

Upon notice duly given under Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431, et seq., as amended, the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor D'Amico called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Pastor Earl Jones from Spirit Life Church to deliver the invocation. Council Member O'Neill led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

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

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

POLICE CHIEF: Robert Trebes

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark R. Clark

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Saritti Chooniyom

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor D'Amico opened the call to the public.

Harold Smith spoke about their Veterans in Motion fundraising event to be held on February 14th at the Fiesta RV Resort Ballroom.

Jeremy Brunk from TWN gave an update on ongoing projects in Bullhead City.

Barbara Pape said the Colorado River Republican Women are having a luncheon on February 5th at 11:00 a.m. at Chaparral Country Club.

Rose Jacobs spoke about the Colorado River Concert Series upcoming events.

Deborah Rosey from Bullhead City Elks Lodge thanked Vice Mayor Alfonzo for attending their Hometown Heroes event that took place last Saturday and briefly spoke about previous charity events held by the Elks Lodge.

Randy Mack said as of last Tuesday, Bullhead City has its own brand new programmed radio station called 103.9 Jack FM. He said they will be doing the programming off Hancock Road, and said a lot more things are coming to Bullhead City in the future.

Scotty McClure said speed bumps should be installed on city streets. He said the urgent care on Ramar Road is closed, and said he wants his medical records. He said he wanted all veterans to know that the new hospital on Highway 95 and Marina accepts VA insurance, and said veterans can get medical attention there. He briefly spoke about Senate Bill 1036.

Grace Hecht spoke about an upcoming Community Baby Shower event to be held on February 13th at Laughlin Ranch.

Having no one else present requesting to speak, Mayor D'Amico closed the call to the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

WAIVER MOTION

Vice Mayor Alfonzo made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member Head seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Spring Sports Tournaments and Special Events

City Manager Cotter said the spring months in Bullhead City bring a lot of sports tournaments and special events. He said this past weekend in Rotary Park there was a football tournament, softball tournament, and soccer games being played. He said it was a fantastic display of sports and activities in Rotary Park. He said he saw a team from New Jersey playing against a team from Colorado. He said Bullhead City is now in the sports tournaments and special events season, and said almost every weekend now through May, people and local businesses need to be prepared for a lot of sports teams in Bullhead City. He said the upcoming sporting events are on the city's website.

2. Optimum Community Center Project Update

City Manager Cotter said the first phase of the Optimum Community Center is almost complete. He said there is an item on tonight's agenda to approve the parking lot lighting and said the parking lot is nearly complete. He said the gym and some of the classrooms are already complete, and said they will present phase 2 of the project to Council in the next couple of months. He said they plan to have a grand opening sometime in March, and said in the meantime they are going to do a soft opening. He said some people are already using the facility.

3. Bullhead Animal Resource Center Project Update

City Manager Cotter said the concrete has been removed from the large kennel area, the plumbing is set, the new foundation is going to be poured in the next week or so, and the generators should arrive sometime in February. He said framing of the walls in the vet and cat storage areas is currently being done. He said they are planning on installing the drywall in the next few weeks. He said skylights are already installed in the kennel area and the ductwork and air conditioning are complete. He said Precise Builders has done a lot of work at the new shelter and said they will be scheduling a tour in the coming months. He said a list of things that still need to be purchased will be discussed during the budget process.

4. Senior Enrichment Center Project Update

City Manager Cotter said the Senior Enrichment Center building is not yet complete. He said the electric is about to be turned on to do the flooring. He said they still need a few weeks and then staff are going to need a few weeks to move into the new building. He said they are going to pick a date in the very near future, possibly in March, to open the new center.

5. Right Turn Lane Construction on Highway 95

City Manager Cotter said installing right hand turn lanes along Highway 95 has begun. He said three bids have been awarded to install right hand turn lanes on the city's south side just past the Target shopping center, and said people will soon see earthmoving equipment in the coming weeks. He said a contract was awarded to McCormick Construction for the installation of a right hand turn lane at Mohave High School and Thunderstruck, and said the project should start sometime in March. He said after that, construction for the right hand turn lane at Safeway will begin. He said it is currently out for design. He said the right hand turn lanes are moving quickly and they are going to keep the process going. He thanked Mayor D'Amico and Assistant City Manager Pruitt for continuing to advocate for additional funds from the state, and said this is one of their top legislative priorities.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

None

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Head made a motion that Items 1 through 5 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member O'Neill seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Approve to ratify the “Termination of Property Escrow Agreement” under Property Escrow Agreement entered in 2009 under Mohave County Recorder Fee No. 2009060439. (City Attorney Emery)
3. Accept 1) Grant and Dedication Right of Way in Fee Title Section 12, T20N, R22W, G&STM (The Bullhead Commons/Portion of Lot 10); 2) Corrective Grant and Dedication Right of Way in Fee Title Section 12, T20N, R22W G&SRM (The Bullhead Commons/APN 214-01-013); and 3) Corrective Grant and Dedication Drainage Easement Section 12, T20N, R22W, G&SRM (The Bullhead Commons/APN 214-01-013). (City Attorney Emery)
4. Approve to grant a 24.05 acre-foot water allocation for the Goldrush Resort project located at 1625 S. Goldrush Road, Bullhead City, AZ. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
5. Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-1, authorizing the abandonment of the 12-foot pedestrian easement that lies within the parcel of land located at 2231 Paseo del Rio and described as Lot 677 of Riviera Marina Village Tract 1008, Section 19, T20N, R22W, Bullhead City, AZ. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

6. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a Series 9 (Liquor Store) Liquor License Job No. 314541 submitted by Maria Danielle Burgess for Circle K Store #9561 Located at 1080 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. (City Clerk Ogden)

City Manager Cotter said this liquor license will be used at the new Circle K that is going to be located just south of the existing Circle K and said the plans for the new location have been approved. He said staff reviewed the application and have no concerns.

Mayor D'Amico asked if the applicant was present. The applicant was not. Mayor D'Amico said he wished the applicant was present so they could discuss the conditions of the two existing Circle K stores in Bullhead City.

Mayor D'Amico opened the public hearing. Having no one present wishing to speak, Mayor D'Amico closed the public hearing.

Council Member Ring made a motion to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a Series 9 (Liquor Store) Liquor License Job No. 314541 submitted by Maria Danielle Burgess for Circle K Store #9561 Located at 1080 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

7. Discussion and possible action to approve: 1) the purchase of lighting for the Optimum Center Parking Lot from ClearWorld under Purchasing Cooperative of America in the amount of \$214,278.20 plus tax and shipping, and authorize the City Manager or designee to issue resulting payments; and 2) a budget transfer in an amount not to exceed \$260,000.00 from contingency to complete the purchase and installation of the lighting. (Public Works Director Johnson)

City Manager Cotter said they budgeted \$3 million in this year's budget for contingency, and said none of the funds have been spent. He said as the fiscal year winds down, and depending on the project, there are a few items that can be brought before Council to take out of contingency. He said the project's contractor worked very fast to get the job done, the Optimum Center parking lot is very dark at night. He said for safety, security and liability, the lights really need to be installed. He said this is general fund money whether it is taken out of contingency now, or budgeted for next fiscal year. He said essentially it is the same dollars coming out of the same pot.

Public Works Director Johnson said staff is seeking Council's approval for a budget transfer and to purchase new solar lights for the Optimum Community Center parking lot. She said the project consists of 19 dual head lights and 8 single head lights. She said the same kind of lights are already installed in Community Park and the Boys and Girls Club and said they have had no issues with them. She said staff knows how to install the lights so they will not have to pay extra funds for installation.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo said the city is purchasing the lights through a purchasing cooperative and asked if there are any fees or dues the city will have to pay for belonging to the co-op. Public Works Director Johnson said the city will not have to pay any fees or dues. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if the city would qualify for any solar tax credits. Public Works Director Johnson said the city will not qualify for any solar tax credits. She said the batteries have a 5 year warranty. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked how much it would cost to replace the batteries. Public Works Director Johnson said it would cost approximately \$550 to replace a single head battery plus tax and shipping. She said dual headlights have two batteries, and it would cost approximately \$1,100 plus tax and shipping.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Newlin made a motion to approve 1) the purchase of lighting for the Optimum Center Parking Lot from ClearWorld under Purchasing Cooperative of America in the amount of \$214,278.20 plus tax and shipping, and authorize the City Manager or designee to issue resulting payments; and 2) a budget transfer in an amount not to exceed \$260,000.00 from contingency to complete the purchase and installation of the lighting. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

8. Discussion and possible action to: 1) adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1, by reference, approving an addition to Chapter 17.42, Sign Regulations, Title 17 of the Bullhead City Municipal Code; 2) adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-2, declaring the code amendment a public record; and 3) adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-3, designating political sign-free zones in city rights-of-way. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

City Manager Cotter said the State of Arizona allows cities such as Bullhead City to have political sign free zones. He said he, Development Services Director Chooniyom, and Planner Loera have analyzed areas that will work under the law. He said the Arizona Revised Statute permits municipalities to designate sign-free zones to be free from political signage within rights-of-ways in commercial tourism, resort, and hotel areas that would otherwise be subject to placement of political signs. He said under the law, they can prohibit political signs in the city rights-of-ways, but cannot prohibit them from a business outside of the right-of-way, the business private property outside of the right-of-way, or the business private property right-of-way. He said staff has put a map together that shows the areas they believe should be political sign-free zones. He said the areas on the map include the following: Highway 95 from the Parkway to the Laughlin Bridge; south on Highway 95 to Mohave Drive just before Walmart; Silver Creek by Starbucks and the Holiday Inn to the Parkway; a remnant piece at the Laughlin/Bullhead Airport from the Parkway; and the Parkway to Laughlin Ranch Boulevard. He said the areas were chosen because of previous discussion with the Council and ideal areas that are primarily tourist areas in addition to locals. He said he looked at data that showed hundreds of thousands of people travel in the proposed areas each year. He said the data tracks peoples cell phones and is used by a lot of businesses that are looking to relocate. He said this would be a good time to amend the code because the election is over, and no one is putting out political signs. He said this will impact the next election.

Mayor D'Amico said he would like to add the area near the Anderson Fieldhouse. He said there are a lot of sporting events at the Fieldhouse and a lot of tourism that go along with it.

Council Member Newlin said this weekend was a good example of tourism at Rotary Park. He suggested they add Riverview Drive from Highway 95 to Lakeside.

Council Member Head said he did not think any of the proposed added locations are unreasonable. Council Member Head suggested they add limiting Laughlin Ranch Boulevard and the Bullhead Parkway and Highway 95 at Mohave Drive

Planner Loera said the discussion was to exclude any areas that had residences in it. He said a residence could still display a political sign on their private property. He said the code amendment will only apply to rights-of-ways.

Council Member Dallman said she agrees with Council Member Head. She said when she was putting her signs out, it was a little confusing as the corners of Laughlin Ranch Boulevard and Mohave Drive. She said she did not have any objections to adding Riverview, and said she was in favor of adding the Anderson Field House area.

Council Member Ring said she agreed with Council Members Head and Dallman, and said she did not see the need to add Riverview. She said the Andreson Field House area should be added.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo said he is in favor of adding Riverview because a lot of visitors travel on Riverview to attend sporting events that are being held at Rotary Park. He said political signs in that area look somewhat like an eyesore and should be prevented. He said he would be in favor of making the area starting at Riverview and travel down Highway 95 and crossing over the bridge. Mayor D'Amico said he is in favor of the area starting at the Bullhead Parkway past the Anderson Field House.

Council Member O'Neill said the sign ordinance is very confusing. He said last year there were a lot of political signs at the four way intersection coming off Laughlin Ranch Boulevard and asked if signs will be allowed at the location under the new ordinance. He said he felt a lot of confusion is coming from whether a location is in the right-of-way or private property. He said with regards to cell phone tracking, he has a Texas cell phone number and asked if the data would show him as a visitor even though he lives in Bullhead City. He said a lot of residents have cell phone numbers that are from another state. City Manager Cotter said the tracking program ties to your residence, not your phone number. He said when they pull up the data, it will show a bubble map of where everyone came from. He said a few days after an event, the data populates and they can look at the location of the event and tell where people came from.

Mayor D'Amico said people running for office may not watch the council meetings and know about the ordinance. He said he had permission to place his signs on private property and the next day people were placing their signs next to his. He said people think because there is one sign at a location, it must be okay to put their sign on the property too. He said what starts off as one sign on private property turns into 20 signs when permission was given for only one. He said the property owner has the right to throw the signs away if they are placed on private property without the owner's permission.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item.

Grace Hecht asked if the city is going to start another position with their sole duty is to remove political signs. She said currently there are a lot of illegal signs out to promote a home show and asked if the city is going to remove them. City Manager Cotter said the signs in question are placed illegally, and said code enforcement has removed a lot of them. He said they have not removed all of them, but they are working on it. He said if someone has political signs located in an illegal spot, someone from code enforcement will call them and let them know the sign is in the right-of-way and must be moved. He said if a sign does not have a phone number on it, and there is no way to track who the sign belongs to, it will be removed immediately. He said if the sign is not moved after the

courtesy call, someone from code enforcement will remove the sign and people can pick it up at city hall. He said part of this is to educate the candidates and suggested giving each candidate a detailed map and other information.

Scotty McClure said he was not educated on sign placement and a lot of his signs were removed. He said he followed the locations of Mayor Brady's signs, and said he placed his signs next to all of Mayor Brady's signs. He said he followed Mayor Brady because he knew where the rights-of-ways are. He said the city should give candidates very clearly marked maps showing the rights-of-ways and where signs can and cannot be placed.

Council Member Head made a motion to: 1) adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1, by reference, approving an addition to Chapter 17.42, Sign Regulations, Title 17 of the Bullhead City Municipal Code; 2) adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-2, declaring the code amendment a public record; and 3) adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-3, designating political sign-free zones in city rights-of-way and add the following locations: Riverview Drive between Highway 95 and Lakeside Drive; Bullhead Parkway between Highway 95, between 100 and 50 feet east of Highway 95 and westward to the Colorado River and Highway 95; 150 feet south of Mohave Drive and Bullhead Parkway, and 150 feet south of Laughlin Ranch Boulevard. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

**VOTE: AYES: Alfonzo, Dallman, D'Amico, Head, Newlin, Ring
NAYS: O'Neill ABSENT: None**

MOTION CARRIED

9. Discussion and possible action to approve sunsetting the Franchise License Commission and directing the City Manager to present an ordinance implementing the same. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the Franchise License Commission was created a long time ago to primarily review the cable company. He said the Commission was also an outlet for people to express their complaints about the cable company. He said Arizona state law no longer allows franchise license agreements for cable companies and said the city took over EPCOR Water so there is no longer an agreement. He said the city code allows for periodic review of all boards and commissions and said this year they realized there is no longer a need for the Franchise License Commission because the city does not have any franchise licenses. He said the Commission creates extra work for staff, the City Clerk's Department, and all the utility companies. He said the utility companies attend the Franchise License Commission meetings to give updates, and said some of them give updates at council meetings. He said with all things considered, the recommendation was that the Franchise License Commission be sunset. He said if the Council agrees to sunset the Commission, staff will bring an ordinance before the Council to sunset the Commission.

Mayor D'Amico said the Council makes the final decision on any agreement, and said the Franchise License Commission is wasting a lot of staff's time and resources.

Commissioner Newlin said with the evolution of the cable franchise agreement and the purchase of the water company, he is of the opinion that the Commission has run its course. He said he liked seeing the different company representatives at council meetings, and said he liked hearing from

citizens at council meetings when they have an issue with a franchise. He said he is in favor of sunsetting the Commission.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Ring made a motion to approve sunsetting the Franchise License Commission and directing the City Manager to present an ordinance implementing the same. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

10. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-4, recommending safety improvements for State Route 68 at the gateway into Bullhead City. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said recently there have been some traffic accidents on Highway 68, one recently involving a UTV and a vehicle, and said this summer there was a fatal rollover accident where someone died coming down the hill. He said many more accidents have occurred over the years. He said this item is to approve a resolution asking the State of Arizona to visit the area, particularly the area coming into the city and just after you enter city limits. He said this seems to be the area where there are the most concerns and accidents. He said they can work with the police department to slow people down, but there is a feeling from some of the business owners in the area that additional signage is needed. He said maybe some flashing beacons or other types of signage that will help visitors understand that they need to slow down. He said this is not the city's road, but perhaps things like signage, feedback systems, speed bumps, or speed zone signs could be installed. He said he spoke with a district engineer, and he is willing to look at it and would be happy to receive the resolution.

Council Member Newlin said he spoke with a business owner in the area and heard firsthand stories of accidents and near accidents. He said he is strongly in favor of encouraging the Arizona Department of Transportation to look at the intersection and the stretch of highway.

Mayor D'Amico asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on this item. No one from the public spoke.

Commissioner Newlin made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025R-4, recommending safety improvements for State Route 68 at the gateway into Bullhead City. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None

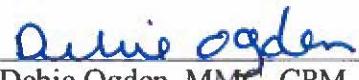
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct record of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held on the 21st day of January 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 30th day of January 2025.


Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk