

THREE CITIES, ONE VOICE.



**Regular Meeting of the Tri-City Council
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Kingman City Council Chambers
310 N. 4th Street Kingman, AZ 86401**



**City of
Bullhead City, Arizona**

Steve D'Amico, Mayor
Norma Brummett, Vice Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayor Sheehy at 10:00 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sheehy led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and Introduction of Special Guests

(*Present via remote conferencing)

Lake Havasu City:

Council Present

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

Staff Present

Jess Knudson, City Manager
Anthony Kozlowski, Assistant to the City Manager
Kelly Williams, City Clerk*
Shannon Davis, City Clerk Assistant*
Kelly Garry, City Attorney
Peter Pilafas, Fire Chief*

Bullhead City:

Council Present

Steve D'Amico, Mayor
Norma Brummett, Vice Mayor
Dan Alfonzo, Councilmember
Tami Ring, Councilmember*
Grace Hecht, Councilmember
Juan Lizarraga, Councilmember

Staff Present

Edigar Kajirwa, Assistant to the City Manager
Travis Pruitt, Assistant to the City Manager
Sue Stein, City Clerk
Mark Clark, Utilities Director



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City of Kingman:

Council Present

Ken Watkins, Mayor
Cherish Sammeli, Vice Mayor
Jamie Scott Stehly, Councilmember
Smiley Ward, Councilmember

Staff Present

Ron Foggin, City Manager
Carl Cooper, City Attorney
Annie Meredith, City Clerk
Coleen Haines, PIO/Intergov

Others Present

Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County Supervisor District 1
Jean Bishop, Mohave County Supervisor District 4*
Jeanne Kentch, Mohave County Assessor
Dr. Chad Kingsley, Mohave County Health Director
Coral Evans, Representative Senator Mark Kelly's Office*
Jamie Kelley, Mohave County Water Authority
Penny Pew, Representative Congressman Paul Gosar's Office*
Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation*
Michael Zogg, Today's News Herald*
Dwight "Doc" Wininger, Allo Communications
Mike Horton, Allo Communications
Kirk Lacy, citizen*
Jeff Thuneman, citizen*
Lisa Stahl, citizen*
Kevin Sarkisian, citizen
Bobbie Kimelton, citizen*
David Diaz, Lake Havasu City Planning & Zoning Commissioner
Trudy Hernandez, Mohave Military Museum
Rick Lathrop, citizen



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3. Call to the Public

Chairman Sheehy opened the call to the public. There being no comments, he closed the call to the public.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the October 19, 2022, Tri-City Council Meeting

Mayor Watkins moved to approve the October 19, 2022, Tri-City Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor D'Amico seconded and it carried unanimously.

5. Updates from Mohave County Board of Supervisors and other Elected Officials

Supervisor Lingenfelter thanked the cities and said that they are making some progress on water issues. He said that they continue that fight together for securing water resources for rural Arizona. He said that they held a ground breaking for the new Mohave County Animal Shelter. He shared that there are also several ARPA projects going on throughout the county.



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Ms. Jeanne Kentch, Mohave County Assessor, said that she sent letters to the Mayors and City Managers. She said that the values are leveling off a little bit. She shared that they have new books available for the cities that explain how they figure out the property values. She said that they have a new program available for those that are disabled less than 100% as well as an address protection program.



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Supervisor Bishop shared that they just did the ground breaking for the new animal shelter in Kingman and that they expect to do the ribbon cutting in the spring of 2024. She shared that the INA designation is being challenged and that they are currently looking for a constable in the Bullhead City area.

Dr. Coral Evans, Representative from Senator Mark Kelly's Office, shared that she does not have an update, that she is just here to listen today.



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Ms. Penny Pew, Representative from Congressman Paul Gosar's Office, shared that they are working to get their office up and going in Goodyear. She shared that the Senator is supporting HR22, a social security fairness act to eliminate the windfall elimination provision. She said that he also voted to terminate HR 185, a vaccine mandate for foreign travelers. She shared that the house voted and passed legislation to end the COVID national emergency. She said that there should be more fourth coming. She shared that they have two new staff members that will be attending the February 17th resource fair for Veterans in Bullhead City. She said that they will continue to do remote office hours in Mohave County.

6. Legislative Update - League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Ms. Coleen Haines, City of Kingman PIO/Intergov, shared that there are three huge tax bills that are going through the legislature right now. She said that those include the residential lease tax SB1184/HB2067. She said that Kingman does have a residential lease tax and that bill would cause a \$200k loss so they will not be supporting it. She shared that there is also a food tax bill that they are also not supporting that even though it doesn't affect Kingman and the Tri-Cities, it impacts several rural Arizona communities. She said it is SB1089/HB2061 and that it would be a \$180 million-dollar loss statewide. She said that HB2003 corporate income tax would be a loss of \$700,000 a year for Kingman. She said that if all of these were enacted then Kingman would lose more than \$1 million dollars, which directly effects services. She said that you would have to increase taxes elsewhere to make up that money. She shared that HB2418 regarding police response time, that it would make it to where the average response time would have to be 5 minutes. She shared that Kingman Police Chief Cooper and Mohave County Sheriff Shuester did email the chair of the committee, Representative Payne. She said that when listening to the testimony it seems that other municipalities may not be happy with how their police are funded. She said that if the bill is enacted and the cities don't meet that response time in two years, then they could lose their state shared revenues. She touched base on what Kevin Adam shared regarding the huge transportation bill. She thanked Mayor Watkins for the letter of support that he has provided and encouraged others to also write a letter to Chairman Cook on the Transportation Committee. She said that Supervisor Lingenfelter mentioned the Rural Groundwater bills SB1306/HB2731. She said that there is also a bill up today on affordable housing and that is SB1117.



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She shared that this is a bad bill and they will not want to support it because developers would be able to ignore zoning district, codes, design standards, and parking requirements with no public process. She said that multi-family projects would be approved administratively with no public process, residents would have no notice or opportunities to provide comments, no re-zoning or General Plan amendment would be required, and that it would also remove Planning Commissions from the process and strip local councils from their zoning authority. She said that it is in committee today and they hope that it will not pass, or at least get vetoed by the Governor.

Chairman Sheehy said that Lake Havasu City also sent a letter in support of the transportation bill this week. He said that zoning is one of the main things that cities and towns do and that the citizens expect to have certainty in zoning. He said that bill is horrible.

Ms. Haines said that there are other zoning bills that they are watching as well.

Chairman Sheehy said that 90% of what they do is play defense.

Mayor D'Amico said that Bullhead City will be sending a letter opposing HB2418 and that he hopes the other cities will too. He said that it is horrible and will make it worse.

Ms. Haines said that the Kingman Chief and Sheriff said that they heard from the Chairman that he wants to hear how they are going to make it work. She said that there is a Nationwide issue with recruiting and retaining.

Chairman Sheehy said that he also reached out to the sponsor of HB2418 and that he is steadfast in his bill so they will have some work ahead of them.

Mr. Foggin thanked Ms. Haines for filling in for the League.

7. Arizona Department of Transportation Update

Mr. Todd Steinberger, Assistant District Engineer-Development for ADOT, gave a presentation on current construction projects. His presentation included a review of the following projects: I-40; E. Kingman T.I. OP WB Bridge, SR 95; Needles Bridge, US 93; Moore Ranch Rd. to 190.56, I-40; Willow Bridge #3, and US93; Kabba Wash Bridge. He shared the following upcoming preservation projects: I-40; Walnut Creek to Holy Moses, SR95; Bullhead City Parkway to Courtright Rd., I-40; MP2.54 to Lake Havasu TI, US93; Nothing to SR97 Jct., SR95; I-40 to Sara Park. He reviewed the upcoming modernization projects to include; Bullhead Pkwy & Silver creek Rd. He shared the future expansion projects including the I-40/93 West Kingman Traffic Interchange; I-40, Kingman Crossing Traffic Interchange; US93: Tegner to Wickenburg Ranch; and the I-40, Rancho Santa Fe Traffic Interchange. He showed some graphics of what the Rancho Santa Fe intersection, I-40/Us 93 Interchange, I-40 Kingman Crossing Traffic Interchange, and the US93 Phoenix to Las Vegas corridor will look like. He asked if there were any questions.



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Chairman Sheehy asked about the pavement preservation project on I-40 from milepost 2 to Lake Havasu City is both East and West bound.

Mr. Steinberger said yes.

Chairman Sheehy asked when that will be completed.

Mr. Steinberger said spring next year.



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8. Rural Transportation Update - Kevin Adam

Mr. Kevin Adam, Legislative Liaison with the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council said that there is a tremendous amount going on at the Capitol right now and that this is the first time they have had split partisan control in 14 years. He said that both chambers have had changeover of over 50%, including all of the leadership positions. He shared that they are still trying to work through what the priorities and agenda are going to be and how the budget process will work. He said that the skinny budget passed the senate and then went to the house and exposed another challenge. He said that it is 31-29 in the house and 16-14 in the senate so if they plan to pass something on party lines that they don't have a single vote to spare. He said that with the skinny budget, they had one republican retractor so the skinny budget was not enacted. He shared that there aren't the votes in the legislature to override a veto. He said that there will need to be compromise to get the budget approved. He said that the revenue outlook looks good for this year but that there are some concerns about a future recession looming. He said that the state has experienced growth since last year. He said that they are estimating about 2 billion in one-time revenues to work with. He said that last year they prioritized transportation and they appear to be going the same way with the additional revenue this year. He said that the project to complete the I-10 widening is getting the most attention right now. He shared that they have HB2543 which includes priorities from across greater Arizona that includes projects in all three of the Tri-Cities as well as Mohave County. He shared that next week is the last week for bills to be heard in their chamber of origin. He said that they are anticipating that HB2543 will be heard. He said that it will be difficult to get anything through the legislature with how it is structured but there is available revenue.

9. Mohave County Water Authority Update- Jamie Kelly

Ms. Jamie Kelly, General Council for the Mohave County Water Authority addressed the council and shared that the water news remains bleak. She said that there are two problems on the river, aridification and overuse. She said that the demand on the river is more than the supply. She shared that through the recent years they have been consuming storage. She said that the Bureau of Reclamation has advised that they will operate the systems to preserve the integrity of the system. She said that the ability to remove water from behind Glen Canyon Dam has reduced significantly. She said that Arizona has already reduced its delivery by 812,000-acre feet this year and that is 21% of the water from the Colorado River. She said that they will release 500,000-acre feet into Lake Mead in April depending on snow runoff.



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She said that they have been slow in responding to the crisis, but they have processes they need to complete. She said that it is unlikely that they will refill the reservoirs in their lifetime. She shared that the Fed is currently completing a SEIS to evaluate the options of changing the record decision on three items: changing section 2d to reduce the quantity of water relocated to the lower states, section 6c to reduce the quantities of water released from Lake Powell, and section c to provide the ability to adjust the releases from Lake Powell mid-term based on runoff. She shared that the six states with the exception of California, have proposed an assessment of water reductions in lieu of the evaporative losses system proposed by Nevada. She shared that the shortest assessment would occur to Nevada and that the largest assessment would be Yuma and IID who is at the bottom of the river. She said that the higher priority water users do not like that theory. She said that it would require California to participate in larger volumes, earlier in the process. She said that California has submitted their own proposal which delays their participation. She said that they are expecting a draft of the SEIS in March or April. She said that the word on the river is that everyone is lawyering up. She said that IID has stated that it is ready to litigate as well as Yuma. She said that there is a question on if a shortage is declared, what will be respected as priority. She said that the question is does the Federal Government need to protect the ICS water before the P3. She said that the decree for Arizona/California allows the secretary to take actions she deems appropriate to protect the system. She said that Arizona agriculture is 75-85% efficient and IID is 65%. She said that they are also hearing about human and health safety water, but that she does not know what that means at this time. She said that the cuts the river cities have to make may affect the parks first. She said that California has the safety standards which are 55 gallons per capita per day. She said that the Arizona Department of Resources hasn't put a number forward. She asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Sheehy asked if Ms. Kelly or Chairman Lingenfelter could talk about the groundwater issues in Mohave County.

Ms. Kelly gave kudos to Supervisor Lingenfelter who has been a leader on the INA and has been a leader on the groundwater legislation that has been introduced. She shared that the authority has signed a letter in support.

Supervisor Lingenfelter shared that there have been two bills now that have been dropped. He said that there have been some modifications to Regina Cobbs original bill. He said that Senator Borrelli has dropped SB1306 Local Groundwater Stewardship Area and the Representative Biasiucci is working with the Farm Bureau as well as the Counties to see if there was anything that needed to be changed. He said that he will send out what the bill number for that is. He said that the County lobbyist will work closely with them on hearings and that they encourage Kingman and any other elected officials to make those meetings. He said that last year they did a really good job and that he hopes they continue the momentum. He said that the rural coalition has continued to strengthen. He shared that Biasiucci has entered a bill that seeks to prohibit any additional 4th priority water transfers and that will prevent west to east water transfers until the water levels rise. He said that Mohave, Yuma, LaPaz, and City of Yuma have filed against the Bureau of Reclamation in regards to the transfer. He asked if the cities would be willing to file an amicus letter in support of preventing the transfer.



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Chairman Sheehy said that the cities along the river plan to file the amicus. He said that they talk about the water issues they have among the Tri-City Council to include the river water and ground water. He said that they are all interconnected and have to remain unified in protecting water transfers and the water future.



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10. ALLO Communications Update

Dwight "Doc" Wininger, Director of External Relations with Allow Fiber introduced himself and Mike Hornton, the Arizona General Manager. He said that they are very excited of where they are in the build. He gave an update to include their current employee levels and said that their numbers will continue to grow as the market opens. He gave an overview of the Kingman Construction and progress made, as well as information on the Kingman facilities. He shared the events and organizations that they have been involved in since working in Kingman. He gave kudos to Kingman, Mohave County, and Unisource staff that have been helpful in Kingman. He shared some challenges that they have had in Kingman to include permitting with the Arizona State Lands Department and the topography of the area. He said that Kingman has twice as much underground as Lake Havasu City. He reviewed the construction they have been doing in Lake Havasu City. He shared the facilities they have in Lake Havasu as well as the city events and memberships they have been involved in. He gave kudos to Lake Havasu City, Bureau of Land Management, Partnership of Economic Development, and Unisource for their help there as well. He specifically wanted to highlight Sheri Ahrens of the Bureau of Land Management for her help in both communities. He shared the challenges in Lake Havasu city to include Arizona State Lands permitting. He reviewed the redundant middle mile network and that Allo builds their system on a ring network functionality. He said that due to the shortage of fiber in these communities, they are having to build that. He showed a map of where they will be building in Kingman, along I-40 to Lake Havasu City, and in Lake Havasu City. He shared that the routes are currently being constructed and that ADOT has been great about them building in the right of way.

Chairman Sheehy thanked Doc and said that they appreciate Allo coming into the communities. He shared that Bullhead City is not going to be an Allo city at this time, but that they have Mohave Electric bringing something in.

Mr. Wininger said that it will be likely that Kingman is the first community turned on due to the permitting. He said that until they can get that redundant network built they will be single threaded initially.

Chairman Sheehy said that Governor Hobbs is making changes so there is not a new State Lands Director yet, but when there is they will work to help get those permits through.

Mr. Wininger thanked Mayor Sheehy and Supervisor Lingenfelter for their assistance.

Mayor Watkins asked what they are looking at for going live in Kingman and Lake Havasu City.



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Mr. Wininger said that after permits, it is a longer build for Kingman due to not being able to take vehicles and having to hand walk the installation. He said that after the permit is in hand and the central offices are constructed, a good estimate is mid second quarter.

Mayor Watkins said that they understand that there are some pieces that need to fall into place.

Mr. Wininger said that they appreciate the cities and that it is a monumental thing to be building.

Mayor Watkins thanked them.

Chairman Sheehy said that most of the branded vehicles in the community are Allo vehicles and that they have been a stand-up organization in the community. He also recognized Supervisor Lingenfelter for the ARPA funds that are helping to build these.

Mayor D'Amico shared that they have burros in Bullhead City if they need them to get to those areas.

Manager Knudsen thanked them for what they have done. He asked about the 17 markets that are currently being built and what additional markets they are looking at.

Mr. Wininger said that they have identified a strong dozen additional markets in Arizona that they are looking at. He said that they are building in Colorado and Nebraska as well. He said that they want to be a consolidator not a consolidate. He said that they pass over a million population right now and they want to double that in the next three years.



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11. Mayors' Reports – City Updates

Mayor Watkins shared that Economic Development Director Gary Kellogg retired last week and that Bennett Bratley has been appointed to the position. He said that the White Cliffs Wagon Wheel trailhead has been expanded to connect the trail from downtown to uptown around the golf course. He said that it is historic because there are actual wagon wheel ruts on the trail. He said that ADOT touched on the traffic interchanges, but that Kingman Crossing is at about 60% and they will be submitting that back to ADOT in the next couple of weeks. He shared that they hope to see movement on all of the traffic interchanges in the next year.

Mayor D'Amico said that there is a lot going on in Bullhead city. He shared that at their council meeting last night they approved supporting the amicus brief for the water litigation. He shared that he and Travis Pruitt, Assistant to the City Manager gave a presentation in Phoenix on HB2375 to bring state lands to Bullhead City. He said that they are paying to lease that property and have for 30 years so it should be theirs. He shared that this morning they did a ribbon cutting for a pump track at Rotary Park. He said that there is a lot of great things happening at their parks.



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Chairman Sheehy said that they will also be signing onto the amicus. He thanked their City Attorney Kelly Gary and Jamie Kelly for their assistance. He said that they had their annual planning session with council last week to discuss priorities and one of the key areas they had was on EMS medical transport. He said that they are currently supplied by River Medical or AMR as their ambulance services. He shared that they have no redundancy in the system and that they are working with them at a state level so that they can have redundancy in the system and so that Lake Havasu City Fire can add some additional ambulance services to their community. He said that they are not getting in the business of an inner facility transfer, but just emergent cases. He said that they have started construction for renovation on the courthouse. He shared that they are also talking about all of the legislative priorities at their next council meeting and will have a report from their new lobbyist Nick Semineda. He said that they are focused on Representative Biasiucci's bill to increase lift monies that expire this year. He explained that those funds are State Lake Improvement Funds that goes back into communities with water-based recreation. He asked if there was anything anyone in the audience would like to bring forward.

Supervisor Lingenfelter introduced Dalton Barlow, the new Vice Mayor for Colorado city.

Vice Mayor Barlow said that they have a lot going on and that they are looking forward to working with all of Mohave County.



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ADJOURN- Chairman Sheehy adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.



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