

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 5, 2024, 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, D'Amico, Head, Hecht, Lettman, Lizarraga, Ring

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER: Travis Pruitt

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

1. Presentation on an Energy Audit City Savings and Modernization Program for Bullhead City.

Assistant City Manager Pruitt said the city evaluated six potential companies to provide an energy audit for city facilities and systems. He said the most qualified company was Schneider Electric.

Brandon Woodward from Schneider Electric provided a presentation on an energy audit. He said pending future Council approval, Schneider Electric would do a deep dive in evaluating the areas in order to lower utility costs, save water, and generate economic development. He said the investment grade audit was an eight-month process. He said after the audit was completed, the Council would consider authorizing a construction contract with Schneider Electric. He said the firm did a lot more than just electric. He provided a brief description of the corporation, and said they had generated more than \$4 billion in guaranteed savings for 1,000 plus national energy projects. He said the city spent approximately \$1.5 million on utility costs per year. He said they would identify city savings and modernization opportunities, reallocate wasted utility costs, modernize city infrastructure, and provide immediate budget relief. He said additional funding solutions included maximizing federal grants, security utility rebates, and increasing revenue generation and economic impact.

Mr. Woodward discussed the types of systems that would be evaluated; including LED lighting and street lighting, building automation, water/wastewater, water heating improvements, HVAC, infrastructure, revenue generating opportunities, economic impact improvements, solar covered parking, and water meter infrastructure. He said the city had old, inefficient lighting on the beach, streets, and sports fields. He said current challenges included no centralized building automation systems, no maintenance plan for solar, and multiple needs at the Section 10 and Section 18 wastewater treatment plants.

Mr. Woodward discussed a recent case study conducted in Sierra Vista, Arizona. He said their objective was to leverage energy savings and grant funding in order to become the sports tourism destination in southern Arizona.

Mr. Woodward said the next step would be an investment grade audit (IGA). He said they would develop a final scope of work for the improvements, finalize firm-fixed pricing with no change orders, identification of available grants, rebates and low-interest funding options, qualified annual guaranteed energy savings, and a construction agreement to be brought forward at a future Council meeting.

Mayor D'Amico asked about the fee, and how the city could benefit from economic development.

Mr. Woodward said should the city proceed with a project; there was no cost for design as those costs would be absorbed into the construction agreement. If not, there would be a cost of \$168,000 for the design and engineering of the IGA. He provided examples of the initiative for sports tourism in Sierra Nevada.

Mayor D'Amico said the city could start looking at opportunities now without entering into a contract in order to save money.

Council Member Ring asked about the grant opportunities. Mr. Woodward said everything they did would be self-funding and the city could decide on the opportunities in future phases.

Council Member Lizarraga asked if the city had previously conducted an energy audit. Mr. Woodward said he did not think so.

Council Member Alfonzo asked about the length of time for completion of the Sierra Vista projects. Mr. Woodward said there were two phases over a few years. He said his company operated essentially as a general contractor and went out for bids. He said the city could fund future projects in a number of different ways.

Council Member Hecht said the city recently conducted a utility master plan study and said this type of study would also be helpful in applying for grants.

Council Member Lettman spoke in support of the energy audit. He suggested they could speak to the people in Parker and find out about their experience with this company. He asked staff to obtain feedback from some of the cities that have contracted with Schneider Electric.

2. Discussion on the proposed FY 2024-2025 Bullhead City Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

Finance Director Drexler provided highlights of the proposed changes to the fee schedule. He said the Development Services fees would increase by one percent on the majority of permit fees and miscellaneous fees. He said fence permit fees were previously removed but have now been reinstated. He said short term rental fees and penalties adopted through the ordinance have been added to the schedule for easy reference.

Finance Director Drexler said under the Recreation Division, there was some clean up language for hourly fees and changing from a fixed cost to a per hour cost for the municipal pool. He said there were changes to the community center and senior center reservation fees. He said under the Engineering Division, a GIS mapping fee of \$100 per hour was added and encroachment permits increased from \$70 to \$100. He said under the Utilities Department, some true cost increases were passed along. He said sewer pumping fees increased. He said under the Police Department, the off-duty police officer hourly rate slightly increased.

Finance Director Drexler said a proposed \$50 annual park parking pass for Fort Mohave and Laughlin residents was added.

Council Member Lettman said the parking pass made sense.

Council Member Hecht asked if entry to the splash pad at Community Park was included in the parking pass fee. She spoke in support of the pass fee.

Council Member Lettman asked if there was a charge for fulfilling a public record request. He said a lot of work was entailed, yet the city's fees for records were bound by state law.

Deputy City Clerk Ogden said there was no charge for emailed requests, and there was a small charge for paper records or documents on a CD.

City Attorney Emery said there was a fee for body camera videos. He said there was no charge for researching or extracting a record, the fee was based upon what was actually produced.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor D'Amico declared the special meeting adjourned at 4:53 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 5th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of March 2024.


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 5, 2024, 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 Earl Johnson 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, Lizarraga, Ring

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

POLICE CHIEF: Robert Trebes

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

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 D’Amico opened the call to the public.

Sean Regan said their last event was successful in raising funds for animal welfare. He thanked those that supported the event. He said there was a leak in a fire hydrant in his neighborhood.

Steven Lee urged everyone to work together to build bridges, and not tear them down. He said people should work together toward common goals.

Jason Newlin said people liked outdoor recreation and used the amenities at Rotary Park. He said there was an RC version of motor sports; and said with the right planning, there was room for a dirt drag strip and an oval track. He requested the Council allocate funding for RC sports at the park during the upcoming budget session.

Stan Koepler said the RC Club would hold their first official drag race at the air strip on March 16th.

Barbara Pape invited the public to attend the Colorado River Republican Women’s monthly luncheon to be held on March 6th at the Chaparral Country Club.

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

Valerie Medina discussed the types of public forums. She said any restriction on speech was subject to strict scrutiny.

Scotty McClure said the city was responsible to protect citizens from paroled child molesters, and said something should be done to prevent them from moving into the city.

Annette Wegmann-Wood invited the public to attend the Colorado River Women's Council Western Auction to be held on March 16th.

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

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Dog Leash Laws – City Ordinance Requirements

City Manager Cotter said the city enforced the leash law and had installed more signs in the parks.

2. Highway 95 Jurisdictional Transfer and Safety Enhancements

City Manager Cotter said the initial paving work was essentially completed, and said fog sealing and line re-painting had begun. He said the official transfer would take place at the State Transportation Board meeting. He said extra police patrol would enforce the traffic laws.

3. Election Information

City Manager Cotter provided information on early voting, the City Council candidate filing period, and voter registration.

4. Mohave County Public Health 24/25 Community Health Needs Survey

Dani Legana, Mohave County Department of Health Special Programs Analyst, provided information on the current community health needs assessment and survey. She said the survey was open until the end of April and invited community members to participate.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Hecht said the Connie Davis Walk and Roll was a successful event. She provided information on upcoming local events.

Council Member Lettman thanked city staff for the great job in hosting numerous sports tournaments.

Council Member Ring said the Fifth Annual "Back the Blue and Fire" event would be held on May 18th.

Mayor D'Amico said he served his country to protect freedoms and rights and welcomed constructive criticism. He said there were consequences at times with "free speech."

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Vice Mayor Head made a motion that Items No. 1 through 3 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 February 20, 2024; and the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on February 20, 2024. (City Clerk Stein)
2. Approval of: 1) the appointment of Debie Ogden as City Clerk commencing May 2, 2024; 2) approval of the employment agreement with Debie Ogden as City Clerk commencing with an annual salary of \$90,000.00; and 3) authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. (Human Resources Manager Marshall)
3. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-11 approving the Grant Agreement between the State of Arizona and the Bullhead City Metropolitan Planning

Organization (MPO); and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement in his capacity as Chairman of the MPO. (City Manager Cotter)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

4. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a Series 12 (Restaurant) Liquor License and Interim Permit Job No. 275446 submitted by Amy Nations for Samurai Steak House & Sushi located at 2019 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said staff reviewed the application and had no objections.

Mayor D'Amico opened the public hearing. Having no one from the public requesting to speak, Mayor D'Amico closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a Series 12 (Restaurant) Liquor License and Interim Permit Job No. 275446 submitted by Amy Nations for Samurai Steak House & Sushi located at 2019 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. Council Member Lizarraga seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a S76 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer from Bobcat of Kingman, Arizona, for a total amount of \$58,118.30; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve the purchase order and any resulting documentation. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said the equipment would be purchased under the Sourcewell Cooperative purchasing agreement. She said the Bobcat would be used daily for street maintenance, flood cleanup, and assisting with the slurry program.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if an extended warranty was included. Public Works Director Johnson said a two-year warranty was included, and the extended warranty was not required for this purchase.

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 approve the purchase of a S76 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer from Bobcat of Kingman, Arizona, for a total amount of \$58,118.30; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve the purchase order and any resulting documentation. Council Member Hecht seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a 2024 International HV607 10-Wheel Dump Truck from Empire Truck & Trailer of Phoenix, Arizona, for a total amount of \$216,256.00; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve the purchase order and any resulting documentation. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said the truck would be used daily for street maintenance, flood cleanup, and assisting with the slurry program.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if an extended warranty was included.

Public Works Director Johnson said the purchase included a one-year bumper to bumper warranty, two-year engine warranty, and a three-year warranty on the transmission. She said the extended warranty was not required.

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 approve the purchase of a 2024 International HV607 10-Wheel Dump Truck from Empire Truck & Trailer of Phoenix, Arizona, for a total amount of \$216,256.00; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve the purchase order and any resulting documentation. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

7. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-12 directing and authorizing staff to submit a proposition for a permanent adjustment to the base expenditure limitation to the voters of Bullhead City; and further, setting that proposal to the voters for the primary election ballot scheduled for July 30, 2024. (Assistant City Manager Pruitt)

Assistant City Manager Pruitt said this topic was discussed in a previous Council work session. He said the voters would consider if the city should spend the funds available in the bank to pay for projects or get loans to fund the projects due to the limitation. He said the resolution included language for the question to be placed on the July 30th primary election ballot.

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

Scotty McClure said this was a "snowball" job and said it would be interesting to convince the public that the city needed to obtain funding when there was money in the bank. He said the city was spending way too much money and should not have to spend any more.

Sean Regan said the original limit was put into place to make sure the government did not overspend. He spoke in opposition to the resolution.

City Manager Cotter said the city was currently one of 8, out of 91 Arizona cities, that had not yet adjusted its expenditure limitation. He said the city did not want to have to borrow money and pay interest rates in order to stay under the current cap. He said the city was fiscally responsible.

Barbara Pape said this was needed to support urban planning. She spoke in support of the resolution.

Council Member Ring said the issue would go to the ballot for the voters to decide.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-12 directing and authorizing staff to submit a proposition for a permanent adjustment to the base expenditure limitation to the voters of Bullhead City; and further, setting that proposal to the voters for the primary election ballot scheduled for July 30, 2024. Council Member Lettman seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-13 ordering and calling a primary election to be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, and if necessary, a general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to nominate candidates for Councilmember positions and the submission of a question to the voters concerning the City's expenditure limitation; providing for and giving notice of such elections, and the deadline for voter registration. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said adoption of the resolution would formally order and designate the two election dates for the purpose of electing four Councilmembers and the submission of a question to the voters concerning the city's expenditure limitation in the 2024 primary and general elections.

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 Resolution No. 2024R-13 ordering and calling a primary election to be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, and if necessary, a general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to nominate candidates for Councilmember positions and the submission of a question to the voters concerning the City's expenditure limitation; providing for and giving notice of such elections, and the deadline for voter registration. Council Member Alfonzo 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 adopt Ordinance No. 2024-07 "Sidewalk and Traffic Median Amendments 2024" by reference; and approve Resolution No. 2024R-14 declaring "Sidewalk and Traffic Median Amendments 2024" a public record. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the ordinance would not allow persons to place themselves in fixed positions on sidewalks or occupy a traffic median other than for the purpose of briefly crossing a street. He said Council Member Ring and he had been discussing this subject for quite a while. He said the time was appropriate to bring this forward. He said there was a problem along Highway 95 and it was time to remove these individuals from sitting on the curbs and in the medians.

Council Member Hecht said Catholic Charities indicated that panhandlers on street corners were not the people that visited the homeless shelter. She said it was dangerous for the people occupying the street corners as well as vehicles attempting to avoid them.

Council Member Lizarraga asked if sign twirlers for businesses would be affected. City Manager Cotter said the ordinance would not affect individuals standing or walking and holding a sign.

Council Member Alfonzo asked about the fines. City Manager Cotter read the language in the code. He said the Police Department would handle the enforcement of this law.

Council Member Lettman said he supported the proposed ordinance.

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

Grace Telsner asked if the kids working at fundraising car washes would be affected. City Manager Cotter said they would not be affected.

Steven Lee spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. He said the law would affect those that wanted to carry protest signs, and said it was their right to do so.

Sean Regan said panhandling was a form of free speech and the city could not take that right away. He spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. He said the Council would not propose stricter animal ordinances but would charge \$2,500 for sitting on a bucket.

Council Member Hecht asked about the “quality of life” court.

City Manager Cotter said people that could not afford to pay the fines could have the penalties deferred, receive counseling, job assistance, and VA benefits in order to help them get their lives back.

Barbara Pape said this was about public safety. She spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Ring said transients and homeless people were sleeping on the streets and the law was crafted to help them as well as the entire community.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-07 “Sidewalk and Traffic Median Amendments 2024” by reference; and approve Resolution No. 2024R-14 declaring “Sidewalk and Traffic Median Amendments 2024” a public record. Council Member Lizarraga seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

10. Discussion and possible action to approve: 1) a \$75,000 allocation to the Laughlin Bullhead Air Show, matching the funds contributed by the Laughlin Tourism Commission; and 2) authorizing the City Manager to transfer the funds and to execute the Laughlin Bullhead Air Show Bullhead City Cash Contribution Agreement. (Assistant City Manager Pruitt)

Assistant City Manager Pruitt said the funding was discussed in the budget sessions, and said approval by the Council was required in order to transfer the funds. He said the 2024 Air Show would be held on April 6th. He provided statistics from the 2023 air Show.

Jackie Wallin from the Laughlin Tourism Commission and Assistant Airport Director Kellen Shireman provided information on the upcoming event.

Assistant City Manager Kajirwa said there would be an after party at the Bullhead Belle.

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: 1) a \$75,000 allocation to the Laughlin Bullhead Air Show, matching the funds contributed by the Laughlin Tourism Commission; and 2) authorizing the City Manager to transfer the funds and to execute the Laughlin Bullhead Air Show Bullhead City Cash Contribution Agreement. 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

11. Deliberation and consideration to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-15 concerning federal immigration issues. (Mayor D’Amico and Council Member Lettman)

Mayor D’Amico read the proposed resolution in full.

Council Member Lettman said “tough love” was arriving tonight in Bullhead City and it was sad they had to address these issues. He said they understood the need to support people in this country legally through a process. He said taxpayer resources should not be taken away from other areas that were equally important; for example, veterans’ resources.

Council Member Hecht said the homeless shelter was not aware of any illegal immigrants visiting the shelter in Bullhead City. She discussed other communities that adopted similar resolutions. She said the language could be tighter and suggested another “whereas” be included in the resolution. She read the suggested language and said she wanted to add a public health component to the resolution.

Vice Mayor Head said the public knew what was going on with this issue, and said he was in support of the resolution.

Council Member Ring spoke in support of the proposed resolution.

Council Member Lizarraga said this was a federal issue and asked if the document would be stepping on the federal government’s toes.

City Attorney Emery said the language would not cross over into federal jurisdiction.

Council Member Alfonzo said he supported the resolution but thought the content was inadequate in order to protect the city. He provided information on immigration statistics from the State of Texas. He suggested tabling this item for additional discussion and consideration in re-writing the document and forwarding it to the County Board of Supervisors.

Mayor D’Amico said they signed an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Arizona. He said this was not about race, it was about illegal immigrants.

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

Scotty McClure said his VA benefits were reduced and said that money was going to the border.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-15 concerning federal immigration issues. Vice Mayor Head seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 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 5th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of March 2024.


Susan Stein, MMC, CPM, City Clerk