

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, March 3, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Head called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Pastor Bill Jones with Bethel Community Church to deliver the invocation. Mayor Head led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Alfonzo, Dallman, Head, Newlin, O’Neill, Ring, Smith

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF: Daniel Sharp

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark R. Clark

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Billy Chooniyom

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2026 as Red Cross Month

Mayor Head read the proclamation and presented it to Terri Tomlinson of Bullhead City Legacy Foundation and the American Red Cross.

2. Proclamation declaring Saturday, March 7, 2026 as the 30th Annual Carrie A. Edgmon Bicycle Safety Rodeo

Mayor Head read the proclamation and presented it to Corporal Danny Crawford and Lorrie Duggins of the Bullhead City Police Department.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Head opened the call to the public.

Steve D’Amico, representing the American Legion Riders Chapter 87, explained that the American Legion Riders is a family-oriented motorcycle association with more than 110,000 members in over 2,000 chapters dedicated to supporting veterans, children’s hospitals, and local communities. He said the organization has raised millions of dollars for charities, participates in ceremonies, support military funerals, and works with the Patriot Guard. He added that the group’s mission includes participating in parades, promoting motorcycle safety programs, and supporting veterans through rides and fundraising. He emphasized the Riders are not a Motorcycle Club (MC) and do not operate

under MC rules, noting that each chapter functions at the local post level to address community-specific needs. He highlighted the group's impact through events such as the Legacy Run, Riders Raids, scholarships for children of fallen military personnel, and support for programs such as Christmas at Davis House, as well as donations to organizations including Military Moms. He presented the Council with a \$500 donation to assist with replacing the vandalized plaques at Veterans Memorial Park.

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

Jackie Wallen and Denise Atwater-Vallon, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and Eva Genovese, representing the Colorado River Historical Society, spoke about the upcoming River 250 campaign in support of the America 250 celebration. Ms. Wallen shared flyers for events listed on their website and announced several upcoming activities. She said the DAR will reenact the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Independence Hall with performances scheduled at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Grace Hecht representing Make Bullhead Better spoke about previous events and announced upcoming events.

Jackie Miller spoke about the Colorado River Republican Women luncheon that is taking place tomorrow at Chaparral Golf Course and Restaurant at 11:00 a.m.

Janice Johnston spoke about PFLAG Member Meetings on March 7th and 21st starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Mohave County Library Community Room.

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

Scotty McClure said there was only one hearing aid device available for the meeting. He said he felt some businesses that were awarded Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans were mismanaging the funds. He said the River 250 notices should be placed at the Mohave County Library.

Harvey Pryor requested \$15,000 be included in next year's budget for improvements to the RC Track at Rotary Park. He said although the group fundraises to cover maintenance, they are requesting assistance from the city to help pay for replacing the flagstone sign, adding dirt and a compactor for the dirt track, and improving ADA access. He also announced upcoming events at the RC Track.

Gary Genovese representing the Colorado River Historical Society announced the Easter Honey Baked Ham fundraiser.

Having no one else present requesting to speak, Mayor Head 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 Newlin seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Spring Sports and Special Event

City Manager Cotter showed a presentation explaining upcoming events around Bullhead City. He said staff had notified local businesses to be prepared for the busy weekend.

Recreation Superintendent Heath advised anyone wishing to know the schedules of events that might impact their business should contact him. He reported that the Farmers Market was scheduled at Community Park on March 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He also noted that an adult softball tournament was taking place that weekend, with 116 teams coming to Bullhead City.

2. Desert Cleanup

City Manager Cotter said the Desert Cleanup event over the weekend was a great success with over seven tons of trash collected in just a few hours. He thanked the many volunteers that attended and encouraged residents to contact Republic Services for bulky item pick up instead of dumping in the desert.

3. Economic Development Projects

City Manager Cotter presented an update on current projects throughout the city. He reported the new Circle K scheduled a soft opening on March 5th at 11:00 a.m. He said a blood medical center was under construction in front of the former Kmart building and said Hideaway Haus Luxury Garages were being built off Lee Avenue. He said the new Mohave Eye Center was under development just off Bullhead Parkway near the orthodontist office, and CityCentre construction was underway on Marina Boulevard. He said Banner Physical Therapy located next to El Pollo Loco will hold its official grand opening Saturday at 10:00 a.m. He noted plans had been submitted for an Olive Garden Restaurant just south of Home Depot. He explained the grading work near Dollar General at Bullhead Parkway and Adobe Road was being completed by a developer preparing the lot for sale. He said Grounded in Faith Coffee Shop was planned for the Mohave Crossroads Shopping Center next to Cold Stone Creamery, and Goodwill had pulled a demolition permit for the old JC Penney store. He said Wally Wombats was under construction, and a pool chemical and supplies distributor was planned at Grandview Drive and Miracle Mile. He said a new drive-thru coffee house and a fast-food restaurant were planned near Target and another coffee house was planned near Aspen Dental. He said plans for a gas station at Merrill Avenue and Highway 95 had been approved, and talks regarding two new hotels were ongoing, though no plans had been submitted. He concluded by saying he receives daily compliments from the business community for the assistance provided by the Development Services Department with new businesses.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Smith announced a Candidate Forum for the LD30 Candidates will be held June 9th at Praise Chapel at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Dallman said she attended the 100th birthday celebration at the VFW for Mr. Kenneth Booher, a marine who served our country and was awarded the Bronze Star and was decorated by Admiral Nimitz.

Council Member O'Neill said to keep all our soldiers, sailors, and marines in your thoughts and prayers during Operation Epic Fury.

Mayor Head said he concurred with Council Member O'Neill and added he was honored to present a plaque to Corporal Booher and said the community is blessed to have veterans like him choose Bullhead City as their home.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Newlin said he would like to withdraw Item 4 from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Newlin made a motion that Items 1-3 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Special and Regular Council Meetings. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Approve the "Amendment No. 2 Employment Agreement for City Clerk" increasing the City Clerk's annual salary to \$135,000 commencing March 15, 2026, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the amendment on behalf of the city. (Human Resources Director Stanley)
3. Accept the Grant and Dedication 12-foot Public Utility Easement Colorado River Estates Re-Amended, located at 1547 Grandview Drive, Lot 159, Bullhead City, AZ. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2026R-2, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Bullhead City, Arizona Municipal Court for weekend and holiday coverage services. (City Magistrate Gilleo)

City Manager Cotter said the item is a renewal of an existing agreement between the City of Bullhead City Municipal Court and Lake Havasu City.

Council Member Newlin asked about the existing renewal process. City Attorney Emery explained the city had entered into the agreement the previous year as a pilot program and that Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City had requested the agreement be renewed for another year. He said the proposed renewal was included in the council packet.

Mayor Head opened the public hearing. Having no one wishing to speak, Mayor Head closed the public hearing.

Council Member Newlin made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2026R-2, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Bullhead City, Arizona Municipal Court for weekend and holiday coverage services. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

5. Discussion and possible action to appoint Joseph Stone to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a partial term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2026.

Council Member Ring declared a conflict of interest because she works with Mr. Stone and left the dais.

Joseph Stone said he is a licensed real estate agent in Arizona and Nevada and is very motivated to be part of the development of Bullhead City. He said he has lived in Bullhead City several years and is impressed with how the town is developing.

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

Council Member Newlin made a motion to appoint Joseph Stone to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a partial term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2026. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Council Member Ring returned to the dais.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the Construction Contract for the Section 10 WRP Clarifier 3 and RAS/WAS Pump Station Improvements with Kay Constructors in an amount not to exceed \$11,137,334.53 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resultant payments. (Utilities Director Clark)

Utilities Director Clark said this item was an extension of the project to expand the Section 10 Wastewater Treatment Plant from a capacity of 4 million gallons per day to 6 million gallons per day. He gave a presentation explaining the projects that had already been completed at the plant and said two of the clarifiers would be improved as part of the contract. He said the clarifiers would be emptied, existing equipment removed, the concrete recoated, and new equipment installed, along with the construction of a third clarifier measuring 90 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep. He explained that recycled activated sludge (RAS) and waste activated sludge (WAS) are processed through the RAS/WAS Pump Station and sent to the digesters to be treated before being disposed of. He said the RAS/WAS building would be gutted and upgraded electrical equipment installed. He added that the existing clarifier splitter box would be demolished and replaced with a new splitter box designed to accommodate four clarifiers. He showed photos of the finished treatment process demonstrating the clarity of the water after processing and reminded the public that “flushable” wipes are not truly flushable and can damage equipment in the clarifiers. He explained that four bids were received, but the lowest bidder withdrew its bid after determining it had underbid the project and could not complete the work for the proposed amount, and a fourth bid was received after the bids closed.

Council Member Newlin asked how close staff was to making a determination on financing the project through Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) funds or bonds. Utilities Director Clark said he was working with Finance Director Drexler to determine the most cost-effective option. Council Member Newlin asked if there was an estimated timeframe for making that determination. Finance Director Drexler said the decision would be part of the budget process and said budget workshops would take place in approximately one month.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked what lines 14 and 15 on the bid schedule consisted of. Utilities Director Clark explained that contractors sometimes move items between categories based on their interpretation when submitting a bid. Rob Butts with Kay Constructors explained that “Process Interconnections” on line 14 included all piping connecting to the splitter box, interconnections to the RAS/WAS building, and all associated labor and materials. He said “Process Liquid and Gas Handling” on line 15 included the equipment associated with the project, such as pumps, electrical equipment, and instrumentation.

Council Member Smith said she would like to see American steel used even if the project was financed with WIFA funds. City Manager Cotter explained that conventional borrowing does not carry the same restrictions as WIFA funding, and when comparing the two options it may be preferable to use conventional borrowing and require the contractor to use American steel. Utilities

Director Clark said by the end of the fiscal year there would be very little remaining debt on the wastewater side so conventional borrowing is definitely an option.

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

Misty Divini asked if the steel being removed during the project would be reclaimed and sold. Utilities Director Clark said the contractor would take ownership of all equipment and materials removed during the project. Ms. Divini asked if a Nanogator living organism could be added to the steel to protect the stainless steel, extend its longevity, and reduce maintenance costs. Utilities Director Clark said the manufacturer coats the steel with a liquid material and the equipment had already been manufactured. He added the city already has a contract in place and a short timeline to receive the equipment, noting the current equipment has been in place for approximately 20 years. Ms. Divini asked if there were ways to reduce wipes from entering the machines. Utilities Director Clark explained that the headworks at the plant removes wipes and other materials before the water proceeds through the treatment process. Ms. Divini asked if the treated water would be sold to Phoenix. Utilities Director Clark said he hoped the city would eventually be able to do something beneficial with the effluent, but under the current rules of the Colorado River system the city cannot discharge effluent water into the river or receive credit for it, so it is considered excess system water.

Scotty McClure asked where the Section 10 Wastewater Treatment Plant was located. Utilities Director Clark said it was located on Richardo. Mr. McClure asked if the CityCentre sewer would flow to Section 10 and whether the city would charge per hookup or a one-time fee. Utilities Director Clark said, at present, the State considers that a development fee and the city would need to conduct a study to evaluate it. Mr. McClure asked if the project would raise wastewater rates. Utilities Director Clark stated that this was one of the reasons the rates had been increased.

Council Member Smith asked for clarification if the reclaim water would go to the contractor. Utilities Director Clark said the reclaim water goes into the Colorado River through the infiltration system.

Council Member Dallman made a motion to approve the Construction Contract for the Section 10 WRP Clarifier 3 and RAS/WAS Pump Station Improvements with Kay Constructors in an amount not to exceed \$11,137,334.53 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resultant payments. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

7. Discussion and possible action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2026R-3, ordering and calling a Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, and if necessary, a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to nominate candidates for Council Member positions and the submission of a question to the voters concerning the City's General Plan; providing for and giving notice of such elections, and the deadline for voter registration. (City Clerk Ogden)

City Clerk Ogden announced the deadline to register to vote is Monday, June 22nd at 5:00 p.m.

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

Misty Divini said Bullhead City is a snowbird community and she had heard elections might be held earlier in the year. She said many families leave for vacation during the summer and asked if the city had ever considered holding elections in March or April so more of the population would be present to participate, making the election more representative.

Mayor Head explained that when the city was first incorporated it followed a different election schedule than the State, but at some point, the State of Arizona required cities and towns to hold municipal elections at the same time as state elections. He added that the Primary Election has recently been moved up by two weeks.

City Manager Cotter confirmed the date change and said concerns about the timing of elections would be best directed to the State of Arizona or to Ms. Divini's state elected officials.

Council Member Newlin made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026R-3, ordering and calling a Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, and if necessary, a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to nominate candidates for Council Member positions and the submission of a question to the voters concerning the City's General Plan; providing for and giving notice of such elections, and the deadline for voter registration. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2026R-4, (1) declaring the intention to improve an area within the corporate limits of the City to be known as "CityCentre Improvement District," as described and depicted in the resolution, with a project to include grading, paving, curb and gutters, drainage improvements, sidewalks, valley gutters with aprons, street lights, landscaping, sewer facilities, waterline facilities, and traffic signals in the area south of Marina Boulevard, north of Riverview Drive, east of Lakeside Drive, and west of State Route 95, as described in the preliminary plans for such improvements, (2) determining that improvement bonds be issued representing the cost and expenses of the project, (3) declaring that such improvements are of more than local or ordinary public benefit, and that the costs of the improvements will be assessed upon the land within the district. (Assistant City Manager Kajirwa)

City Manager Cotter said several Improvement Districts have been established in Bullhead City. He said Bullhead Parkway was the first large Improvement District in the city and was funded by developers and property owners within the district. He said the Laughlin Ranch Boulevard Improvement District included some city funding due to access to Community Park, but all landowners within that district contributed. He said the city's sewer system was developed through Sewer Improvement Districts and said Bullhead City has had a strong success rate with improvement districts. He explained that improvement districts are statutorily authorized funding mechanisms generally organized for public infrastructure through a public bonding process and these districts help facilitate infrastructure such as streets, water, sewer, and storm drains within a development. He said the funding is not the city's money and that there is some risk involved, but it helps developers with their capital investment, particularly in projects where tens of millions of dollars may be invested.

City Manager Cotter explained that the item before the council was a Resolution of Intent declaring the city's intent to establish the improvement district and is the first step in the process. He addressed concerns about the potential risk if the developer were unable to pay the improvement bonds. He said the notes could be sold and a foreclosure process could occur, which could result in the city taking ownership, however, he stated that this scenario was extremely unlikely in this case because the property is highly valuable and would likely attract many investors willing to assume the bonds if a developer defaulted. He said compared to other improvement districts, this project carries the least risk for the city while providing significant value to the community.

Council Member Smith asked if any of the roads planned for development would not be assessed against the land. City Manager Cotter stated that everything would be included within the district and the boundaries were well defined.

Mayor Head asked if the parcel of land was owned by a single entity. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative and said he believed the property was highly marketable and would likely be divided among multiple owners in the near future. He said the assessments would either be paid off or transferred to the new property owners.

Jake Kwarta said he was representing the applicant and said Mantle Investments and Exceptional Health were the current owners of the property. He said any future purchasers of land within the project would be aware that it is part of an improvement district and if they were not comfortable with that arrangement, they would choose not to proceed. He said the developers were working to ensure that any future property owners understood the improvement district and noted that he had not received any pushback because the project is considered important to the community.

Council Member Newlin asked if a preliminary plat showing all the roads would be submitted and presented to the Council. Mr. Kwarta said they were actively working on that and explained the process would require dividing the property into subdivisions. Council Member Newlin asked if the plat would be brought back to Council before construction began. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative and said the plat would establish the layout of the streets.

Council Member Newlin asked where the natural gas line easement was located on the land use plan. Mr. Kwarta said they had been working with Kinder Morgan to abandon that line, which would allow the development plan to flow better while maintaining the walkability of the project. He said an east-west corridor named Parkside Lane would be lined with trees and include a wider pathway, mimicking the concept that had originally been planned for the pipeline corridor.

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

Janice Johnston asked how the installation of sewer and water lines would affect traffic along Highway 95, Marina Boulevard, Lakeside Drive, and Riverview Drive. City Manager Cotter said there would be very little impact to the surrounding community and explained that work on Highway 95 is typically performed at night to minimize traffic disruptions. Utilities Director Clark said sleeves have already been installed under the highway to accommodate utilities for future development.

Scotty McClure asked if there would be any right-turn lanes on Marina Boulevard and suggested that one should be installed near the hospital. City Manager Cotter responded that seven right-turn lanes

would be added from the new third lane on Highway 95, along with multiple access points from Lakeside Drive, Riverview Drive, and Marina Boulevard.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026R-4, (1) declaring the intention to improve an area within the corporate limits of the City to be known as “CityCentre Improvement District,” as described and depicted in the resolution, with a project to include grading, paving, curb and gutters, drainage improvements, sidewalks, valley gutters with aprons, street lights, landscaping, sewer facilities, waterline facilities, and traffic signals in the area south of Marina Boulevard, north of Riverview Drive, east of Lakeside Drive, and west of State Route 95, as described in the preliminary plans for such improvements, (2) determining that improvement bonds be issued representing the cost and expenses of the project, (3) declaring that such improvements are of more than local or ordinary public benefit, and that the costs of the improvements will be assessed upon the land within the district. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Head declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 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 3rd day of March 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10th day of March 2026.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk