

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, July 16, 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 Stephen Brown 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

CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

POLICE CHIEF: Lieutenant Marvin Harris for Police Chief Robert Trebes

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor D'Amico opened the call to the public.

Gabrelle Tate said approximately two years ago she received a phone call from Council Member Hecht asking her to place an ad on one of the electronic billboards on Highway 95 on her behalf. She said she asked Council Member Hecht why she could not put the sign in her name and use her own credit card and her response was just she could not do it. She said she called Lamar Advertising and said Lamar Advertising refused the billboard stating the message was spiteful and unkind. She said Council Member Hecht wanted to expose some things against Waheed Zehri and said an 800 phone number was also on the ad for people that were affected. She said it was her opinion that Council Member Hecht did not want a trail, so she threw her under the bus and tried to make her the scapegoat. She said she never spoke of the incident but decided to after she saw the terrible postcards Council Member Hecht sent out about Council Member Rich Lettman.

Steven Lee spoke against Grace Hecht for Mohave County Supervisor District 2. He said the city needs to have a plan in place in case Donald Trump is assassinated.

Sean Regan spoke against the two armed officers that are seated in front of the dais. He said he is being targeted by the Bullhead Police Department because he as received three tickets in the past month by the same police officer. He said he has no confidence in the police department. He said he needs the Council's support with his nonprofit.

Debbie Miller said she wanted to express her disappointment and outrage against Council Member Hecht for sending out a postcard filled with half truths and misinformation against Council Member Lettman. She said it is unthinkable for a Council Member and a Kiwanis Member to act in such a way. She said not only has she trashed Council Member Lettman, but she has also trashed the City Council, Make Bullhead Better, and the Kiwanis Club.

Terry Constino and Lynn Hammond spoke about the Bunco fundraiser for Live, Love, Barc to be held on July 26th.

Scotty McClure spoke about the money Council Members Hecht and Lettman have spent on their election campaigns. He urged people to vote no on Proposition 416.

Sue DeMarco from S.A.I.N.T. (Saving Animals in Need Together) spoke about the efforts made by Donna Doyle to help dogs find homes. She said the Mimosa, Mosaic and Mutts fundraiser will take place on July 27th.

Annette Wegmann-Wood said it is a privilege to vote. She said the local behavior and antics in local politics have been extreme and the personal attacks must stop. She said the smearing, hatred, slander and lying should not get in the way of an election. She said we must have unity not only on a local level, but also on a state and national level. She said the political attacks in our community need to stop. She spoke in favor of Rich Lettman for Mohave County Supervisor District 2.

Nick Parkson said he rented a room at the Mohave County Library next week to speak about solar power. He said a renewable energy committee should be formed in the city.

Kristi Foutz said the monthly drive-through food distribution will take place this Saturday at 590 Hancock Road, and said volunteers are needed.

Nichole Tracy said the Back to School Teacher Appreciation Day will take place at Vista Del Sol on August 3rd. She said there will be food, prizes and entertainment.

Gary Quick said Mohave Electric Coop charges him a tariff because he has solar panels. He said people who have solar will have to pay a higher electric bill because of the tariff. He asked the Council to advise the public on how to address this.

Eva Corbett said a Meet and Greet event for Council Member Rich Lettman will be held tomorrow night at El Charro Mexican Restaurant.

Linda Saldana said the Sandbar is hosting a fundraiser this Saturday for the Last Chance Animal Sanctuary.

Aaron Fox said he was impressed to see Assistant City Manager Pruet reach out to someone who just spoke during the open call to the public. He said this is the first time he has seen a real interaction with someone from the public during a council meeting. He said the city does profit from people who install solar panels through permit fees and sales taxes.

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

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Vice Mayor Alfonzo postponed Item 5 to the August 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

WAIVER MOTION

MOTION: Vice Mayor Alfonzo 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. July 4th Weekend Statistics

Lieutenant Marvin Harris said there were 926 calls to police dispatch, 15 criminal arrests, 5 DUI’s, 1 boat OUI, 12 motor vehicle accidents with 2 injured, 4 watercraft accidents with 1 injured, 58 fireworks calls, and 1 fireworks citation. He said beach safety statistics are as follows: 647 public contacts, 32 prohibited fueling, 378 prohibited glass, and 33 lifeguard dispatches.

2. Upgrades to Ken Fovargue Park

City Manager Cotter said there is a new shade structure over the Little Tikes Playground. He thanked the Kiwanis Club for their donation of benches and picnic tables.

3. Water Levels on the Colorado River

City Manager Cotter said the Bureau of Reclamation regulates the water levels on the Colorado River, not the city. He said it is primarily to generate power and to supply water to downstream farmers; recreation takes a much lower tier. He read water projected units for various days. He said staff does discuss water levels with the Bureau of Reclamation on a regular basis to advocate for the city’s utilization.

4. Proposition 416 Presentation

Assistant to the City Manager Pruitt explained the spending limit and how it is negatively impacting the city. He said Proposition 416 is not an additional tax and does not give any additional spending authority that is not already included in the budget. He showed a brief PowerPoint presentation further explaining Proposition 416.

City Manager Cotter said Proposition 416 is not a tax increase. He said if the city wanted to raise taxes, it would have to be voted on by city residents. He said because of the spending cap, the city will have to borrow money to pay for large projects even though the city does have the funds to pay

for them. He said Proposition 416 will give the Council more spending flexibility, and said if the Proposition does not pass, nothing in the community will change.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Vice Mayor Alfonzo spoke about the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. He said vicious political ads are not needed in our society today as we already have enough hatred. He said the political animosity, hatred, distain, and dangerous hostility has to stop, both statewide and in our local elections. He said not all candidates respect one another, and said many abuse their freedom of speech with their vile and caustic attitudes exemplified by liable, slanderous, inflammatory, and needless attacks against each other. He said it is childish and needs to stop. He said he wished every candidate the best of luck, and urged all residents to vote.

Council Member Lizarraga wished all the candidates good luck and urged everyone to get out and vote on July 30th.

Council Member Hecht told Steven Lee that the Council voted to approve over \$100,000 to Catholic Charities. She said she will not respond to the statements that were made against her tonight as it does not have to do with city business.

Council Member Hecht said Black Bear Diner will have a 15 percent dine and donate event for the Tri-State Torros tomorrow. She congratulated Bullhead City Florist for 40 years of business in Bullhead City. She thanked Learner and Row for donating over 400 backpacks and school supplies to the kids in the community. She thanked Representative John Gillette and ADOT for trimming the trees by the Motor Vehicle Department.

Council Member Lettman spoke about the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump. He said he felt that one of the messages we heard from him and his family was the need to tamper down some of the rederick and mudslinging that is going on. He said a vile and ugly post went up that suggested Mohave County Supervisor Angius was drinking and using drugs. He said he told Mohave County Supervisor Angius to find a good attorney and sue the people who posted it. He said on June 17th Scotty McClure had a meltdown at the Mohave County Board of Supervisors meeting earlier in the day regarding some of his political signs that were removed. City Attorney Emery told Council Member Lettman that council comments are not to be political. He said Council Member Lettman and Mr. McClure are both running for County Supervisor, so the comments needed to stop. Council Member Lettman said he has video of Mr. McClure personally threatening him in the City Hall lobby. He said he obtained the video by submitting a public records request, and said anyone can get a copy of the video by submitting a public records request. He said Mr. McClure confronts Planning Manager Loera and calls him a low life creep and a scumbag. He said Mr. McClure goes on to make a violent threat against him. He said he does not like Mr. McClures' statements and finds them threatening and inappropriate. He said he is going to file a police report because actions like this need to stop. He said towards the end of the video it is obvious that some of the city employees are extremely uncomfortable, and said the employees need to be protected from this kind of behavior. City Attorney Emery told Council Member Lettman that council members' reports are meant to be brief reports and comments on current events. He said there is no timeframe, but asked Council Member Lettman to restrain from further comment given the circumstances.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Head made a motion that Items 1 and 2 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. Approve the minutes of the July 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-35, ratifying the City Manager’s execution of the Arizona State Purchasing Cooperative Agreement and authorizing the City’s entry into the State of Arizona Purchasing Cooperative. (Finance Director Drexler)

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 approve a construction contract with Precise Builders, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,856,336.00 for the construction of the Bullhead City Animal Resource Center (BARC). (Human Services Director Tipton)

Human Services Director Tipton showed a brief video explaining the history of the Bullhead City Animal Resource Center. He said on March 7, 2023, the Council approved the purchase of the Mohave Valley Daily News building and started on the conceptual designs for the remodel. He said on May 2, 2023 the Council toured the new shelter building; on May 16, 2023 the Council held a special workshop of the preliminary design; on June 6, 2023 the Council held a community input

survey workshop; the survey was administered, and open tours of the shelter took place on June 12-26, 2023; and the results of the survey were reviewed and implemented in July 2023. He said the final design and was worked on and approved from July 2023 to January 2024; a bid was advertised in May 2024; the bid opening took place on June 20, 2024 with four bids received; and this item tonight is to potentially award the bid to Precise Builders, Inc. of Fort Mohave. He thanked the shelter staff, Swanty's Chrysler, Best Friends, S.A.I.N.T., Risin Star, Positive Paws, Feral Cat Warriors, We Care for Animals, Arizona K-9, and Live, Love, Barc for all their help and support they have given to the shelter.

Council Member Lettman said the project is scheduled to be complete by August 1, 2025 and asked what will happen if the project is not completed on time. City Manager Cotter said the requirements may impose penalties down the road, and said they do not see any delays with the project. He said the last thing they want to do is get into a penalty phase with the contract. Pete Everett from Precise Builders said they do not foresee needing additional time to complete the project.

Council Member Hecht asked Mr. Everett how many people he will employ to complete the project. Mr. Everett said all the contractors will be local, and said hundreds of people will be employed.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked how the kennel drains will be set up. Rob Sampson from Selberg Associates said they will use oversized piping and place it under the slab. He said to prevent any cross contamination, each kennel will have its own sewer line that will tie into a communal line.

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

Steven Lee said not everyone supports private condos for cats that have their own private sewer system. He said the city needed to look at the cost of running the shelter. He said the money would be better spent to care of people in the community instead of animals.

Shawn Regan said he disagrees with Steven Lee. He said he recently took over a no kill shelter in Kingman, and said he gets approximately 45 calls a day from people who want to surrender their dogs. He said the shelter is needed, and said the city should quit spending so much money on parks. He said some of the money that is being spent in the parks should be redirected to the new shelter.

Scotty McClure said he was against the dog showers, hiring a veterinarian, and cremation services. He said the city is infringing on private business.

Sue DeMarco said she was in favor of this item. She said people who have never seen a dog that has lived in a shelter for a long period of time should not speak. She congratulated the Council on this item and commended the builders. She asked the Council to approve this item.

Eva Corbett asked if there will be an indoor/outdoor pay area for the animals. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative.

Mayor D'Amico said this is not a dog problem, it is a people problem and not everyone is a responsible pet owner. He said when he takes his dogs to the vet, the veterinarian technicians always tell him more veterinarians are needed in the city because they are overloaded and have a difficult time taking care of the amount of patients they have. He said anyone who has a pet knows how hard it is to get an appointment with a veterinarian, and said the only emergency care facility is in Las

Other Business

5. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-36, authorizing the submission of an application to the Arizona Department of Housing Community Development Block Grant State Special Project Grant Funds. (Human Services Director Tipton)

This item was postponed to the August 6, 2024 Council Meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-37, approving 1) the Western Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging Contract for senior meals and caregiver outreach funding for FY 2024-2025; 2) authorize the continued acceptance of future grants from WACOG in similar amounts for the remaining grant period through June 2029; and 3) direct the City Manager to execute the attached and future agreements and any related documents as may be required by WACOG to finalize grant funding transactions within the remaining grant period. (Human Services Director Tipton)

City Manager Cotter said WACOG is now limiting the funds they are giving to local communities. He said Bullhead City is one of very few communities in Arizona that is not placing qualified applicants on a waiting list for services. He said it is important to point out that the city has never had a waiting list since we took the program over from WACOG.

Human Services Director Tipton said there was an RFP from WACOG for the five-year cycle for funding. He said the city responded to the RFP and was approved. He said the contract will run from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. He said the first year of the contract will reimburse 56 percent of the cost of congregate and home delivered meals and transportation support. He said the first year they are awarding the city \$232,078.00 and said over the course of the agreement the total amount they are going to fund is just over \$1 million. He said all of Mohave and Yuma County are currently on a waiting list for services and said the current wait time is 60-90 days. He said other counties in Arizona are also on a waiting list. He said they expect this to go on for at least a year.

Council Member Hecht thanked Meals on Wheels and all who volunteer.

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

Grace Telsner said she and her friends visit the nutrition center often. She said it is a great facility, and said they feel very comfortable and safe there. She said she was very concerned about the homebound people who cannot get meals and those who have no way of getting to the center. She said she is very happy this item is before the Council and elderly people will still be able to receive meals.

Council Member Lizarraga made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024R-37, approving 1) the Western Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging Contract for senior meals and caregiver outreach funding for FY 2024-2025; 2) authorize the continued acceptance of future grants from WACOG in similar amounts for the remaining grant period through June 2029; and 3) direct the City Manager to execute the attached and future agreements and any related documents as may be required by WACOG to finalize grant funding transactions within the remaining grant period. Vice Mayor 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 7:20 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 16th day of July 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 1st day of August 2024.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk