

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, June 4, 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 Tim Eighmy from Community Lutheran Church to deliver the invocation. Vice Mayor Head 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: Debie Ogden

POLICE CHIEF: Robert Trebes

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Receive painting from River Valley Artists Guild, Inc. – “The Changing Colorado River Horizon” by Sheila Barger, a local artist.

A representative from the River Valley Artists Guild said they represent all types of artists in the Tri-State area, and said they are trying to support and expand the art community in the area. She said the River Valley Artists Guild currently awards grants to local schoolteachers for art projects, music, and theater. She said their goal is to financially support the teachers that would like to do special projects with their students. She said today they would like to present a painting of the Copper Silver Bridge that was painted by Sheila Barger. She thanked Ms. Barger for her dedication to the Artists Guild and the community.

Sheila Barger said the painting is the first gift they are giving to the city. She said she painted the view of the bridge from her home. She said they are starting a new project where they will be painting approximately 20 utility boxes throughout the city.

Mayor D’Amico thanked Ms. Barger and the River Valley Artists Guild for the painting.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor D’Amico opened the call to the public.

Diana Lestat said she is the current Lecturing Knight and representing the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks in Bullhead City. She asked Mayor D’Amico to issue a Flag Day proclamation on behalf of the Elks during their Flag Day ceremony to be held on June 9th.

Steven Lee said he hoped the city would reconsider purchasing a new flag for the Council Chambers. He said the nation is under tyranny, and said World War III will probably happen in the next few weeks. He asked the Council to work with him to help find ways to overcome various obstacles.

Barbara Pape said the Colorado River Women's Republican luncheon will take place on June 5th at Chaparral Country Club.

Grace Telsner said a few seniors arrive at the Senior Center before it opens, and said a bench is needed so people can sit down while they wait for it to open.

Janice Johnston said she is a volunteer at the Pride Center. She said their pride event will take place on June 8th at Rotary Park.

Kathleen Seymore said she is a Bullhead City resident. She spoke about an incident that took place with Animal Control Officer Powers on June 3rd.

Pamela Smith said Chris Morgan offered to donate three benches to the Senior Center. She invited the public to attend the 80th annual GOP picnic that is taking place at the Hualapai Mountains on June 29th.

Jim Fuller spoke in support of Ashley Gerich. He said he is upset because he got branded as an abusive husband through the court system.

Scotty McClure said he was upset that the Manager's Report is not open to public comment. He said they caught someone stealing one of his political signs and said the court date is set for July 1st. He said he will be putting up signs opposing Proposition 416.

Captain John Burks from the Salvation Army spoke about how "Doughnut Day" started.

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. Proposition 416 Presentation, Publicity Booklet

City Manager Cotter said Proposition 416 has nothing to do with taxes and said any new tax would have to be voted on by the citizens of Bullhead City. Assistant City Manager Pruitt gave a brief explanation on Proposition 416 and showed a brief video of Finance Director Drexler giving the financial aspect of Proposition 416.

2. Memorial Day Statistics

City Manager Cotter said the city employs ocean certified lifeguards, beach security, park rangers and waterway staff. He gave the following Memorial Day statistics: 876 calls of service to dispatch; 540 events responded to by police officers; 11 motor vehicle accidents; 6 DUI arrests; 1 OUI arrest; and 10 watercraft accidents. He said there were no wrist bands or consumer protection form violations.

3. New Bridge Grand Opening June 7

City Manager Cotter said the new Silver Copper Crossing Bridge will open on June 7th. He said a grand opening event will take place on June 7th starting at 7:00 a.m. He said there will be food trucks, live music, and various activities at the Anderson Fieldhouse.

4. New City Council Doors and Windows

City Manager Cotter said all the original windows and doors in the Council Chambers have been replaced.

5. Construction Site Tour for New Senior Center

City Manager Cotter said the Council visited the construction site for the new Senior Center today. He said benches will be placed inside the foyer entrance and capital purchases for the Senior Center are currently being made.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Hecht said she went on a ride along with Corporal Crawford. It was great to see how all the city departments work together to get a job done. She congratulated a new Kingman Council Member for starting the Kingman Voice Program. She said War Zone Boxing Club will be opening a new gym in Bullhead City on July 1st and said the celebration of life for Kaden Astemborski will take place at Rotary Park on June 15th.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 21, 2024. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-24, authorizing the submittal of a grant application and authorizing Chief Trebes to sign all resulting documents. (Police Chief Trebes)

MOTION: Council Member Lettman made a motion that Items No. 1 and 2 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished to each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member Lizarraga seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

3. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-25, amending the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bullhead City Pest Abatement District and the City of Bullhead City, reflecting an increase in funding from the District in the amount of \$25,000.00. (Human Services Director Tipton)

Human Services Director Tipton said the city, in cooperation with the Pest Abatement District, has been actively engaged in a joint and proactive effort to address the population of black flies, caddisflies, and mosquitoes since 2016. He said the efforts are part of the Bullhead City Pest Abatement Program which aims to enrich and improve the quality of life for residents and promote healthy outdoor recreation by controlling the population of insects.

Doctor Michael Cavallaro, Pest Abatement Manager, said they stock the river with rainbow trout seasonally to help control the caddisfly population and continue to manipulate the flows out of Davis Dam. He said they have a new program where they are offering new light traps free of charge to

residents along the river. He said they will follow-up with residents to find out if there has been any impact using the light traps. He gave a brief slideshow presentation showing the light traps in use.

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

MOTION: Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-25, amending the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bullhead City Pest Abatement District and the City of Bullhead City, reflecting an increase in funding from the District in the amount of \$25,000.00. Council Member Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion and possible action to: 1) approve the "City of Bullhead City and Bullhead City Fraternal Police Officers Association Memorandum of Understanding July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027;" 2) authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and 3) direct the City Manager to take all actions consistent with its implementation. (Finance Director Drexler)

City Manager Cotter said Finance Director Drexler negotiated with the Fraternal Police Officers Association on a three-year agreement that lays out the terms for their pay, compensation, and working conditions. He said the highlights of the Agreement includes a four percent cost of living adjustment for this year and a retention pay of \$1,000 to be paid to the FOPOA participants before June 30th.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone wanted to speak on this item.

Corporal Crawford said he was representing the police officers and dispatchers. He said the members voted unanimously in favor of the proposed agreement. He said they hope the new agreement will help with the recruitment and retention of police officers and dispatchers.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to approve the "City of Bullhead City and Bullhead City Fraternal Police Officers Association Memorandum of Understanding July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027;" authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and direct the City Manager to take all actions consistent with its implementation. Council Member Hecht seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the “Agreement for Professional Engineering Services SR-95/Safeway Right Turn Lane Project 24-PW-022” with Kimley-Horn of Tucson, Arizona, in an amount not to exceed \$260,650.00 for engineering services in connection with the SR-95/Safeway Right Turn Lane project; and direct the City Manager to execute the agreement and approve the resultant payments. (Public Works Director Johnson)

City Manager Cotter said the city received \$8 million last year for right turn lanes on Highway 95, and said several right turn lanes are currently under engineer design. He said the city will earn enough interest from the \$8 million to pay for the engineering services. He said their goal is to improve traffic congestion and safety, and reduce accidents.

Public Works Director Johnson said the right turn lane will begin at Wells Fargo Bank. She said Kimley-Horn will study from the Wells Fargo Bank location to Safeway. She said they will be looking at all aspects of the area to see what will work best for travelers, and said the right turn lane will be one continuous lane.

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

MOTION: Council Member Lettman made a motion to approve the “Agreement for Professional Engineering Services SR-95/Safeway Right Turn Lane Project 24-PW-022” with Kimley-Horn of Tucson, Arizona, in an amount not to exceed \$260,650.00 for engineering services in connection with the SR-95/Safeway Right Turn Lane project; and direct the City Manager to execute the agreement and approve the resultant payments. Council Member Ring 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 contract with McCormick Construction Co., of Bullhead City, Arizona, for the UTV/ATV Trailhead Parking Lot in the amount of \$1,316,502.00, and authorize the City Manager or his designee to sign resulting documents and issue payments on behalf of the City. (Public Works Director Johnson)

City Manager Cotter said Assistant City Manager Kajirwa obtained a grant for over \$1 million for this project.

Public Works Director Johnson said this project is located by the water towers off the Parkway and Silver Creek Road. She said the city has an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management to lease the property and build the parking lot. She said this is a grant funded project by the Arizona State Parks and Trails in the amount of \$984,584.00 and the Offroad Highway Vehicle Fund in the amount of \$309,944.00, and said the city matches \$100,000. She said the project will consist of a new asphalt paved parking lot, a perimeter block wall, dumpsters, shaded picnic area, 20 parking stalls for pickup trucks and trailers, and two handicap parking spaces for pickup trucks and trailers. She said the project will also include the installation of water, sewer, and electric conduit for future restrooms. She said they expect the project to be completed in 120 days or less.

Council Member Lettman asked why all the amounts on the bid recap sheet show being corrected by staff. Public Works Director Johnson said staff goes through all the bids and adds up the total to make sure the contractors added their numbers correctly. She said there were issues on the contractors end.

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

Gary Genovese said this appears to be a beautiful project, and said he hoped the Council approves this item. He said he hoped that the Council would take into consideration the possibility of adding a pad for a cell phone tower to be used in the future.

MOTION: Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to approve the contract with McCormick Construction Co., of Bullhead City, Arizona, for the UTV/ATV Trailhead Parking Lot in the amount of \$1,316,502.00, and authorize the City Manager or his designee to sign resulting documents and issue payments on behalf of the City. Council Member Alfonzo 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 ORDINANCE NO. 2024-17, "Boards and Commission Amendments 2024" by reference, and approving RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-26, declaring "Boards and Commission Amendments 2024" a public record. (City Manager Cotter)

City Attorney Emery said this item reflects the direction that was given staff by the Council during a previous meeting. He briefly explained the proposed amendments.

Mayor D'Amico said applicants for boards and commissions should have some type of experience or knowledge for the board or commission they are applying for. He said he wanted to clarify that all boards and commissions are recommending bodies and do not set city policy.

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

Annette Wegmann-Wood asked what would happen if there were not enough qualified applicants to fill vacancies. Mayor D'Amico said the seat would remain vacant, but recruitments would continue to fill any vacancies.

Scotty McClure said any board or commission member that has one unexcused absence should be kicked off the commission.

Eva Corbett said people should not be allowed to serve on more than one board or commission at a time.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-17, “Boards and Commission Amendments 2024” by reference, and approving Resolution No. 2024R-26, declaring “Boards and Commission Amendments 2024” a public record. Commissioner Alfonzo 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 approve the concept, design, and location for placement of the Veterans United Military K-9 Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park. (Recreation Superintendent Heath)

Recreation Supervisor Heath said this item is to approve the placement of a K-9 memorial at Veterans Memorial Park, and said this item was recommended for approval at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He said the memorial would be placed at the north end of the peninsula, and said the statue would be funded and installed by Veterans United. He said they are asking the Council if they would like the memorial placed north of the Ring of Honor or north of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He said they hoped to have the statue installed by Veterans Day.

Council Member Alfonzo said he was in favor of the first proposed location.

Mayor D’Amico thanked Veterans United for the donation. He said he was also in favor of the first proposed location.

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

Grace Telsner asked if there will ever be a memorial or statue for women who served in the armed forces. Mayor D’Amico said each statue and memorial are for everyone that served in the armed forces, not just men.

Scotty McClure said he hoped this will not be located near the Vietnam Memorial, and said the Vietnam Memorial should not be moved.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Head made a motion to approve the concept, design, and location one for placement of the Veterans United Military K-9 Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park. 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 approve the concept, design, and location for placement of a Coehorn Mortar as an addition to the Revolutionary War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park. (Parks Superintendent Heath)

Parks Superintendent Heath said the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended this item be approved at their last meeting.

Denise Atwater-Vallon said she is representing Daughters of the American Revolution. She said the Coehorn Mortar will be non-operatable and will sit in a carriage. She said the carriage will be welded and secured in cement.

Council Member Hecht thanked Ms. Atwater-Vallon for investing in the community and bringing the Coehorn Mortar to Veterans Memorial Park.

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

MOTION: Council Member Hecht made a motion to approve the concept, design, and location for placement of a Coehorn Mortar as an addition to the Revolutionary War Memorial at Veterans Park. 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 adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-27, adopting the tentative budget, adopting the estimated amounts required to meet the public expenses of the City of Bullhead City for fiscal year 2024-2025, and authorizing and directing the publication of statements and schedule of the tentative budget, together with notice of hearing on said budget and notice of date of final adoption of said budget. (Finance Director Drexler)

City Manager Cotter said this is a yearly process. He said a budget workshop has already taken place, and said the Council is aware of the budgetary requirements of the city. He said this item is a formality that must be done every year, and said an item will be brought before the next council meeting to allow for public input. He briefly spoke about minor adjustments that need to be made to the proposed budget.

Mayor D'Amico explained how grant funds affect the budget. He said all expectant grant funds must be budgeted for, and said the city may not receive all grant funds that were applied for.

Council Member Alfonzo asked City Manager Cotter anyone has opposed the tentative budget. City Manager Cotter said no one has contacted him about the budget.

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

Scotty McClure said he remembered when the budget sessions were held over three days and said staff did a good job explaining everything within those three days. He said he did not attend the budget meeting this year because nobody would listen to him.

Mayor D'Amico said the budget sessions have always been scheduled for three days, and said they have never needed three days to go through the budget. He said in the past, the budget meetings would only last for a few hours and they would reconvene on the following day. He said instead of spending three hours a day over two days, they decided to go over the budget in one seven hour day.

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-27, adopting the tentative budget, adopting the estimated amounts required to meet the public expenses of the City of Bullhead City for fiscal year 2024-2025, and authorizing and directing the publication of statements and schedule of the tentative budget, together with notice of hearing on said budget and notice of date of final adoption of said budget. 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: 1) adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2024-18 "Economic Development Amendments 2024" by reference; 2) approve RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-28 declaring "Economic Development Amendments 2024" a public record; and 3) adopt the findings and conclusions of the report entitled "2024 Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Proposed Hotel Incentive in Bullhead City, Arizona." (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said some hotels were built in Bullhead City in the 1980's and have since fallen into disrepair. He said the proposed ordinance would allow an incentive to be paid to the owners and developers who redevelop existing hotels which will bring in new tax revenue, hotels, and jobs to the community. He said for many years it was thought that Bullhead City hotels would not be able to compete with Laughlin hotels and casinos, and said this turned out to not be the case. He said statistics from the summer of 2023 showed that over a million people visited the area 4.5 million times, proving some people visited the area multiple times. He said data showed that people who check into the Bullhead City Holiday Inn are coming from the Harry Reed International Airport in Las Vegas; meaning people are passing through Laughlin to stay in Bullhead City. He said staff has been approached by many hotel developers about building additional hotels in Bullhead City, and said it is getting more expensive for developers to bring in hotels. He said Ben Campbell, President of Hospitality America, said the development cost for building a hotel has surged by 30 percent and the cost of acquiring capital has increased nearly 50 percent. He said building a new hotel is extremely difficult, competitive, and expensive and more than likely will not happen in communities like Bullhead City unless some incentives are put into place. He said staff looked at the number of visitors in Palm Springs, Hollister, Daytona Beach, and Nashville and said Bullhead City's number of visitors is very comparable. He said Bullhead City will have more visitors than Palm Springs this July. He said there is a large group of visitors and travelers that would rather stay at a new or revamped hotel instead of a casino. He said to offer hotel incentives, several requirements must be met. He said a revamped hotel must create at least two new jobs and a new hotel must create at least thirteen new jobs. He said as part of the incentive program, the city will split the two percent sales tax for a limited

time, and said the city will keep all the TPT tax. He said since he first started working for Bullhead City, the TPT tax the city receives has increased over four hundred percent. He said the proposed incentive will allow for new hotels to be built in Bullhead City and dilapidated hotels to be refurbished.

Mayor D'Amico said they can not give an incentive to a business just because they want them in Bullhead City. He said there are regulations and state laws that must be followed. City Attorney Emery said Arizona State law states that any incentive that is provided must be met by the benefit that comes back to the community. He said it can not be a one sided benefit deal.

Council Member Alfonzo asked if the proposed initiatives have been discussed with any hotel owners. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative. He said with regards to the hotels that could be redeveloped, not only would someone purchase the property from the current owner, but they would also have to invest a substantial amount of money to bring the buildings up to code.

Council Member Lettman asked if the rebate will be made up through other economic incentives to the city. City Attorney Emery said it will come back through increased sales taxes that are paid through the sales of food and beverages and by the sales taxes that the employees will pay throughout the community.

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

MOTION: Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-18 "Economic Development Amendments 2024" by reference; approve Resolution No. 2024R-28 declaring "Economic Development Amendments 2024" a public record; and adopt the findings and conclusions of the report entitled "2024 Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Proposed Hotel Incentive in Bullhead City, Arizona." 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 7:35 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 4th day of June 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 13th day of June 2024.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk