really bad for the rest of the customers.

City Manager Cotter said there were customers who did not pay their sewer and water bills for many years. He said there was a legal obligation to pay for services provided, and said there were numerous opportunities for customers to work out a payment plan.

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

Council Member Hecht thanked everyone that participated in the Boombox Parade. She provided information on numerous community events.

Mayor D'Amico said a community meeting would be held on December 6th at the Optimum Community Center in relation to the recent animal cruelty incident. He said he was an animal lover and would listen to everyone's concerns.

## **ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special City Council meeting held on November 21, 2023; and the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on November 21, 2023. (City Clerk Stein)

**The City Council inadvertently voted to approve the waiver motion a second time; therefore, no motion was made to accept the consent agenda as presented. The above minutes will be included on the consent agenda for approval at the December 19, 2023 City Council meeting.**

**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**

2. Discussion and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-27 by reference, approving an amendment to Chapter 17.06, General District Requirements, Title 17, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code; and adopt Resolution No. 2023R-54 declaring the code amendment a public record. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

Planning Manager Johnny Loera said this request was initiated by a citizen. He said the citizen's request was to amend the code to exclude accessory living spaces from the overall accessory square footage allowance. He said the municipal code currently allowed the square footage of accessory structures such as garages, guest houses, detached carports, etc., to exceed the square footage of the primary living space by up to 50 percent. He said the proposed amendment would leave the 50 percent accessory square footage limit in place, but remove up to two guest houses or other accessory living spaces from the accessory calculation. He said essentially this would allow property owners to build guest houses, mother-in-law's quarters, conditioned pool houses, etc., without reducing the allowable square footage of other accessory structures, such as garages. He said the accessory living spaces would not count towards the livable square footage of the principal building. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a 5-2 vote.

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

**MOTION:** Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-27 by reference, approving an amendment to Chapter 17.06, General District Requirements, Title 17, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code; and adopt Resolution No. 2023R-54 declaring the code amendment a public record. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

None

**Other Business**

3. Discussion and possible action to accept the Bullhead City Water Master Plan dated September 2023. (Utilities Director Clark)

City Manager Cotter said the water master plan was completed in September 2023. He said the City Council was provided with a copy of the full plan on a flash drive along with a hard copy of the Executive Summary during a work session held on November 7, 2023; and said a full presentation of the water master plan was made at that meeting.

Utilities Director Clark said in February 2022, the City Council approved the funding for the development of a water master plan for the newly acquired water assets of EPCOR Water Arizona. He said this was the first water master plan developed for the water systems located in Bullhead City. He said the plan included many facets including GIS mapping, development of a water model, asset assessment, development of a demand study, analysis of system deficiencies, source of supply analysis, pressure zone conversions, system integration planning, fire flow analysis, and creation of a capital improvement plan. He said the plan would assist the city in becoming very efficient and effective in future planning.

Council Member Alfonzo asked about the number of transfer stations and valves that had back-up generators, and if there was a specific fire flow rate that had to be maintained.

Utilities Director Clark said there were four generators at well sites, as well as a few portable generators that could be moved to the locations where they were needed. He said the Fire Department required 1,000 gallons per minute for 60 minutes for residential properties; and for a commercial location, 1,500 gallons per minute were required.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if the previously installed equipment was addressed by the master plan.

Utilities Director Clark said all equipment was included, and said replacements depended on the individual facility. He said some were designated for replacement in the near future and others ten or twenty years out.

City Manager Cotter said the city had not raised the water rates since it took over the system two years ago. He said the master plan would lead them into the future and help staff apply for grants.

Mayor D'Amico said if the federal grant was received, the city could actually have cleaner water coming directly out of the faucet.

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 accept the Bullhead City Water Master Plan dated September 2023. 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 6:41p.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 5th day of December 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of December 2023.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk