

**Regular Meeting of the Tri-City Council
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
Conducted In Person and via Zoom Conference
Bullhead City, Arizona**



**City of
Bullhead City, Arizona**

Tom Brady, Mayor
Steve D'Amico, Vice Mayor



Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Cal Sheehy, Mayor
Jim Dolan, Vice Mayor



City of Kingman, Arizona

Jen Miles, Mayor
Ken Watkins, Vice Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mayor Brady called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Brady led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call & Introduction of Special Guests
(All in attendance participated either in person or via remote conferencing)

Lake Havasu City

Council Present

Cal Sheehy, Mayor
Jeni Coke, Vice Mayor
Cameron Moses, Council Member
Nancy Campbell, Council Member
Jeni Coke, Council Member

Staff Present

Jess Knudson, City Manager
Jerri Bracamonte, Executive Assistant
Kelly Williams, City Clerk
Anthony Kozlowski, Assistant to the City Manager

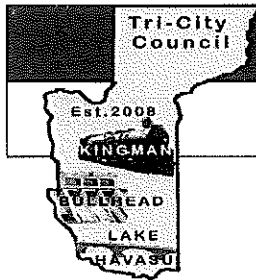
Bullhead City

Council Present

Tom Brady, Mayor
Steve D'Amico, Vice Mayor
Norma Brummett, Council Member
Dr. Waheed Zehri, Council Member
John Mieding, Council Member

Staff Present

Toby Cotter, City Manager
Susan Stein, City Clerk
Edigar Kajirwa, Assistant to the City Manager
Robert Trebes, Chief of Police



Tri - City Council

City of Kingman

Council Present

Jen Miles, Mayor

SueAnn Mello, Council Member

Staff Present

Ron Foggin, City Manager

Annie Meredith, City Clerk

Coleen Haines, Public Affairs Coordinator

Others Present

Coral Evans, Senator Mark Kelly's Office

State Representative Leo Biasiucci

Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County Board of Supervisors

Kristi Blair, County Recorder

Don Herrington, Interim Director, Arizona Dept. of Health Services

Denise Burley, Mohave County Health Director

Nick Ponder, League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation

Jaime Hernandez, ADEQ

Todd Steinberger, ADOT



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3. Call to the Public

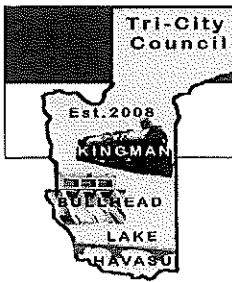
Chairman Brady opened the call to the public. Having no one requesting to speak, Chairman Brady closed the call to the public.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the July 27, 2021, Tri-City Council Meeting

Mayor Sheehy made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2021 Tri-City Council Meeting as presented. Mayor Miles seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Update from the Arizona Department of Health Services/Mohave County Health Department regarding COVID-19

Don Herrington said they were trying to get as much information out to people as possible. He said the biggest battle was misinformation and said vaccinations had become a political issue. He said they were dealing with vaccine hesitancy. He said boosters were now available for those eligible to receive them, and said the Moderna and Pfizer boosters were approved. He said the Moderna booster was one-half of one dose. He discussed the efficacy of the vaccine, and said 87 percent of those dying in hospitals were not vaccinated. He said they were most concerned about the variants and their mutation. He said there were 645,000 in the eligible age range to now receive the vaccine, and said they would distribute the doses directly to the counties. He said eligible children should get vaccinated, as they could carry the disease to their grandparents that were more vulnerable to the disease. He said currently there were 46 providers registered in Mohave County capable of providing vaccines. He said they were studying mixing the different vaccines for boosters, and said more information would be in the news soon.



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Mr. Herrington discussed the West Nile virus. He said it looked like there would be about 1,000 cases in Arizona this year. He said this was concerning, and said Mohave County had only two cases so far.



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Council Member Dr. Zehri said some studies indicated the vaccines would only last a few months, and said he had seen many re-infections since March. He said the only life-saving treatment for COVID was immunoglobulin; and said no one talks about it, just the vaccines. He asked about the number of people in the hospital with COVID that received the immunoglobulin treatment. He said he believed in vaccines, but vaccines were not saving people's lives.

Mr. Herrington said he was not a physician but he knew there were other treatments out there used to prevent the progression of the disease once it was contracted. He said the effectiveness of the vaccine showed a waning immunity, and said boosters would be offered to those who received their first vaccine more than six months ago.

Mayor Brady asked if vaccines would be mandated by OSHA.

Mr. Herrington said he had not heard about any decisions at that time.



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Denise Burley, Mohave County Health Director, said they had seen a reduction of cases and deaths, which was a result of using the monoclonal antibodies and vaccines. She said beds were available, but the hospitals were experiencing staffing issues. She said they should be mindful about reducing the future impact on the facilities.

Council Member Dr. Zehri said he recently sent his patient with COVID-19 to the hospital for immunoglobulin and there was no one there to administer the treatment. He said his patient passed away. He asked where all of the millions in relief funding was being spent, because they had not seen any additional funding or assistance from the state. He said they needed help.



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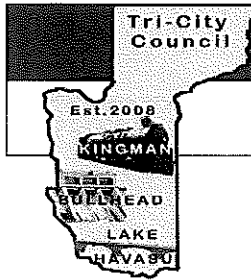
6. Update from Arizona State Legislators

Coral Evans said Senator Kelly had been working very hard with making sure the projects he had promoted were funded. She said he had spoken publicly about the need to address the issue of water and drought in Arizona, and said the public could expect to see more related conversations moving forward.

A comment was made regarding educating people to keep an eye on running toilets in order to conserve water, especially in HOAs, apartments and condos.

7. Updates from Mohave County Board of Supervisors and Elected Officials

There were no updates from Mohave County under this agenda item.



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8. Legislative Update

Nick Ponder said the last legislative session was the most challenging they had ever faced. He said they expected the next session to be much shorter. He said there were more vacancies at the Legislature and said some were slowly being filled. He said they could expect new faces that needed to be educated on local issues. He said they passed some resolutions at the League conference, which they will be pursuing this session. He said the fireworks resolution came close to getting legislation last year and said they would continue to pursue. He said the issue of homelessness affected every area in the state, as well as issues of housing affordability. He said they were diving into these issues to try and find the best strategies. He said they were bound by the Boise case and could not force homeless folks off the street if there was no alternative place for them to stay. He discussed the efforts that some communities were making to provide temporary housing for the homeless. He said there had been an ongoing opposition of the eminent domain legislation. He said the regulation of short term rentals was still an issue. He said they had conversations with all of the affected communities last week and the process was going well with some positive support moving in their direction; but it was still very challenging at the Legislature.

Council Member Dr. Zehri asked about the amount of funding the state had received under CARES Act. He asked if some COVID funding could be used to help the people that might become homeless due to the pandemic.

Mr. Ponder said the League worked on legislation last year to support low income housing tax credits. He said developers in high growth areas only developed class A properties, which were above the income requirements for that area. He said they were trying to incentivize developers to build affordable housing. He said there was \$24 million available in the state for the development of affordable housing should the legislators have the goal to advocate for more shelter beds. He said Senator Wendy Rogers might be on their side.

9. Rural Transportation Update—Kevin Adam

Kevin Adam they were operating under a continuing resolution that would keep the federal government funded through the beginning of December, and said this would impact future transportation. He said federal programs typically ran on a five-year cycle and that was when major updates to the program were considered under new bills. He said the bi-partisan infrastructure bill passed the Senate months ago that included \$550 billion in new spending directed toward transportation. He said there would be more funding under the competitive grant program and said some were specific to rural infrastructure and bridges. He said there had been growing support to prioritize transportation when it came to using surplus revenues over the last couple of years. He said that included funding for the repaving of Highway 95 in Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City. He said they developed a list of priorities for rural regions in Arizona, if the Legislators approved the program in the next legislative session. He said revenue was already \$300 million more than forecasted and it appeared the state would have healthy budget numbers next year.



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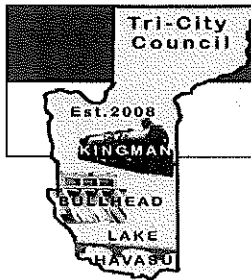
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10. Update from the Arizona Department of Transportation

Todd Steinberger said they were preparing for a maintenance project at the Andy Devine Bridge in Kingman, and said the ramp for that exit would be closed at night during the project. He said the bridge was up for deck replacement in 2023. He said State Route 68 was under construction and they hoped the median would be completed in November; then they would come back the following spring to finish the eastbound pavement preservation. He said they had some CARES Act funding for life-extension projects in the Mohave County area. He said Highway 68 would have minor surface repairs, some pavement preservation projects would be performed on I-40, and SR 95 in Bullhead City and Lake Havasu. He said they would advertise the Rancho Santa Fe TI in Kingman on I-40 in November, and said the majority of the West Kingman TI design plans should be completed by November.



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Mayor Sheehy asked about the synchronization of the traffic lights on Highway 95 in Lake Havasu. Mr. Steinberger said they would conduct additional studies to better implement the signal coordination.



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Mayor Brady asked about the same project in Bullhead City. Mr. Steinberger said the upgrades were completed and they were now in the process of monitoring and collecting data. He said after four months, they would take the data and determine the adjustments. He said after that process, they would look at available funding in order to upgrade some of the signal lights.

Bullhead City Manager Cotter asked if ADOT had thought about bringing back the local district in Kingman. He said there were a lot of projects going on, and said they could be more efficient with more local representation.



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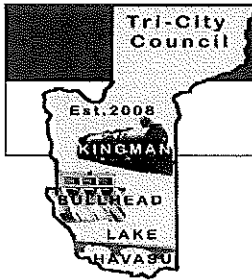
11. Update on Colorado River Water Issues/Rural Water Coalition—Mayor Sheehy

Mayor Sheehy said comments from the environmental assessment were due two weeks ago for the off-main stem water transfer with GSC Farms. He said good comments were received from many constituents within the county. He said they were urging for a full environmental assessment in order to determine the full impact and said he would keep everyone updated. He said they wanted to bring people together and have more discussions with the Rural Water Coalition regarding water management and conservation in rural Arizona. He said they would continue to grow those discussions, and said they were helping with Representative Cobb's study committee.

Mayor Miles said the study committee would meet next week in Phoenix, and said it was important for them to come to a consensus in order to make recommendations regarding water sustainability. She said the ground water committee decided to have a serious discussion regarding irrigation in rural management areas to recommend support to the study committee and state legislators. She said more information would follow after the study committee met.

County Supervisor Travis Lingenfelter said they recently attended a meeting in Kingman with the Arizona Farm Bureau and orchard operators in the multi-basin to hear concerns. He said he believed they would work on an amendment to the current legislation to address those concerns. He thanked those that provided comments on the environmental assessment process.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Tri-City Council endeavors to ensure the accessibility of all of its programs, facilities and services to all persons with disabilities. If you need accommodation for this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at the office for (BHC) 928-763-0111, (KNG) 928-753-8102 (LHC) 928-453-4142, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so accommodations may be arranged.



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Mayor Miles said Mohave County and the City of Kingman were ahead of the curve on moving the recharge projects forward and doing their part to conserve and sustain the water.

Supervisor Lingenfelter said those partnerships were their strength and urged the region to stay together in working on their water issues.



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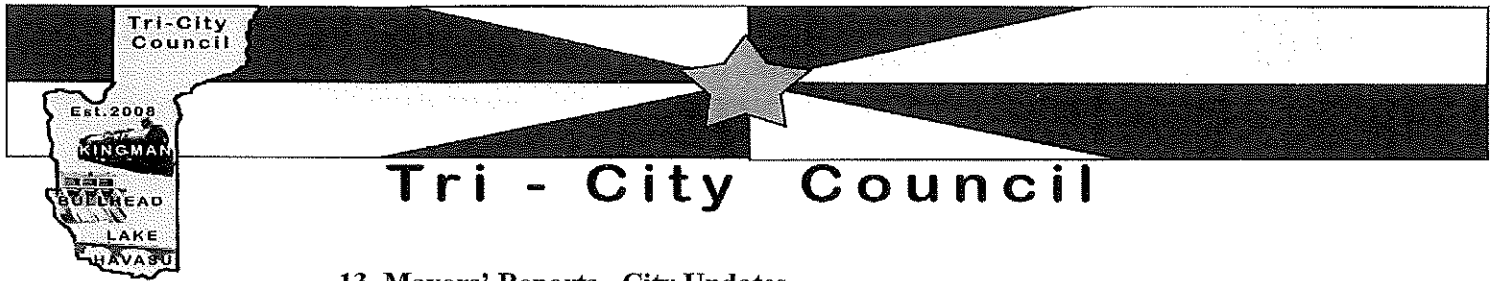
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State Representative Leo Biasiucci said one of the biggest things they did for Mohave County was the repaving of Highway 95 in the amount of \$46 million. He said this was a huge win for rural Arizona. He said they also approved \$109 million in rural transportation projects outside of Maricopa County. He said the veterans' home facility was approved to provide housing and medical to veterans in the county, and said this would provide more jobs. He said they finally got a flat tax of 2.5 percent, but there was a ballot initiative to change it. He said the sales tax revenue increase was 13.4 percent for September, about \$55 million; the individual tax revenue increased 20.8 percent or \$150 million; and the corporate tax revenue increase was 70.8 percent. He said year to date they were about \$650 million more than projected. He said the flat tax would encourage more businesses to come to Arizona and allow the state to be more competitive. He said this was encouraging, but sometimes there would be a drop in the economy and they had to remain fiscally responsible. He said \$12 billion would go toward education with federal funds this year. He said the state put \$70 million aside to help with the border situation. He said raises for state DPS, prison, probation, court employees went through. He said they determined the \$22 registration fee was not required to assist DPS funding, and removed it as of July 1st. He said SLIF funding was another huge win for this year and next year. He encouraged all cities to apply for these grants. He said they put \$200 million toward water preservation and new water sources. He said they were looking into the possibility of pumping water from the Mississippi River to the Colorado River. He said they were forming a study committee to help protect the Colorado River and its ground water. He said Air B&Bs and workforce housing were huge issues. He said they had to bring back local control to the cities, and find a happy medium. He said they had to find a solution to prevent large corporations from buying numerous homes and renting them out like hotels. He said they had to find tax breaks and programs for developers in order to build more affordable housing.

12. Request for Updated Letter of Support for Downwinders' Legislation – Mayor Miles

Mayor Miles said previous letters of support for legislation to extend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act had been submitted by all three cities. She said they now had prepared a letter to the Judiciary Committees asking them to vote positively to extend the Act, and to extend the territory to southern Arizona so that everyone impacted by nuclear testing received compensation. Mayor Brady and Mayor Sheehy expressed their support.



13. Mayors' Reports - City Updates

Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy said they were celebrating their Golden Anniversary and the dedication of London Bridge. He invited everyone to attend the dedication ceremony on October 28th underneath the London Bridge. He said October 30th was the London Bridge Days Parade and said a gala would be held to raise funds for the Historical Society. He invited everyone to check out their event season at GoLakeHavasus.com. He said a \$50 million investment in the city was made to bring fiber to homes and businesses that would begin in January 2022. He said they were in the process of a water and sewer rate study after an intensive public process. He said the Bridge would now be lit up in different colors through new lighting technology.



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Kingman Mayor Jen Miles said the "Walk Away From Drugs" community event would be held that night. She said the street drags event would take place that weekend on Route 66. She said Kingman Council Member SueAnn Mello was a celebrity drag racer. She said they were busy celebrating the city in order to raise awareness of their city and the services it provided, in partnership with the League's "Cities and Towns' Week." She said a drive-through shield was created at the visitors' center, and said they purchased a building that would be the future home of an electric vehicle museum. She said they were supporting the county's sewer extension project in the Kingman area. She said the public library remodel project was completed and the building was beautiful.



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Bullhead City Mayor Tom Brady said the new \$52 million second bridge project was on track. He said the city took control of the EPCOR water system on September 1st, and said now they were going through growing pains. He said they were finding out what they were told was true that there were more than 600 breaks each year. He said he was proud of the work that city staff had performed through the transition, and said they were well on the way to take over the provision of water to the community. He said the city's takeover and operation of the water system would be appreciated by the community years into the future. He said their new 57-bed homeless shelter had opened, and said they had options other communities did not in order to control their homeless situations.



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ADJOURN

Chairman Mayor Brady adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.