

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, April 7, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Alfonzo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Pastor Earl Johnson with Spirit Life Church to deliver the invocation. Vice Mayor Alfonzo led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF: Jason Harms

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark R. Clark

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Billy Chooniyom

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Larry Tunforss with the Morning Kiwanis Club of Bullhead City presented a plaque of appreciation to City Manager Cotter, Utilities Director Clark, and Deputy Police Chief Harms.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Mayor Alfonzo opened the call to the public.

Diana Lestat, Loyal Knight of the Bullhead City Elks Lodge, spoke about their upcoming Four-Player Scramble Golf event that is taking place on April 25th at the Mojave Resort Golf Course.

Ben Garey, CEO of Capstone Aero, read a prepared statement for the record: "We have been engaged in an advisory capacity on matters related to Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport, including work with the airport and an active engagement with Mohave County related to governance and sponsor obligations. Yesterday, I entered a formal statement into the Mohave County Board of Supervisors record. I am here tonight to enter the same core issue into the City record for completeness. During our engagement, we have consistently raised questions regarding sponsor authority, governance structure, and alignment with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant obligations. These issues have been discussed with County counsel, Airport Authority counsel, and FAA Phoenix ADO leadership, including on a multi-party call on February 12, where the need for clarity was acknowledged. These are not abstract concerns. There have been public statements regarding the potential use of funds related to the disposition of airport land, and indications that related actions

may still be under consideration. As context for this Council, the federally recognized sponsor of the airport retains full responsibility for compliance with FAA obligations, regardless of how local governance or operational roles are structured. That responsibility does not shift based on local arrangements unless and until formally approved by the FAA. There appears to be a lack of formal clarity regarding FAA compliance, despite prior discussions and acknowledged awareness of these issues. At the same time, actions or assumptions made at the local level can carry implications beyond the entity making them. Where federal obligations are involved, decisions that appear operational or economic in nature may still create compliance exposure at the sponsor level if those obligations have not been clearly resolved. Yesterday, I asked the Board of Supervisors a direct question: whether these governance and compliance issues have been formally resolved with the FAA. That question was not answered. So, I will restate it here, for clarity and for the public record: Has the FAA formally confirmed that the current governance structure, and any contemplated actions, are compliant with federal obligations tied to the airport? If that confirmation has not been obtained, there is a risk that decisions made in good faith at the local level could still result in unintended consequences at the sponsor level. Capstone Aero remains available to provide further advisory support under the terms of our current engagements with Mohave County or the airport, and any coordination or follow-up would be appropriately routed through those existing channels.”

Carolyn Ota asked if final acceptance of the streets in the Rancho Colorado Estates subdivision by the city was contingent upon a final inspection once the subdivision reached build-out. She requested clarification of the city’s policy regarding the condition of infrastructure when a developer transfers a completed subdivision to the homeowner’s association (HOA). She asked if the city holds bonds for the infrastructure in Rancho Colorado Estates. She said Century Complete had not disclosed that the HOA would be responsible for the significant cost of bringing the roads up to city standards and the developer had deferred maintenance for the past 20 years. She requested the Council review the city’s role in this transition.

Sue De Marco spoke about the upcoming S.A.I.N.T. (Saving Animals in Need Together) free clinic scheduled for April 17, 18, and 19, 2026, at the Realtors Association Center. She said 200 animals would be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. She thanked sponsor Chip Sterndoll for covering the costs for all 200 animals and Animal Balance for organizing the clinic. She said in the previous year, 1,200 vouchers had been redeemed at a cost of \$65,000, and an additional \$35,000 had been spent on medical assistance for pets.

Rose Jacobs spoke about the Golden Rule Committee and their Caught Being Kind program. She said a rock painting class will be held every third Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Enrichment Center.

Carol Nelson spoke about the Colorado River Republican Women Lincoln Day dinner that is taking place on April 25th at the Optimum Community Center.

Dana Walter spoke about a Bingo event at the Bullhead City-Mohave Valley Association of Realtors on April 23rd at 5:00 p.m. She said the Spring Business Expo will be held on April 30th at the Bullhead City-Mohave Valley Association of Realtors.

Julie Hassett spoke about the upcoming Colorado River Concert Association events.

Paula Fontez Hambey encouraged the public to watch CSPAN for the truth on politics. She said the library is a great resource for access to websites and they will assist anyone with the computers.

Janice Johnston said she was circulating petitions for Save Our Schools to increase transparency in Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) voucher program. She reported the Colorado River Museum would host the Traveling Museum for the America 250 Celebration on April 9th at Community Park and said the Colorado River Museum would host "An Evening with the Oldtimers" on April 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Misty Devenney encouraged the public to watch the Arizona Supreme Court case regarding the removal of Arizona State Representative Legislative District 30 Candidate David Michael Rose. She said it will take place on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Court Connect.

Scotty McClure and Tammy Lafond said they have challenged Council Member Ring's petition signatures. Mr. McClure said the Superior Court hearing will be on April 16th at 2:00 p.m. and said each Council Member would be served.

Mr. Clure said Vice Mayor Alfonzo had collected signatures illegally. Vice Mayor Alfonzo said he was aware of the petitions in question and they were not included in the final signature count.

Ms. Lafond accused Council member Ring of obtaining 75 invalid signatures and 21 signatures from her family members. Mr. McClure said Council Member Ring crossed the line when she went against him to give funds to Catholic Charities and said that was a criminal offense and he was going to the Attorney General. Council Member Ring acknowledged she did get served and said she will see Ms. Lafond and Mr. McClure in court on April 16th.

Having no one else present requesting to speak, Vice Mayor Alfonzo closed the call to the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Vice Mayor Alfonzo moved Item 8 to Item 2.

WAIVER MOTION

Council Member Newlin made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member O'Neill seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. New Police Chief

City Manager Cotter reported a new Chief of Police had been selected. He said the appointee began his career as a 911 Communications Officer and currently served as Police Chief in Hardin, Montana. He noted there were 40 applicants for the position but none were from Arizona. He said Chief Paul George would assume the position in May.

2. America 250 Presentation

Administrative Assistant Nunnally gave a brief presentation explaining the America 250 event. She said the Traveling Museum would be at Community Park on Thursday, April 9th, where visitors could explore engaging, interactive exhibits highlighting the past, celebrating the present, and looking ahead to Arizona's future. She said Arizona's Liberty Bell would be on display and food trucks, live music, and military and fire vehicles would be present. She said the Bullhead Belle had been selected as a Passport 250 location and participants could check in from 250 different excursions across Arizona through the app.

3. Highway 68 Safety Plan

City Manager Cotter said Council had passed a resolution asking the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to look at the safety of travelers on Highway 68 on the north side of the city. He said there had been numerous accidents in the area and said ADOT is reviewing a draft safety plan he will share with Council in May.

4. Budget Workshop

City Manager Cotter said budget workshops are scheduled for April 20th starting at 9:00 a.m. and if needed, April 21st and 22nd in Council Chambers. He said Bullhead City's budget is transparent, well accounted for, and each line item is reviewed through the budget process. He welcomed the public to attend and said it will be televised.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member O'Neill said if anyone is looking for him to serve, he can be found every morning at Coyote Café.

Council Member Newlin said the opening ceremonies of the 2026 Bullhead City Golden Games were great and wished good luck to all athletes.

Council Member Ring said she was looking forward to the court hearing on Thursday so she could find out who the 21 family members are that Ms. Lafond spoke about during Call to the Public.

Council Member Dallman announced Community Pride Advocates will be hosting A White Night in the Park fundraising event at the pavilion in Gary Keith Park on April 18th. She said proceeds go to building Harmony Park, a park with life-sized musical instruments for all ages.

Council Member Smith said the Colorado River Republican Women are hosting Bingo at Laughlin Ranch on April 23rd starting at 5:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo wished all the athletes in the Golden Games the best of luck and said he is looking forward to seeing who receives medals.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Newlin made a motion that Item 1 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Item on the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting. (City Clerk Ogden)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

8. Discussion only regarding Lazy Harry's Bar, located at 2710 Rio Grande Road, Bullhead City, AZ. No City Council action will be taken. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said a significant amount of misinformation had been circulated about Lazy Harry's Bar within the community. He said Council Members and residents had requested accurate information regarding improvements to Lazy Harry's Bar and invited those who believed the city had not done everything possible to assist in rebuilding to come forward and express their concerns to the Council. He explained the meeting packet included permits and correspondence between the property owner and the city. He addressed a rumor that the city had purchased property from the owners of Lazy Harry's, clarifying the city had not purchased any property in that area. He said the city had acquired the peninsula from the State of Arizona because it maintains Veterans Memorial Park. He further explained that a portion of the Lazy Harry's building had been constructed on the property years ago and the city had allowed the owner to proceed with work on city property. He said staff had worked with the owners and wanted to see the bar reopened to the public.

Council Member O'Neill said he had met with the owner prior to the project and the owner had no issues with the City and was looking forward to reopening and rebranding the property.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

DISCUSSION ONLY. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

2. **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 6 (Bar) Liquor License Job No. 385010 submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller for the Sand Bar, located at 1654 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. (City Clerk Ogden)

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

Vice Mayor Alfonzo opened the public hearing. Having no one present wishing to speak, Vice Mayor Alfonzo closed the public hearing.

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 6 (Bar) liquor license and interim permit Job No. 385010 submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller for the Sand Bar, located at 1654 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the "Professional Services Agreement for Primary Indigent Legal Defense" with C. Ray Lundberg, Attorney at Law, Inc., in the amount of \$150,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City, issue resulting payments, and take all actions consistent with the implementation of the agreement. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the city requested qualifications and interviewed applicants, and the recommendation was to appoint C. Ray Lundberg for Primary Legal Defense services. He said the agreement requires Council action because it is over \$50,000.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Ring made a motion to approve the "Professional Services Agreement for Primary Indigent Legal Defense" with C. Ray Lundberg, Attorney at Law, Inc., in the amount of \$150,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City, issue resulting payments, and take all actions consistent with the implementation of the agreement as presented. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the construction contract with TR Orr Inc., of Kingman, Arizona for the construction of a new restroom in Community Park for a total amount of \$494,098.00; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson said the restroom would be located south of the Bullhead Belle in Community Park. She said the facility would be approximately 1,213 square feet and would include six ADA-accessible unisex restrooms, including one family restroom equipped with an adult changing table and fixtures for both adults and children. She said the design would be similar to the restroom located on the north end of Community Park near the splash pad and said the project would be funded by a grant from Arizona Parks and Trails. She said staff received four bids on March 18th and TR Orr was the lowest responsive bidder. She said the lowest bid overall was deemed unresponsive due to the absence of required documentation.

Council Member Smith asked if staff would try to obtain more grants to build restrooms on the south end of Community Park. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo said if the lowest bidder had not been disqualified for failure to provide the required documentation, the city would have saved \$60,287.00.

Council Member Dallman said the project was a great idea.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Dallman made a motion to approve the construction contract with TR Orr Inc., of Kingman, Arizona for the construction of a new restroom in Community Park for a total amount of \$494,098.00; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments as presented. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the NEOGOV three-year subscription agreement, Q-435147, in the amount of \$578,536.60 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resultant payments. (Human Resources Director Stanley)

Human Resources Director Stanley explained the request was for a three-year extension of the agreement with NEOGOV to consolidate all modules into a single agreement in order to simplify management and improve cost predictability. She said NEOGOV is widely used across the public sector, including cities, counties, and public safety agencies. She said after reviewing various cooperative contracts, the pricing was favorable based on a tiered schedule for the city's 385 employees, ranging from \$2.00 to \$6.00 per employee per month depending on the module. She outlined the per-employee, per-month costs as follows: Onboard at \$2.68; Perform at \$4.57; Insight at \$2.43; Payroll Services at \$3.62; Core HR at \$6.08; Time and Attendance at \$4.71; Benefits at \$2.10; E-Forms at \$3.88; Payroll Module at \$4.71; and Learn at \$5.10.

Council Member O'Neill asked if the total cost covered all three years at approximately \$193,000 per year. Human Resources Director Stanley responded affirmative. Council Member O'Neill asked how many employees were covered under the software. Human Resources Director Stanley said NEOGOV calculates costs based on full-time employees and one-third of part-time employees, with the total fluctuating between approximately 550 and 600.

Council Member Newlin asked if the cost for the Onboard module was a monthly charge. Human Resources Director Stanley said the flat annual cost for the Onboard module is \$14,162.00, which equates to \$2.68 per employee per month.

Council Member Ring said Human Resources Director Stanley is doing a great job in her position. Council Member Dallman concurred.

Council Member Smith asked for clarification regarding the dates included in the proposal. Human Resources Director Stanley said the Insight subscription was prorated from June 8th to June 30th, while the top three prorated modules listed in the proposal were effective from May 1st through June 30th.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if any artificial intelligence (AI) features were included in the software. Human Resources Director Stanley said NEOGOV had incorporated AI into the Insight module and the Perform module, including features to assist managers with suggested content for employee evaluations and to generate job descriptions.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the NEOGOV three-year subscription agreement, Q-435147, in the amount of \$578,536.60 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resultant payments as presented. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith **NAYS:** None

MOTION CARRIED

6. Discussion and possible action to ratify the agreement with Subsurface Technologies for the rehabilitation of Well 16-1 in the amount of \$73,640.00 plus applicable taxes, and authorize the City Manager to issue resultant payments. (Utilities Director Clark)

Utilities Director Clark explained the 16-1 well site is located on Mesa Vista and had been one of the better-producing wells prior to going out of service. He said the well had been producing approximately 1,650 gallons per minute before it shut down and had produced 2,250 gallons per minute when it was new in 1974. He said the well was struck by lightning in 2000, at which time the pump and motor were replaced; however, the well itself was not rehabilitated. He said mineral deposits had built up inside the well, restricting water flow and ultimately causing the motor to fail. He said staff conducted a video inspection of the well and observed that the mineral buildup needed to be removed prior to installing a replacement motor.

Council Member O'Neill asked how long the rehabilitation would last before additional work might be needed. Utilities Director Clark said this was the first rehabilitation of Well 16-1 and said the well still had significant remaining service life, noting it had performed well for many years even in its current condition.

Council Member Smith asked what the total cost of the agreement was. Utilities Director Clark stated the cost was \$79,236.44, including tax.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo explained although the city is required to follow procurement procedures, this situation qualified as an emergency because the well had completely stopped producing water. He said due to the need for immediate action, staff was authorized to proceed with hiring a contractor without following formal procurement procedures.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item.

Janice Johnston asked if there were funds budgeted for regular maintenance of wells. Utilities Director Clark answered affirmative and said staff would be performing more preventative maintenance next fiscal year.

Council Member Smith made a motion to ratify the agreement with Subsurface Technologies for the rehabilitation of Well 16-1 in the amount of \$73,640.00 plus applicable taxes, and authorize the City Manager to issue resultant payments as presented. Council Member O'Neill seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, Newlin, O'Neill, Ring, Smith NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

7. Discussion and possible action to 1) direct staff to prepare a council agenda item for the April 21, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting for the consideration of a temporary Mayoral appointment, or appointments, from amongst the Council Members for the duration of the 2026 election cycle; and 2) providing any direction, as deemed desirable, concerning the temporary appointment of a seventh Council Member. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said no other city in Arizona had previously encountered this situation. He explained that Rodney Head had been elected to a four-year City Council term in 2024, and following the resignation of Former Mayor Steve D'Amico, Former Council Member Head had been appointed Mayor by the Council. He said Pamela Smith had been appointed to serve the remaining two years of Former Mayor D'Amico's term. He said because more than two years' time remained on his original council term, Former Council Member Head was required to resign in order to run for Mayor under Arizona's "resign to run" law. He asked the Council how they wished to fill the mayoral seat for the remainder of the term, including whether they intended to fill the seat or leave it vacant. He said in the past, the Council had filled such positions by written ballot, followed by a motion based on the majority vote. He said Council Member Smith had suggested a rotation among the six Council Members. He said Vice Mayor Alfonzo would begin the April 21st meeting and that this item would be placed at the beginning of the agenda.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if there were any caveats or considerations the Council should be aware of, such as whether election results should be used as a criterion. City Attorney Emery said there was no precedent for that approach and said the process for selecting a mayor was at the Council's discretion.

Council Member Smith said the vacant position should be left open. She expressed her belief that the Vice Mayor would typically step into the mayor's role, but not if the individual was running for election. She said a citizen had suggested rotating Council Members as acting mayor for two meetings at a time, with no change in compensation and no official mayoral photograph.

Council Member Dallman said she did not support filling the seventh seat due to the short timeframe. She expressed opposition to rotating mayors, stating that it could create confusion, there would be no continuity, and it would weaken the Mayor position.

Council Member Ring said she supported leaving the seventh seat vacant. She expressed opposition to a rotation and said Vice Mayor Alfonzo could serve as acting Mayor until the election.

Council Member O'Neill said he opposed the rotation concept, stating it would be confusing and that continuity was important. He expressed concern that the previously selected mayor had to step down to run for election. He said any current Council Member running for another term should not serve as interim Mayor, as it could provide an unfair advantage over candidates not currently on the Council. He added he would like to see additional candidate forums and said there should be no change in compensation, and the acting Mayor's photograph be placed on the mayoral wall.

Council Member Newlin said a seventh Council Member should not be appointed for such a short period. He recommended selecting an interim Mayor by paper ballot, with the results presented as the first agenda item at the April 21st meeting, followed by the swearing-in immediately thereafter.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo said the rotation system lacked continuity and created confusion. He recommended the seventh seat remain vacant until the election was finalized and expressed confidence that the six Council Members could continue making informed decisions on behalf of the city. He said there should be no change in compensation and expressed support for selecting a Mayor by paper ballot at the end of the next meeting.

City Manager Cotter asked if the appointed Mayor would have their photograph displayed on the mayoral wall. Council Member Dallman responded that the photograph should be moved from the Council wall to the mayoral wall and then returned when a new Mayor is elected. City Manager Cotter took a consensus and all Council Members agreed.

City Attorney Emery said staff would prepare an agenda item for the next meeting and the selection process would be conducted by paper ballot using a process of elimination. He explained Council Members running in the 2026 election would not be eligible for the mayoral appointment.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item.

Tammy Lafond said the proposal made sense and supported eliminating those Council Members who were running for election and allowing the remaining members to be considered for the appointment.

Janice Johnston asked why Council Members who were running for reelection and in their final year of their term were not required to resign. City Manager Cotter explained that there were Council Members whose terms would expire and who would not return to Council if they were not re-elected. He said Former Council Member Head still had two years remaining on his original term to which he was originally elected. City Attorney Emery added the distinction between running for elected office and being appointed by one's peers was separate and should not be conflated.

Following a brief discussion, the Council reached the following consensus: 1) not to appoint a seventh member to the City Council. 2) a Mayor would be selected by paper ballot, read aloud by the City Clerk, and the item would be placed as the first agenda item at the April 21st City Council meeting.

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Head declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 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 7th day of April 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of April 2026.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk