

Tri - City Council

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Tri-City Council
Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
Kingman, AZ



City of
Bullhead City, Arizona

Tom Brady, Mayor
Kathy Bruck, Vice Mayor

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE IS SUSPENDED FOR THIS MEETING.

This meeting will be held through technological means, members of the public can attend through remote conferencing.

Members of the public can submit written comments or register to call into the Zoom meeting by contacting ameredith@cityofkingman.gov by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please be sure to include your name, phone number using to call in and address for the record, as well as the meeting date (and Agenda Item#, if applicable).



City of Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Cal Sheehy, Mayor
Jeni Coke, Vice Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Miles called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Miles led in the Pledge of Allegiance and it was said in unison.

2. Roll Call & Introduction of Special Guests

****All those in attendance were present via remote conferencing.***

Lake Havasu City

Council Present

Cal Sheehy, Mayor
Jeni Coke, Vice Mayor
Nancy Campbell, Councilmember
David Lane, Councilmember
Michele Lin, Councilmember
Cameron Moses, Councilmember

Staff Present

Jess Knudson, City Manager
Kelly Williams, City Clerk
Jerri Bracamonte, Executive Assistant
Dan Doyle, Police Chief



City of Kingman, Arizona

Jen Miles, Mayor
Ken Watkins, Vice Mayor



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Justin Hembree, Lake Havasu City Metropolitan Planning Manager
Greg Froslic, Public Works Director
Shawn Irula, Human Resources/Risk Management Director
Anthony Kozlowski, Assistant to the City Manager
Peter Pilafas, Fire Chief



City of Bullhead City, Arizona

Tom Brady, Mayor
Kathy Bruck, Vice Mayor

Bullhead City

Council Present

Tom Brady, Mayor
Kathy Bruck, Vice Mayor
Dr. Waheed Zehri, Councilmember

Staff Present

Toby Cotter, City Manager
Sue Stein, City Clerk
Travis Pruitt, Assistant to the City Manager
Lt. Andrew Sevillano, Bullhead City Police Department

City of Kingman

Council Present

Jen Miles, Mayor

Staff Present

Ron Foggin, City Manager
Annie Meredith, City Clerk
Rusty Cooper, Police Chief
Coleen Haines, Public Affairs Coordinator

Others Present

Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County Supervisor District 1
Tom Belshe, Director of Arizona League of Cities & Towns
Denise Burley, Mohave County Health Director
Becky Fawson, Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce
Todd Steinberger, Arizona Department of Transportation
Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation
Jaime Hernandez, AZ DEQ
Mike Horton, Regional Vice President for Market Engagement
Dave Hawkins, KGMM
Sarah Hall
David Diaz

3. Annual Appointment of Chairperson

Mayor Cal Sheehy made a MOTION to APPOINT Mayor Tom Brady as the Chairperson of the Tri-City Council for 2021-2022. Mayor Jen Miles SECONDED and the motion carried unanimously.



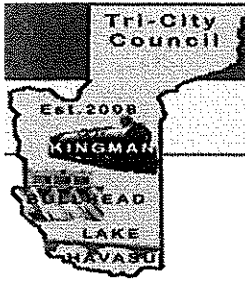
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Mayor Jen Miles turned the meeting over to the newly appointed Chairman, Mayor Tom Brady.

Chairman Brady said that he accepts the chairmanship for the upcoming year. He said that this is his last year and whomever his replacement is will start fresh next year.



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4. Call to the Public

Chairman Brady asked if anyone had registered for call to the public. City Clerk Annie Meredith shared that they did not receive any written comments or requests for call in participation. She advised that there were a couple of people that registered to call in to listen to the meeting but did not request to address the council.

Chairman Brady asked if anyone on the zoom would like to address council during the call to the public. There were no responses.

5. Approval of the Minutes from the April 21, 2021, Tri-City Council Meeting

Mayor Miles made a MOTION to approve the April 21, 2021 Tri-City Council Meeting Minutes, Mayor Sheehy SECONDED and the motion carried unanimously.



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6. Update from Arizona Department of Health Services Director and Mohave County Health Department Regarding COVID-19

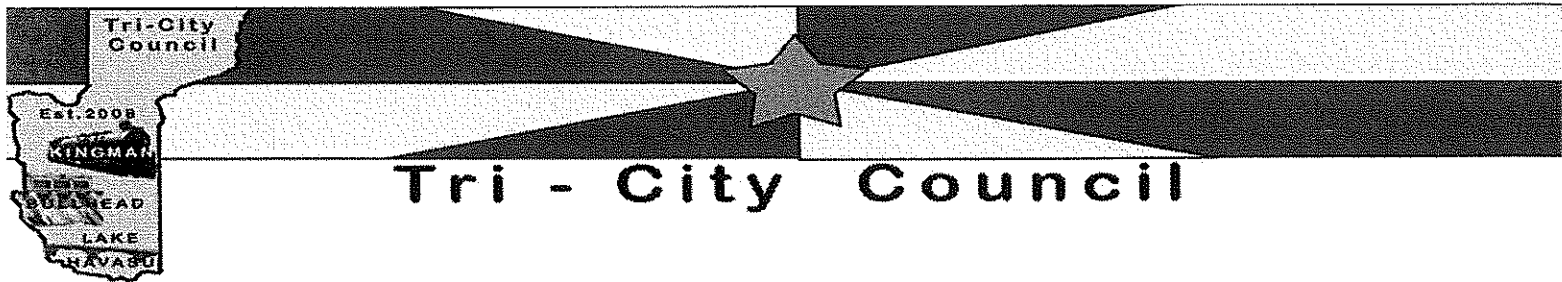
Denise Burley, Mohave County Director of Public Health shared some general trends to COVID cases. She said that Mohave County has the highest case rate across the state currently. She said all of the data is as of Sunday, July 25, 2021. She shared that they have vaccinated the majority of the 65+ age group. She said that there is still some hesitancy around the vaccines being issued under emergency use order and approval and that they will be putting out additional information. She said that the majority of cases are coming from un-vaccinated individuals. She said that there have been 115 vaccine breakthrough cases reported in the county and explained that those are cases where someone was fully vaccinated and still got COVID. She said that the primary purpose of the vaccine is to reduce serious illness, hospitalization and deaths as a result of the virus. She said that no vaccine is 100% effective. She shared that two out of the 678 COVID-19 deaths were fully vaccinated individuals and that 99.7% were un-vaccinated deaths. She said that the variant they are seeing is the Delta variant and that it is 50% more transmissible than the other variants. She said that they are working on strategies to increase vaccination rates. Additionally, they are expecting some updated information from the CDC today regarding vaccinated people masking while in indoor settings and masking in schools.

Councilmember Dr. Waheed Zehri thanked Director Burley. He said that the ages are going down for infection and hospitalization and he doesn't feel that people



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are aware of the hemoglobin treatment available to COVID positive patients. He said that all of the hospitals in Mohave County have it available. He asked if Director Burley had information on what vaccine the people that have had breakthrough cases had gotten.



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Ms. Burley said that she does not have a breakdown by vaccine the person was provided. She said that she doesn't want to throw out a message to pick one over the other, but to take the one available to them.

Dr. Zehri said that people are getting infection that have been vaccinated. He asked about those that have been re-infected that did not get vaccinated.

Ms. Burley said that ADHS had provided some information on re-infections and she will have to get that information for them.

Dr. Zehri asked what the county is recommending for masks.

Ms. Burley said that they recommend to follow the CDC guidelines. She said that they only have the authority to make recommendations and will do so at a county level. She said that they will continue to provide the steps you can take to help prevent the spread of illness. She asked the council for their support in getting the messages out to the public.

Dr. Zehri thanked Ms. Burley and said that she is doing a wonderful job.

Councilmember Nancy Campbell shared that she asked their hospital director in Lake Havasu City about testing for the Delta variant and was told they can't tell. She asked how the Health Department is getting that information.

Ms. Burley explained. She said that the State is testing approximately 12% of all samples sent to them for all of the variants.

Mayor Sheehy asked Ms. Burley about people that have gotten COVID and those that have gotten vaccinated, and the combination of natural immunity and vaccinated immunity to get to herd immunity.

Ms. Burley said that there is a lot of ongoing research on that topic. She said that the CDC is indicating that people are protected for about 90 days with the antibodies. She said that she isn't sure if there is enough information to be definitive in that area and they need more data to be able to determine people's resilience to re-infections.

Mayor Sheehy said that you can't add the number that have gotten vaccinated with the number that have had COVID to see where we are with herd immunity.



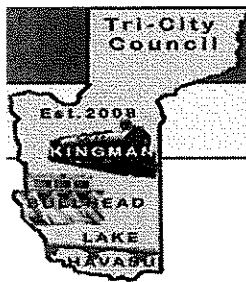
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Ms. Burley said that is correct.

Mayor Brady asked if you have had COVID, then you are immune for 3 months.

Ms. Burley said that is what the CDC is indicating so far. She said that they are continuing to collect research on that. She said that they don't want to make any premature determinations that people have more protection than they actually do.

Mayor Brady said that is an important message to get out to the public. He shared that people who have had COVID aren't getting vaccinated because they think they are immune. He asked how long someone who is vaccinated is immune.

Ms. Burley said that more research is ongoing to see how long that anti-body response stays strong. She said that at this point CDC and WHO are not recommending booster shots. She said that as soon as she has more information she will share it.

Mayor Brady asked if she or the State feel this will end anytime soon.

Ms. Burley said that the current trajectory would tell her no. She said that even with the vaccine there is still a low percentage of being able to contract the virus. She said that they need to continue to do what they can to protect those that are more vulnerable. She said that the vaccine not only protects you, but those around you.

Mayor Brady said that their pharmacies and others can do the vaccinations right now and it isn't as evident to people. He asked about starting the program back up with Embry.

Ms. Burley said that they have talked to 54 providers throughout the county and they have said they have appointments available. She said that her staff touches base with them to make sure they have what they need, but that the pharmacies are ordering their vaccines directly themselves at this time.

Mayor Brady asked what kind of vaccines they're getting.

Ms. Burley said Pfizer or Moderna.

Mayor Miles said that she has been told that there is more likelihood of additional mutations because of unvaccinated populations. She said that the more it's transmitted, the more likely the virus will mutate. She said she has heard of the Lamda variant potentially coming down the pike. She asked if there is merit to that.



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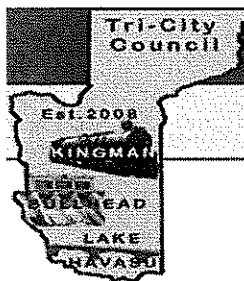
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Ms. Burley said that the more it circulates the more it has the opportunity to mutate. She said that the longer it continues, the more variants we will see. She said that each one that comes about, they learn more about it and begin tracking it.



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

Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County District 1 Supervisor gave an update on the work done by the Mohave County West Basin Water Users Study Committee with Representative Regina Cobb. He said that they are working to build support before the next legislative session. He shared that the County is getting ready to pass their budget.

Councilmember Nancy Campbell asked about partnering with the County on workforce housing in the Havasu Heights area.

Supervisor Lingenfelter said that he would like to work with the Tri-Cities on this issue. He said that he just discussed this with Kingman City Manager Foggin. He said that he is committed to bringing the County people together to have a special discussion in August. He said that this is a regional issue that is not going away.

Ms. Campbell said that they have developers at the table for this and they would love support from the county to start building up that area.

Supervisor Lingenfelter said that during his time with the City of Kingman, the city would always give a lot and the county wasn't stepping up as much as they should so as a supervisor he wants to partner and do better. He said that he worked to split \$41 million in ARPA funds that was divided evenly across each district. He said that there may be a way to invest some of those funds in workforce housing.

8. Legislative Update

-Tom Belshe, League of Arizona Cities and Towns

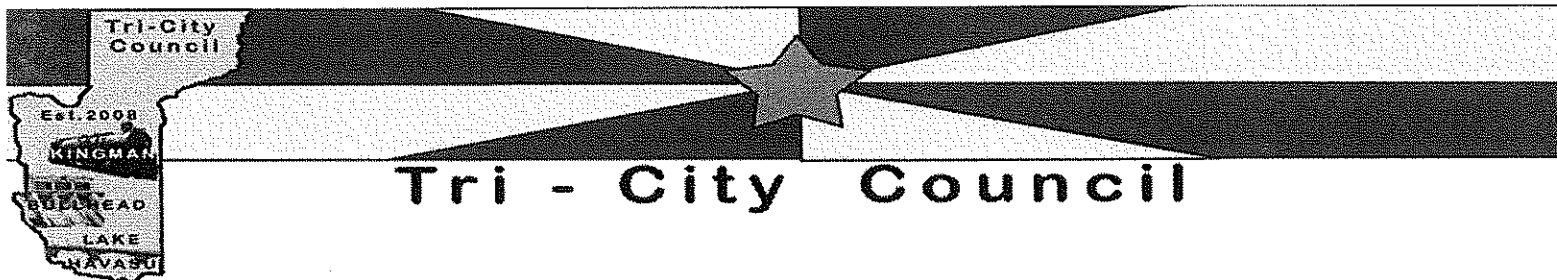
Mayor Brady thanked Mr. Belshe for attending and the update that was sent out this week.

Mr. Belshe shared that this has been the longest and most contentious session he has ever seen. He said that they had more money than what they knew to do with and that can cause partisan and inter-party issues. He said that league staff tracked over 450 bills. He said that out of the 1770+ bills that were introduced, almost a quarter of the total bills affected cities and towns. He said that every year they pass hundreds and hundreds of bills. He said that they will be doing regional visits and the information on that will be coming out this week. He shared the different bills that they weighed in on. He said that they had the



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opportunity to go in and talk to the legislators where other lobbyists did not have that ability during COVID. He said that today he wants to focus on the income tax reduction, and make sure that elected officials understand that the league does not want to get involved in the states tax policy. He said that they want to protect local control and local state shared revenue, so they tried to provide the legislature data on how it will affect cities and towns. He said that they were talking about a revenue cut of \$600 million. He said that then there was discussion on a flat tax, he said that is what they spent their time focusing on. He said that this single issue helped drive the session to be as long as it was. He said that they provided them with our impacts and asked them to keep them in mind. He said that in the end, beginning in 2022 they have a reduction in income tax to 2.55 and 2.98 above this amount. He said that it will be up to 4.5 for income tax above \$250,000. He said that they don't have a single rate, so it isn't truly a flat tax but instead got a reduction in the three rates. He said that the league looked at the probability that those cuts will bring in some development and they feel that will help offset some of the losses. He said that they are only going to see certain decreases if revenue continues to roll into the state. He said they will let cities know year by year the impact.



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Mayor Brady asked about the notice that was sent out originally and what the loss will be to cities with it in its final form.



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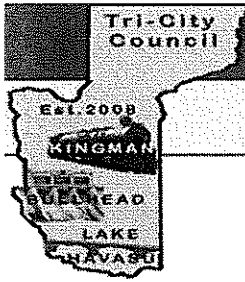
Mr. Belshe said that with dynamic growth, they think it can be as close to hold harmless as it can get. He said that they will be watching the trends closely and that it doesn't start until 2022.



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Mr. Belshe shared that this year, the state legislature placed policy issues in the budget. He said one was an expansion of SB1847 and explained. He said that those are not necessarily things that have been passed by council and gave an example of police department policies. He said that if someone believes those are in violation of state law they can file a complaint with the Attorney General. He said that it is a bad precedent to see so much policy placed in budget bills. He said that with the election law amendments, most don't affect us. He shared some of the changes. He said that the cost of some of those changes will be passed onto cities and towns. He said that they felt really good about the DOR fee and the Firefighter cancer claims they were able to get accomplished and explained. He said that some of the things they had as league resolutions, such as affordable housing tax credit they were able to get monies that will be available for development of affordable housing. He said that with short term rentals they continue to run up against significant opposition, but they will keep working on it and some communities are working on an initiative for that. He said that they were not able to get the blight bill a hearing but they will come back again with-it next year. He said that the newspaper public notices issue, they were able to get that fixed. He said that with liquor board membership, there will be a representative for cities and towns. He said that consular id cards will now



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be accepted in the state. He said that he hopes to see everyone at the League Region meetings and League Conference at the Biltmore. He said that the conference will be all in person and remote attendance will not be available. He said that the league is successful each year because of the cities and towns help and relationships with their legislators.



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- Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation Advocacy Council

Mr. Adam shared that there was some substantial revenue that they received at the state level for transportation infrastructure. He said that there is potential for more to materialize over the next few weeks. He said that the state legislature more and more acknowledges the underfunding in infrastructure. He said that what they saw early on, are the bills that would have provided more permanent funding died fairly quickly. He said that it was highly anticipated that there was going to be a significant carry forward balance to provide some one-time funding to infrastructure and in the end, they gave \$321 million in one-time funding. He shared the projects that received funding. He said that it appears that infrastructure is a high priority. He said there is concern about supporting earmarked, rather than directing the funding into HURF and explained. He said that over the long term, if this replaces the funding that gets programmed, then they will not be able to address priorities as well as they could. He said that their task next year is to develop a list of projects to be earmarked that will include priorities across rural Arizona. He said it will be a total of \$50 million statewide.

Mayor Sheehy asked about getting appropriations for the \$50 million and then finding projects.

Mr. Adam said that what they are going to do, is get prioritized projects then draft legislation specifically for the projects. He said that they will select projects and then get funding.

Mayor Sheehy asked if that is the best strategy.

Mr. Adam said that would not impact those earmarked for this year. He said that they see this as a second round for earmarks. He said that it would be better if the funding was going into HURF, but if this is the method the legislature is going to use to provide additional funding, they see it as a compromise. Mr. Adam shared an update for the federal level. He said that they are due for reauthorization of the federal transportation funding programs. He said that there is an additional infrastructure package that they are currently working on. He said that it is important that it is a bi-partisan approach for this package to be enacted.

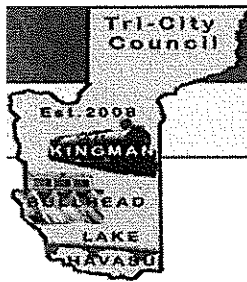
9. Update from the Arizona Department of Transportation

Todd Steinberger, Northwest Assistant District Engineer for ADOT gave an update of the current projects going on in Mohave County. He went over some of the future expansion projects including the West Kingman TI that is funded in the



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FY 24 budget at \$55.5 million and tentatively scheduled for advertisement in the August 2023. He said that they are in a partnership with the City of Kingman on the Rancho Santa Fe TI project, and that is tentatively scheduled for advertisement this September. He said that they are currently working on the kickoff for the Kingman Crossing TI design project. He shared their upcoming preservation projects on I-40.



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Mayor Brady asked about the status on replacing Alvin Stump.

Mr. Steinberger said that it has been advertised and they will be going through the process.

Lake Havasu City Manager Jess Knudson asked if there have been any conversations about additional funding for Highway 95.

Mr. Steinberger shared what was put into the budget for that road. He said that he does not have anything on the schedule for that.

Mr. Knudson said it would be important for the city to be involved in that project and the scope of work.

Mr. Steinberger said that they will work with Lake Havasu, the County and Bullhead City as the stakeholders for that.

Mr. Knudson asked about the timing for some of those conversations.

Mr. Steinberger said that the design and conversations will start this fiscal year.

10. Update from Suddenlink

Mike Horton, Regional VP for Market Engagement shared their practices on COVID responses. He said that their employees will continue to wear masks in customer homes, offices, and lobbies where they are and not able to provide social distance for safety. He said that they take a follower position on CDC guidelines and will always err on the side of caution. He said that they have increased staffing in Kingman, Bullhead and Lake Havasu City. He shared their difficulties with finding qualified personnel in the area. He said that on the service performance side, they are seeing consistent improvements. He said that they continue to work on reducing the repeat call rates. He shared that they continue to make investments in the Tri-City area. He said that in Bullhead City their node performance has improve and has been running at a 99.5 percent. He said that in Kingman they began some node split work to reduce the loads. He said that in Lake Havasu they have not seen a lot of node saturation they have seen in other areas. He said that every internet service provider in the country is trying to obtain the same types of equipment. He said that one of the areas they have been working on is to increase their upstream bandwidth. He said that nationally



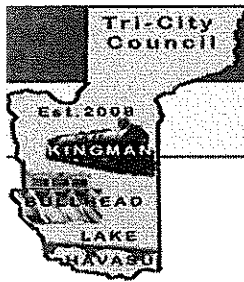
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they have seen a 98.5 percent increase in upstream bandwidth use in the last fourteen months. He said that on the downstream network side, year to date they have completed 14 node split projects in the Tri-State area. He said that in Lake Havasu they have added new nodes into the market. He said that in the second half of this year they have 19 projects scheduled for this area. He said that as a company they manage 217 markets. He said that right now they have eight new build projects underway- six in Bullhead City, one in Lake Havasu and one in Kingman. He said that 6 of them are fiber to the home projects. He went over their cable modem termination system (CMTS). He said that it will reduce the number of cascades they have in the network. CMTS technology exists in Kingman and Lake Havasu City. He touched on customer care, sharing that their call volumes are down over this last year. He said that he understands the frustrations and that this is a critical area for improvement. He said that one of their biggest challenges is to make sure they get it right the first time. He shared their customer service ticketing process. He shared information on their project called Suddenlink stream. He said that in 2019 they launched Altice Mobile and that it has been rebranded to Optimal Mobile via T-Mobile. He said that the rates start at \$14.00 per month.



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Lake Havasu City Manager Jess Knudson asked about the additional nodes being installed in Lake Havasu City.

Mr. Horton said that there are four planned splits this next year. He said that one of the things they look at are the conditions of the nodes. He said that wireless fidelity signals have interference based on your home and the types of walls and floors you have. He gave an example of his home and that the same problem exists regardless of technology.

Mr. Knudson thanked him and asked about how many are being replaced versus how many need to be replaced.

Mr. Horton said that it is a function of engineering and that they like to add no more than 200-300 modems to a node. He said that they evaluate it on a quarterly basis with their teams. He said he is happy to come and visit on their specific issues and discuss future growth.

Mr. Knudson asked if he had a number.

Mr. Horton said no.

Mr. Knudson thanked him and said that it is the inconsistent services they hear about most from their residents.

City Manager Ron Foggin shared that in Kingman their main newspaper moved and during that they requested an internet connection and they were told by the



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technician that the node was overloaded, causing their service to go on and off line. He said that she spoke with them wanting to know who to contact because they were getting no help. He said that he sent an email to Suddenlink and never heard anything back. He said that regular contact with the cities would be helpful so that they can help them be more successful in their communities. He said that he would like to meet with them on a more regular basis.



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Mr. Horton said that if it is ok, he would like to set up a time this week to discuss the matter with him. He said that there is a more involved discussion on that incident. He also said he will provide his personal contact information for escalation events like this. He said that they have spoken with the newspaper and have not heard back from them.

Mr. Foggin said that he would appreciate that. He said they are also hearing about the escalation of bills. He said that prices go from the set price agreement to higher prices on a continuous basis.

11. Mayors' Reports – City Updates

Mayor Jen Miles shared that in Kingman things are just getting better. She said that it ties into Todd's report. She said they are looking forward to the Rancho project getting jumpstarted this year. She said that they are meeting with the hospital CEO to discuss moving forward on Kingman Crossing with the engineering and design. She said that project was put on hold due to COVID, but there is a lot of interest in starting it back up. She shared that the city council has come to a compromise and pass development fees to help fund future growth. She said that it doesn't cover all of the costs but will contribute towards it. She thanked everyone that participated with Senator Kelly's visit and the Veteran's Villas ribbon cutting. She said that she invites everyone to get their Kick's on Route 66 and that they just had a ribbon cutting on their Route 66 Drive-Thru shield. She shared that they had a ribbon cutting on the expansion of the Golf Course facility. She said that they have passed their budget and is excited about some of the projects, including the downtown streetscape and Sunbelt Soccer Complex projects.

Mayor Sheehy shared that due to growth, their community has had to re-adjust their garbage pick up days. He said that they are working with Senator Kelly on some upgrades to their police facility. He shared that they are working on workforce housing. He said that they just completed their citizen survey on government services and tonight they will have a presentation to the city council on how they are doing. He said that they are planning their 50th Anniversary and will reach out to the Mayors and provide additional information.

Mayor Brady shared that in Bullhead City they are creating more beaches at their parks. He said that they are doing everything they can to make the water on the Colorado River safe. He said that they will be starting construction on the new



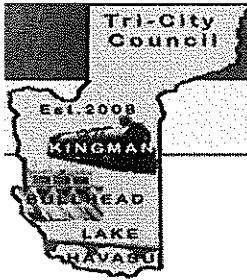
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bridge in the next few months. He said that they are moving forward with the transfer of Epcor and that they are working on staffing up for that. He said they may take over operations in the next 90 days. He said they continue to face challenges with that. He said that they are back to a burro problem and they have had 13 strikes this year. He said they are working to help alleviate some of those in the future.



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Mayor Sheehy made a MOTION to ADJOURN. Mayor Miles SECONDED and it was approved unanimously.

ADJOURN

Chairman Brady adjourned the meeting at 11:57 A.M.



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