

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, May 20, 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 Stephen Brown from Praise Chapel to deliver the invocation. Council Member Newlin 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

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.

Ray White, Site Director for Nation's Finest, apologized to the community for falling short in ways that have impacted the organization he represents and the community he serves. He said he believes true leadership requires the courage to own one's mistakes, the willingness to learn from them, and the resolve to do better. He said he wanted to extend his deepest apologies to those that were adversely affected by his shortcomings. He said he recognizes that he has not always lived up to the high standards he has set for himself, nor those expected of him as a leader in his effort to drive progress. He said he may have missed opportunities to listen more closely, lead with great empathy, and participate more collaboratively with community partners and the community. He said he has taken time to reflect on the feedback from his colleagues, community partners, and said he was committed to making meaningful changes. He said his experience has reminded him of the incredible importance of kind communication, humility, and respect. He said his hope is to rebuild working relationships and continue to make positive advancements towards the betterment of circumstances for the veterans they serve and the community. He said he understood that rebuilding trust will take time and consistent effort, and said he was prepared to undertake the work necessary to earn that trust. He said as he moves forward, he will work to listen more deeply, engage more fully, and lead with a renewed sense of purpose, compassion and responsibility. He said he remained dedicated to their shared mission and fostering an environment where the value of every voice and every contribution is

grounded due to respect. He asked anyone who would like to discuss his plans to improve to contact him and schedule a meeting.

Diana Lestat, Loyal Knight with the Bullhead City Elks Lodge, spoke about their annual Flag Day ceremony that is taking place on June 14th. She asked Mayor D'Amico to declare by proclamation the week of June 8, 2025 to June 14, 2025 as a week for every home and business to display and honor the American flag, and invited the public to attend their ceremony.

Barbara Pape spoke about the upcoming Colorado River Republican Women's luncheon that is taking place at Chaparral Country Club on June 7th and their upcoming Bingo and Burgers fundraiser that is taking place on June 23rd at Chaparral County Club.

Stephen Brown said he is the Executive Director of the Bullhead Regional Food Bank. He thanked everyone who made it possible for them to be able to get their new building. He said they are going to have a ribbon cutting event on June 20th at 10:00 a.m. and invited the public to attend.

Grace Hecht spoke about the Little Sprouts Farmers Market event that is taking place on May 29th at Mohave Community College and the Community Baby Shower that is taking place on June 19th at Laughlin Ranch.

Paula Pump spoke about federal cuts that are hitting veterans especially hard. She said the Department of Veterans Affairs is planning to cut 83,000 jobs. She said the services that will be impacted by the cuts are health care, housing, life insurance, pensions, education stipends, and assistance in jails and courts.

Scotty McClure said with regards to Paula Pump's comments, veterans are not going to lose any benefits. He said the government is getting rid of waste and fraud. He said he attended the Fire Board Meeting today and said they voted to increase tax rates again. He said they threatened to take out another bond if the tax increase does not go through.

Eric Alarcon said he has lived in Bullhead City for a few years and said he has never seen any money allocated to washouts. He said he is against the city closing any washouts, and said all of them should be updated with lighting and trash service. He requested the city to hold a special meeting regarding this subject.

Brian Driscoll said he was against the city closing the washout on Yale. He said instead of closing washouts, there needed to be a stronger police presence.

Pamela Smith said she attended the Fire Board Meeting today. She said their preliminary budget shows a tax rate of \$3.51 per \$100.00. She said they will vote on adopting the budget during their June 24th meeting.

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. International Council of Shopping Centers Convention

City Manager Cotter said he attended the International Council of Shopping Centers Convention in Las Vegas with Mayor D'Amico, Development Services Director Chooniyom, and Administrative Analysis Spletzer. He said the event was attended by approximately 30,000 people from across the country who are in the business of economic development. He said the city had a booth at the event, and said the turnout was fantastic. He said they had major corporations from across the country coming to seek out Bullhead City and to obtain information on the City. He said in the past, the city had to seek out attendees, but now the attendees are seeking Bullhead City.

2. Summer Camp – Final Registration

Recreation Manager Heath said summer camp starts next week, and said this will be the biggest season to date. He said there are currently 567 campers registered, which surpasses any other year. He said the following camps are already sold out: drone, chefs master cooking, Lego, and gymnastics. He said the following are camps that are almost sold out: the second week of Lego and the first week of baking, cooking, and junior theater. He said the last day to register for any of the camps is this Sunday.

3. Customer Service Training

Assistant City Manager Pruitt said the city partnered with Mohave Community College and designed a specific training session for city employees. He said even though city employees are doing a good job, they needed to take it up a notch and really professionalize staff. He said the program was half day and attended by all full-time city employees. He said the sessions were excellent, and said feedback from staff was very positive.

City Manager Cotter said regarding the gentlemen who were asking about river closure issues could speak with Assistant City Manager Pruitt. He said each access point is being dealt with on a case by case basis. He said Assistant City Manager Pruitt could give them additional information as it may affect their neighborhood.

City Manager Cotter wished Development Service Director Chooniyom and Police Chief Trebes a Happy Birthday.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Ring read a prepared statement by Linda Saldana. She said Ms. Saldana wanted the public to know about Veterans United annual Memorial Day ceremony that is taking place on May 26th. She said the event will take place at the Eternal Flame located at Arizona Veterans Memorial Park at 12:00 p.m., and said a barbeque will be held at the American Legion at 2:00 p.m.

Council Member Newlin said on May 22nd the Bullhead City Pest Abatement is hosting a Caddis Fly Forum at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He said the forums are worthy of attendance if someone is interested in current nuisance abatement strategies.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

None

Other Business

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion and possible action to RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-25, approving the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for fiscal year 2025/2026. (Assistant City Manager Kajirwa)

City Manager Cotter said the city started the budget process in March, and said the process also included an annual review of the fees. He said at the March work session, the Council was presented with the comprehensive fee schedule and proposed changes by staff, and said there were very few changes. He said staff looked at the entire comprehensive fee schedule and did not recommend any significant changes.

Assistant City Manager Kajirwa said the proposed changes that were discussed during the work session are as follows: \$1,000 fee to rent the pavilion at Gary Keith Park for private events and

additional charges for extra services such as extra city employee staff; recouping the cost of lost water if a contractor or resident damages a water line causing a leak; prosecution recovery fee; \$35.00 summer pass for Fort Mohave and Laughlin residents to enter Community Park during the summer months; begin charging \$25.00 for a budget book; and no longer rent the Council Chambers and delete the fees.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo said he would like the Warrant Fee and the Order to Show Cause Fee be increased from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Assistant City Manager Kajirwa said the amended comprehensive fee schedule is what the Council will be approving today. He said any changes will require 60-day notice to the public and can be brought back for the Council's approval.

Mayor D'Amico said the Community Park parking pass fee dropped from \$50.00 to \$35.00. He said there has been a lot of complaints on social media about people outside of Bullhead City having to pay to park at Community Park during the summer months. He said residents of Nevada do not pay income tax and people living in Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley pay 2 percent less in sales tax. He said this is the only benefit we have for our local citizens; three months of the year they do not have to pay to park at Community Park.

Mayor D'Amico opened the public hearing.

Janice Johnston asked if the public will still be able to rent the Council Chambers or Conference Room 2. City Manager Cotter said the public will no longer be able to rent the Council Chambers or Conference Room 2. He said they are no longer interested in having private business rent these rooms, and said there is an abundance of private and public space available outside of the Council Chambers.

Grace Hecht thanked the city and the Council for allowing the non-profits to use the parks for free, and said she does not know of any other communities that allow this. She said Make Bullhead Better recently had an event at Davis Camp and said the cost was \$500.00 and they refunded \$200.00 after cleaning the park after their event. She said the event was great and the park was beautiful, but they do not offer any discounts for non-profit organizations. City Manager Cotter said Recreation Manager Heath has his permission to waive all fees in the parks for non-profit organizations. Having no one else wishing to speak, Mayor D'Amico closed the public hearing.

Council Member Newlin made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025R-25, approving the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for fiscal year 2025/2026. 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 6:10 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 20th day of May 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2nd day of June 2025.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk