

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 Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Alfonzo called the special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

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

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Debbie Ogden

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. The City Council will conduct interviews with applicants to fill the vacant City Council position created by the resignation of Mayor Steve D'Amico. The interviews will take place in the following order: Annette Wegmann-Wood, Beata Berry, Jacqueline Miller, Scotty McClure, Kim Villalobos, Bo Hellams, Pamela Smith, Kenya Cribb, Ellen Brown, Stephen Brown.

City Manager Cotter said there are 10 applicants and only 1 can be selected by vote of the City Council. He said each member of the City Council shall select a city council member today by casting a vote. He said each Council Member shall use a paper ballot that will be provided by City Clerk Ogden. He said each Council Member will mark the name of the person they would like to appoint to the Council, and each ballot must be signed by the Council Member. He said the ballots are a public record. He said City Clerk Ogden will read each ballot and said the process will continue until a majority vote is reached. He said each candidate will be given up to 5 minutes to introduce themselves.

Annette Wegmann-Wood Interview

Annette Wegmann-Wood said she is a resident of Bullhead City. She said she is very interested in filling the City Council Vacancy. She said she served 6 years on the Council and one of those years as Vice Mayor. She said while serving on the Council, they accomplished continued community growth as well as positive economic growth. She said she worked on city budgets and helped keep the community a very affordable place to live. She said a few projects she was proud to have been a part of were the new bridge, condemning Epcor Water, the expansion of the Bullhead City Senior Enhancement Center, and the local food bank. She said the Council worked together with city staff and the community to make Bullhead City an amazing place to live. She said she is extremely reliable for meetings, events, and all constituents. She said she answered emails, returned phone calls, attended meetings with staff and residents, and attended conferences and conventions when needed. She said she is now retired and readily available to serve the community. She said she currently serves as the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and attends many ribbon cuttings, grand openings, groundbreaking ceremonies, and mixers. She said she continues to attend community

meetings and has worked on very successful events such as the Taste of Bullhead, Oktoberfest, Western Auction, and many more. She said she ran for Council during the 2024 election, but was not elected. She said she was able to obtain more than enough signatures to get her name on the ballot. She said during the election, she campaigned, spent time with her constituents, and participated in forums and debates. She asked the Council to consider her fulfilling the current vacancy on Bullhead City Council.

Council Member Head asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood what she would have advocated being added or removed from the budget during the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget process. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said she would have advocated for more police officers.

Council Member Dallman asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood what her suggestions are to help alleviate traffic issues. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said she believed the additional right hand turn lanes are going to help tremendously. She said the traffic lights on Highway 95 do not seem to be in sync and may need to be altered, which will help keep traffic flowing. She said she is against roundabouts.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood what neighborhood she lives in. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said she lives in Laughlin Ranch.

Council Member Newlin asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood what the primary role of local government is. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said the primary role of local government is to work for the voters and the community. She said economic growth is very important to keep the community on the right path.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood if there was anything that would interfere with her having the time to perform required duties while on City Council. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said nothing would interfere. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mrs. Wegmann-Wood if she is selected to serve on the Council, does she plan to run for City Council in 2026. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said she had not thought that far ahead. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked what she would cut first if there was a downturn in the economy. Mrs. Wegmann-Wood said she would try to avoid cutting city staff or the police department. She said it would depend on each department and said she would have to do her due diligence before she could make any decision.

Beata Berry Interview

Beata Berry said she is a strong candidate because she has a deep sense of responsibility, fairness and commitment to serving the community, and said she has firsthand experience in navigating real world challenges. She said her background in property management and real estate has taught her how to listen carefully, solve problems thoughtfully, and find common sense solutions that benefit everyone involved. She said what drives her the most is wanting to help people. She said she wanted to ensure that the city remains a place where all residents, from first time renters to long time homeowners feel heard, supported and respected. She said she did not apply to serve on the Council to play politics. She said she applied to bring accountability, clarity and compassion to the Council and to make decisions in good faith, clearness and have integrity with all decisions that are made. She said if she is appointed, she will run for election in 2026. She said over the years she has volunteered with churches, local city programs and schools. She said she has helped organize community events, fundraisers, and tutor sessions. She said she is often the one who leads in planning details and

everything that goes along with it. She said she steps up when needed, and said she is responsible, reliable, and a good listener.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Berry what neighborhood she lived in. Ms. Berry said she lives in Sunridge Estates and has worked in a lot of different areas. She said she has lived in a lot of different states because her mother was in the military. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Berry how long she has lived in Bullhead City. Ms. Berry said she has lived in Bullhead City for approximately 5 years, but has been visiting Bullhead City for over a decade. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Berry if she was living in Bullhead City during Proposition 416. Ms. Berry said if Proposition 416 was recent then she was living in Bullhead City. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Berry if she was familiar with Proposition 416. Ms. Berry was not familiar with Proposition 416.

Council Member Newlin said in Ms. Berry's statement of interest, she spoke about Bullhead City's identity and smart growth without sacrificing our character. Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Berry to elaborate on that statement. Ms. Berry said all you have to do is look around, that pretty much says it all. She said the city has come such a long way. She said what started as a little town that few people even knew about has grown into something truly magnificent. She said over the years, she watched Bullhead City transform: new infrastructure, new buildings, more visitors, and more snowbirds. She said when she first started visiting Bullhead City, it was just a small town, and said now we have two Walmarts, countless new businesses, and people from all over the country who recognize the name 'Bullhead.' She said ten years ago when she told people about Bullhead City, most had no idea where it was. She said it makes her proud because this has always been a great place, even when it was not well known. She said Bullhead is a breath of fresh air to her and said her vision is to keep it that way. She said growth and new opportunities are good, but she does not want us to lose the welcoming, home-town spirit that makes this community special. She said in Bullhead City, you can walk into a grocery store and find someone ready to help, or wave hello to a stranger on the street and get a smile back. She said it feels like an old country town with a bit of city flair, making it the best of both worlds. She said that is why she loves living in Bullhead City, and why they chose to make it their permanent home. She said she is social, outgoing, smiles a lot, and said Bullhead is the kind of place where that energy fits. She said it is not just a city; it is a happy community and wants to help keep it that way.

Council Member Dallman had no questions.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Berry if there was anything that would interfere with her having the time to perform required duties while on City Council. Ms. Berry said nothing would interfere with her having the time to perform required duties while on City Council. She said she would not have applied if she did. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Berry if she is appointed to the Council for the one-year term, would she run for the four-year term in 2026. Ms. Berry answered affirmative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Berry what she could offer to Bullhead City that makes her unique from all other candidates. Ms. Berry said she has strong morals and ethics and is a good listener. She said she has the time to dedicate to being a good council member and does not have any conflicts of interest.

Council Member Head asked Ms. Berry what the one thing is she would have advocated either being included or excluded from the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Ms. Berry said priority should be

addressing what the public needs most. She said for example, she noticed some areas that lack adequate street lighting and is a common concern in many cities, where citizens often raise safety issues. She said without seeing the internal budget, it is difficult for her to suggest specific actions. She said any decision requires understanding both the available infrastructure and the financial resources. She said when it comes to budget cuts, it is important not to make sweeping reductions that impact people's lives and jobs. She said you need to carefully evaluate where the money goes and identify the areas where adjustments can be made. She said sometimes it is not about cutting everything at once, but about making smaller, balanced adjustments across multiple areas to manage resources more effectively.

Jacqueline Miller Interview

Jacqueline Miller said she is a four-year resident of Bullhead City and Las Vegas native. She said the heat was an adjustment and expressed how happy she is to call Bullhead home. Ms. Miller emphasized that water remains one of the most critical issues facing the community. She highlighted both affordability and infrastructure, stressing that with the city's rapid growth, careful management of water resources is essential. Ms. Miller spoke about the importance of parks for both residents and tourists, noting that they help to bring in revenue for local businesses. Ms. Miller said with regard to public safety, it is her belief that Bullhead needs more law enforcement officers to meet the city's growing needs. She said traffic congestion was another concern. She said the recently added right-turn lanes have already shown improvement, and said traffic will remain a challenge as Bullhead continues to expand. She said she is the proud parent of two dogs and said she was excited for the new animal shelter. She asked that the city prioritize recruiting a full-time veterinarian who can provide emergency services, pointing out that the community currently lacks this vital resource. Ms. Miller said she has lived in multiple states and rural communities, giving her perspective on how other communities have successfully addressed growth and development. She said she believes in bringing in good ideas from elsewhere to enhance Bullhead's future. Ms. Miller described herself as someone with diverse views, committed to teamwork, and driven by the belief that strong leaders must also be strong team players. She stated that if elected to the one-year council term, she intends to run for a full four-year term in 2026.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Miller what prompted her to move from Las Vegas to Bullhead City. Ms. Miller clarified that she did not move directly from Las Vegas to Bullhead City. She said after leaving Las Vegas for the final time in 1998, she spent time living in Mesquite, Nevada, as well as in California off and on over the years. She said while in Mesquite, she realized the community was not quite what she had hoped it would be. She said many of the truck drivers she saw at work suggested Bullhead City as an alternative. She said around the same time, a friend who worked in Mesquite and had a home in Mohave Valley encouraged her to visit because he knew she did not want to return to a big-city lifestyle. She said she visited Bullhead City and decided to buy a home and live here full time.

Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Miller what some of the lessons were that she learned when she ran for congress. Ms. Miller said she learned that it is very hard when you run as an independent and it takes a lot of money. She said she also learned that a lot of politicians are not involved in their community. Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Miller what the primary role of government is. Ms. Miller said to her, the primary role of government is to keep the community safe.

Council Member Head asked Ms. Miller what the one thing is she would have advocated either being included or excluded from the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Ms. Miller said she would have liked to have allocated additional funds in the budget for a couple more code enforcement officers. She said she was shocked when she found out there were only two code enforcement officers. She said a city the size of Bullhead should have more than two code enforcement officers. She said the code enforcement officers certainly cannot do follow ups to make sure that someone's complaint is being fixed, and said they just are not able to do it.

Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Miller what she feels is one of the biggest challenges that Bullhead City Council Members face. Ms. Miller said separating truly homeless people from the bums and drug addicts. She said we need to train some of our citizens that it is good to help, but they should give directly to the resources available for the homeless people down on their luck.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Miller if there was anything that would interfere with her having the time to perform required duties while on City Council. Ms. Miller said absolutely nothing would interfere with her having the time to perform required duties while on City Council. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Miller if she is appointed to the Council for the one-year term, would she run for the four-year term in 2026. Ms. Miller answered affirmative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Miller what she could offer to Bullhead City that makes her unique from all other candidates. Ms. Miller said she has experiences with other cities seeing what works or does not work. She said she would bring fresh eyes and energy to the Council.

Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Miller how she would separate the "truly homeless" from the "tweakers". Ms. Miller said she can just tell by looking at them to know they are on drugs. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Miller if she feels we should not be helping someone on drugs. Ms. Miller said there are other ways to help drug addicts but if they do not want the help, there is not much you can do. She said she wants to help homeless families and senior citizens.

William "Scotty" McClure Interview

Mr. McClure said he will not run for reelection because he will be running for District Supervisor in three years. He said two assistant city managers are not necessary and said the city manager can do the grant research if he uses AI. He said the police report he received is word for word what he said in the report and wants all departments to use AI. He said the audio in the area court houses needs to be upgraded and feels someone is not getting a fair trial. He said the building codes need to be changed to address additional driveways and turn lanes and stated Exceptional Health as an example. He said the ambulances have a hard time making the left turn into the hospital without a dedicated turn lane.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked what subdivision Mr. McClure lived in. Mr. McClure answered Riverbend. Council Member O'Neill asked Mr. McClure if he was familiar with the City Centre project and if so, what he thinks about it. Mr. McClure answered affirmative and said there needs to be right-turn lanes around the perimeter of the development.

Council Member Newlin asked Mr. McClure what he thinks is the best thing about Bullhead City. Mr. McClure said he moved here because it was affordable.

Council Member Head asked Mr. McClure what the one thing is he would have advocated either being included or excluded from the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Mr. McClure said he would remove the two assistant city manager positions, and another code enforcement officer is not needed.

Council Member Dallman asked Mr. McClure how he would be an asset to the city council. Mr. McClure said he has nine years of experience with the California school board and is familiar with the process.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. McClure what makes him different from the other candidates. Mr. McClure said he is a true republican and cares about the city. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if he is appointed to the Council for the one-year term, would he run for the four-year term in 2026. Mr. McClure answered negative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. McClure what the two highest priorities for the city are. Mr. McClure said he thinks the city is doing pretty good and does not need to change much.

Kim Villalobos Interview

Kim Villalobos said she is from Holiday Shores and has lived in Bullhead City for about five years. She said that she has been a Bullhead City homeowner for four years, having vacationed in the area for many years before moving here full time. She said she is originally from New Jersey, comes from a hardworking family background and has built a 14-year career with Carvana. She described herself as a people person, team player, and lifelong learner, with values rooted in integrity, curiosity, empathy, and growth. She expressed deep appreciation for the community, highlighted her passion for engagement and support, and emphasized her commitment to serving long-term as Bullhead City continues to grow.

Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Villalobos what she feels is the primary role of local government. Ms. Villalobos said safety and listening to the citizens and what matters to the community. She said infrastructure, traffic issues, and police funding are important and need to have a focus.

Council Member O'Neill asked what drew Ms. Villalobos from New Jersey to Arizona. Ms. Villalobos said affordability was the deciding factor. Council Member O'Neill asked if Ms. Villalobos had voted in the last election. Ms. Villalobos answered affirmative. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Villalobos if she was familiar with Proposition 416. Ms. Villalobos answered it was for city financials. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Villalobos if she was familiar with the City Centre project. Ms. Villalobos said she is aware of the much-needed affordable housing for seniors.

Council Member Head asked Ms. Villalobos if there was one thing that she would have advocated, including or excluding, from the adopted budget during the budget process. Ms. Villalobos said police officer funding is most important and to keep the necessary funding to do their jobs efficiently and safely.

Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Villalobos what she feels is the most important need to help improve our traffic congestion. Ms. Villalobos said she works from home and avoids all traffic, but she knows to plan to leave the house a little earlier on a holiday.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Villalobos if there is anything that would interfere with having the time to perform required duties if on the city council, such as work interference, travel, family, or not

having time due to other organizations, conflict of interest, or lack of availability. Ms. Villalobos answered negative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Villalobos if she was elected for the one-year term will she run for the four-year term. Ms. Villalobos answered affirmative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Villalobos what the two highest priorities for the city are and why. Ms. Villalobos said the highest priority would be tourism. She feels the city needs more of a voice regarding public announcements and public safety. She said another priority is to provide help to our homeless and seniors as more of a hand up and said there is a way to navigate through proper channels to get help with funding and assistance. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Villalobos what she would offer the city that makes her unique from all other candidates. Ms. Villalobos said her passion about Bullhead City. She said she is a great learner and may be soft-spoken but has a huge heart and is a team player.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo called for a recess at 11:10 a.m. and reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

Bo Hellams Interview

Bo Hellams said he has lived in Bullhead City for about six years. He said he enjoys outdoor recreation on the river and in the desert and has been an advocate for recreation in many forms. He said he is originally from Pennsylvania and was raised at Camp Pendleton as a child of a retired military veteran. He said he earned an undergraduate degree in Parks and Recreation with a focus on outdoor leadership from Humboldt State University and worked in search and rescue along the California coast. He said after completing a master's in public administration in Missouri, where he also raced mountain bikes and worked for the City of Hazelwood, he came to Bullhead City to join the Parks and Recreation Department. He said the path has not always been easy, but he values the opportunity to build a life here, appreciate the community, and feel his role has helped shape both the city's direction and the residents' opportunities.

Council Member O'Neill asked Mr. Hellams in what neighborhood he resides. Mr. Hellams said he lives off Ramar Road. Council Member O'Neill asked Mr. Hellams if he has an opinion on raising water rates. Mr. Hellams said water has been a strong topic in the community for quite a while since the city took the system over from EPCOR. He said though residents may not enjoy it, at every council meeting improvements to the water structure were approved. He said that if the water quality, infrastructure enhancements, and a better utility service is provided to our residents, sometimes it does cost a little more.

Council Member Head asked Mr. Hellams what he would have advocated to add or remove from the budget. Mr. Hellams emphasized public safety, noting the importance of water rescue and suggesting additional lifeguards and recreation programming to teach river safety. He said Bullhead City's recreation opportunities are an untapped asset and should be highlighted with stronger messaging beyond affordability.

Council Member Dallman asked Mr. Hellams if he sees his role as a council member and also in his position with the chamber. Mr. Hellams addressed concerns about a potential conflict of interest with the Chamber of Commerce, noting the city's tourism contract with the Chamber predates his role. He emphasized the value the Chamber brings to both council and the community, serving as a voice for businesses and residents. He stated that being involved in multiple aspects of the community should be seen as a strength, not a liability, and that effective council members should actively contribute to where they live, whether through volunteering, recreation, or building locally. Mr. Hellams highlighted his six years of community involvement through the Chamber, a local utility company,

and city work, and said his objective on council would be to continue improving the community and strengthening the partnership with the business sector. Council Member Dallman asked Mr. Hellams if he is appointed to the Council for the one-year term, would he run for the four-year term in 2026. Mr. Hellams answered negative. Council Member Dallman asked Mr. Hellams how he would evaluate the city's relationship with Mohave County. Mr. Hellams noted the importance of his working relationship with Rich Lettman, now representing District 2 after serving on the city council. He praised Supervisor Lettman as a strong advocate for the community and regional tourism, emphasizing their shared focus on growing capacity across Mohave County and the Colorado River Valley. He said their collaboration strengthens both city and county efforts and will continue to develop with Supervisor Lettman's support in his role at the Chamber.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member Newlin asked Mr. Hellams if he feels Bullhead City is a good place to open a business and why. Mr. Hellams said business development is the community's heartbeat. He said that Bullhead City is a strong place to start a business, with the Chamber's nearly 600 members made up of over 60 percent small businesses with 1–5 employees. He emphasized the support available from idea to opening and the benefits of both small and large business growth, including rising wages and opportunities for younger residents to build a life locally.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. Hellams what he thought were the two highest priorities for the city and why. Mr. Hellams stated that water remains a top priority, both for the river and for reliable distribution to residents. He identified managing rapid growth as the next key issue, emphasizing the need to attract the right businesses and ensure proper development. He also noted the importance of working with the county to support regional growth and maintain Bullhead City as a community where people can establish lasting roots. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. Hellams what one action that the City Council has taken during the last year that he would change. Mr. Hellams said he did not think the streetlights on the parkway were needed because there are no bike lanes or sidewalks, so there is no reason for the streetlights. He said he would like to see safe lanes for cycling and non-motorized transportation opportunities and explore recreational use for our roads as well. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. Hellams if he would have the time to dedicate himself to the position if he were to be appointed. Mr. Hellams answered affirmative and said he feels that he is able to set a goal, maintain high standards, and move through that goal.

Pamela Smith Interview

Pamela Smith stated she has owned property in Bullhead City since 2003 and has regularly attended and followed city council and commission meetings. She highlighted extensive volunteer service, including work with the American Legion, VFW Auxiliary, Colorado River Republican Women, and numerous community cleanups and food distributions. She has held leadership roles such as treasurer, newsletter editor, and bylaws chair in several organizations. Smith also serves as a precinct and state committeeman, is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and has chaired the city's Planning and Zoning Commission since 2023 after being appointed in 2020. She previously worked in advertising and marketing, owning and operating a weekly newsletter. She emphasized her commitment to research, listening, and hard work.

Council Member Head asked Ms. Smith what one thing she would have advocated either to be included or excluded from the adopted budget during the budget process. Ms. Smith said she may not

necessarily have advocated for it, but she would have liked to have had discussions on paying down the debt service that the city currently pays.

Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Smith if she ever had the intention of running for city council or does she plan to if selected. Ms. Smith said she had applied to be on Council last time there was an appointment. She said her goal is to serve to the best of her ability for this term and feels it is too soon for her to decide. Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Smith what asset she would bring to the council. Ms. Smith said she works well with others and has been involved with various commissions. Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Smith what she feels would be a fix to the traffic problems in Bullhead City. Ms. Smith said the land and road expansion would help those on the Parkway and all the new developments being built there. She said the completed right turn lanes will help considerably and said she is very hopeful that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is going to find a solution for a North-South thoroughfare.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Smith if she was aware of Proposition 416. Ms. Smith answered affirmative and said the Proposition was to change the amount of money the city could spend and budget without having to borrow money and not have to obtain loans for projects. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Smith if she was familiar with Emerald Bay. Ms. Smith answered affirmative adding that it is located by the Target Shopping Center. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Smith if she was familiar with City Centre. Ms. Smith answered affirmative, and it is located on the south side of Marina Boulevard. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Smith how she feels about the city taking over the water system from EPCOR. Ms. Smith said she voted for the city to take over EPCOR but feels the city paid too much for the system. She said the city needs to make sure that the system is functioning and repaired or replaced as cost effectively as possible, and to watch out for the ratepayers dollars.

Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Smith what the primary role of local government is. Ms. Smith said public safety is number one, but also maintaining water and sewer infrastructure and promoting economic development. Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Smith what the best and worst things about Bullhead City are. Ms. Smith said the best thing is the community. She said regardless of where you live, there is a feeling of community which you don't get in a lot of towns. She said she cannot think of anything that is bad about Bullhead City.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked what one action that the City Council had taken during the last year she would change and why. Ms. Smith said she cannot think of anything. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Smith what she felt were the two highest priorities for the city and why. Ms. Smith said water is the highest priority because without it we die. She said fighting for our water rights at the state and federal level and fixing the infrastructure are huge issues. She said another high priority is the homeless transient issue. She said the city targets tourism and wants tourists to utilize the parks but seeing 20 or 30 people gathered under a shade structure with all their belongings it gives a bad look to the city. How do we solve it? I don't know, we have so many programs in this town and so many different nonprofits that help just these things. She said the existing laws should be enforced, such as no loitering or no trespassing. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Smith if there was anything that would interfere with having the time to perform the required duties if on city council. Ms. Smith answered negative.

Kenya Cribb Interview

Kenya Cribb stated she had lived in Arizona for six years and in Bullhead City for four years. She worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the State of Arizona. She explained that her interest in serving came from her upbringing in Georgia, where her family emphasized being community-centered, and her mother served as a county commissioner. She said she has served on several boards, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, where she was vice chair, and the Board of Adjustments, where she had served two consecutive terms and was also vice chair. She also volunteered monthly with Food for Families, helped with Make Bullhead Better, and recently joined the Salvation Army Emergency Response Team. She stated that if given the opportunity to serve, she would listen to citizens and work to ensure Bullhead City remained a community for everyone.

Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Cribb why she wanted to serve on the City Council. Ms. Cribb said she was already “boots on the ground” serving on boards and was ready to work for the citizens of Bullhead City, and she also came from a legacy of political leaders who had taught her how to serve. Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Cribb if she planned to run again if not selected. Ms. Cribb responded affirmative, noting she would continue working on projects. Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Cribb why she moved to Bullhead City. Ms. Cribb explained she had relocated for her job with the State of Arizona, first to Gilbert, then transferred to Bullhead City after a job opening arose. She said although she had never heard of Bullhead City before and was unsure about moving to a small town, she was reminded of her own upbringing in Albany, Georgia, and quickly felt she could make Bullhead City her home.

Council Member O’Neill asked Ms. Cribb in what neighborhood she resides. Ms. Cribb answered the condos off Riverfront Drive.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Cribb what she feels is the primary role of local government. Ms. Cribb said the first role is to be a team player because a council member has to work with every council member and the city manager, city attorney, and city clerk. Ms. Cribb said the second part would be to listen to the needs and concerns of the citizens.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Cribb if there was anything that would interfere with having the time to perform required duties of the city council. Ms. Cribb answered negative and said her time is very flexible because she works from home most days. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Cribb if she is appointed to the one-year term, would she run again for the four-year term. Ms. Cribb answered affirmative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Cribb what she felt are the two highest priorities for the city and why. Ms. Cribb stated her top priorities for the city would be implementing affordable housing and improving transportation to support growth. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Cribb what council action she would change from the past year. Ms. Cribb said she would have allocated more funding for youth and seniors, noting the need for more activities for youth and opportunities to keep seniors engaged.

Ellen Brown Interview

Ellen Brown stated she had lived in Bullhead City since 1980 and worked for Mohave Electric since 1981. She described herself as community focused with a strong record of service, including long involvement with the Colorado River Women's Council, Relay for Life, and multiple boards such as the Bullhead City Fire District, Boys and Girls Club, MCC Foundation, Colorado River Historical Society, and the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce. She noted her experience with budgeting and event planning. Ms. Brown said her community involvement had increased her interest in city government, and she wished to take the next step by serving at a higher level. Her primary interest was economic development, particularly attracting businesses, restaurants, shopping opportunities, and professionals such as doctors, nurses, and teachers to Bullhead City.

Council Member Ring had no questions.

Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Brown in what neighborhood she lives. Ms. Brown said Desert Foothills. Council Member O'Neill asked Ms. Brown how she felt about the proposed water rate increase. Ms. Brown said she thinks the city has done an amazing job of keeping the water service functioning and making the necessary improvements and said there comes a time when expenses override receipts and raising the rates is just part of that.

Council Member Head asked Ms. Brown what one thing she would have advocated for to be included or excluded from the 2026. Ms. Brown said she would have voted to increase the public safety budget.

Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Brown why she wants to be appointed to City Council. Ms. Brown said her experience with community service and interest in the background of the city would make her a good candidate. Council Member Dallman asked Ms. Brown if she plans to run for the four-year term whether or not she is selected. Ms. Brown answered affirmative.

Council Member Newlin asked Ms. Brown what some of the best and worst things are about the present-day Bullhead City as opposed to when she first moved here. Ms. Brown said when Bullhead City was first formed, there was no planning at all. And when I moved here, there was one stoplight in Old Bullhead. There were some houses down in Holiday Shores. I lived in California, and Holiday Shores was a big advertising piece on the TV. So, there were just a few segments of the city that were being built out, but no real plan. And I think the city's done a really good job of building a plan for our city and working toward that goal and cleaning up some of the areas and making it more cohesive.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Brown if there was anything that would interfere with having the time to perform the required duties of the city council. Ms. Brown answered negative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Brown what action she would change that the City Council had taken during the past year and why. Ms. Brown said she could not think of anything to change. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Brown what she felt were the two highest priorities for the city and why. Ms. Brown identified public safety and economic development as top priorities, citing growth in residents, visitors, and the homeless population, as well as the need to attract businesses and professionals to the community. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Ms. Brown what would make her unique to the city council. Ms. Brown said her 45 years of experience living in Bullhead City gave her unique institutional knowledge to offer the council.

Stephen Brown Interview

Stephen Brown shared his dedication to public service, highlighting his role as Director of the Bullhead Regional Food Bank, where he streamlined operations to better serve families. He said he mentors men in recovery through the New Beginnings Discipleship Program, helping them lead sober, productive lives and restore family relationships. He emphasized his commitment to Bullhead City, drawing on his local upbringing and understanding of the community's needs and history. He pledged to be an informed and active City Council member by attending meetings, engaging in community events, and conducting thorough research. He supports long-term planning for city growth and is excited about the new Downtown City Centre project, aiming to blend innovation with tradition. He noted past successful collaborations with current council members and city staff, and said as a pastor, he holds himself to high ethical standards and is committed to upholding laws and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Council Member Newlin asked Mr. Brown what he felt is the primary role of local government. Mr. Brown said to protect citizens not only in terms of safety but also from corruption and harmful business practices. He identified the opioid epidemic and mental health services as major concerns from residents. He shared a personal story about a drug house in his neighborhood and advocated reopening the local mental health facility that has been closed for over a year.

Council Member O'Neill asked Mr. Brown in which neighborhood he lived. Mr. Brown said he lives in the Riviera neighborhood.

Council Member Head asked Mr. Brown what he would have advocated for, either including or excluding, from the 2026 budget. Mr. Brown said he advocated including additional funding to be able to help local citizens through the Bullhead Regional Food Bank.

Council Member Dallman asked Mr. Brown how long he had lived in Bullhead City. Mr. Brown stated he moved to the city in 2019 from Milwaukee after graduating. He said he returned to Arizona due to the climate and initially worked for River Valley Air Conditioning before becoming a pastor. Council Member Dallman asked Mr. Brown to address the city's traffic issues. Mr. Brown emphasized the need for better traffic light synchronization to improve flow and create more harmonious travel from point A to point B.

Council Member Ring asked Mr. Brown if he was to be appointed today, will he run for council. Mr. Brown answered negative.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. Brown if he had the time to commit to serving on the City Council. Mr. Brown responded that he does, stating he has a strong support team and has mastered time management. He noted he effectively delegates tasks through volunteers and personal contacts. He also acknowledged that, if appointed, he would step down from his current role as Vice Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anything would interfere with fulfilling his duties on the City Council. Mr. Brown answered negative. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked Mr. Brown what one action he would change that the City Council had taken in the past year and why. Mr. Brown stated that he would not change any actions, as he believes the City Council agenda is well prepared. He commended the city manager for effectively managing the agenda and ensuring community input is considered on every item presented.

City Manager Cotter thanked the City Council for their time and attention in interviewing the ten candidates. He outlined the selection process, noting that with six council members, a majority of four votes is required to make a selection. He said each council member will submit their choice by ballot, which will be read aloud by the city clerk and recorded on a master tally sheet. He said if three or more candidates receive votes, those with no votes or the fewest votes will be eliminated after the first round. He said subsequent ballots will include only the remaining candidates, with names highlighted for clarity. He said votes will again be read aloud and tallied and this process will continue until a selection is made. He said if no majority is reached after three rounds and the council reaches a stalemate, a motion may be made to open further discussion, per previously established policy.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if anyone had questions. There were no questions.

City Clerk Ogden read the results of round one: Council Member Head voted for Pamela Smith; Council Member Dallman voted for Pamela Smith; Council Member Ring voted for Bo Hellams; Vice Mayor Alfonzo voted for Pamela Smith; Council Member Newlin voted for Pamela Smith; and Council Member O'Neill voted for Pamela Smith.

City Manager Cotter said Pamela Smith would be sworn in on July 15th at the next city council meeting by our judge and said council would now have seven members. He said the council would select a mayor from the seven of council members who will serve that remaining term. He said then Council would select a Vice Mayor.

ACTION: Council Member Head made a motion to appoint Pamela Smith to the City Council to fill the remainder of the term vacated by former Mayor Steve D'Amico. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEM

2. The City Council will make a motion to appoint a citizen to fill the vacant City Council position beginning July 15, 2025, and continuing through the end of the 2026 election cycle. The citizen appointed by the City Council will be sworn into office at the beginning of the July 15, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Alfonzo declared the special meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct record of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held on the 8th day of July 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of September 2025.


Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk