

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, October 7, 2025, 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 Earl Johnson to deliver the invocation. Council Member Newlin 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

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Head explained the unveiling of the Davis Dam 75th Anniversary Logo will be presented at the next council meeting.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Head opened the call to the public.

Captain John Burk with the Salvation Army announced that he and his wife had been reassigned to the Mesa Corps, effective the 15th of the month, and were in the process of transitioning. He said Captain Stacy Autonomic, currently serving as Associate Corps Officer in Mesa, would be coming to Bullhead City as the new Corps Officer and said a Corps Assistant had also been hired to help with programming and social services. He reported that the Salvation Army thrift store had closed due to ongoing financial challenges since COVID-19. He said a clothing closet would continue to operate using donated items to support local needs, including Veterans Affairs through an existing contract, and said food box and shower programs would also continue during the transition. He said the interior of the building would be remodeled with the goal of revitalizing the facility and expanding youth and social service programs. He said plans included creating a "Food Choice Pantry" allowing individuals to select their own food items, similar to a supermarket model successfully implemented in other regions. He said the renovation process was expected to take several months. Captain Burk expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community and thanked everyone for their support.

Bart Anderson provided background on his remarks, explaining that as a member of the baby boomer generation, he often reflected on not having paid closer attention to government affairs in the past. He said he had recently begun studying the role of government more closely, including viewing a

sermon from a Texas pastor that he found enlightening. He shared the video with City Manager Cotter, Mayor Head, and Supervisor Lettman, and received thoughtful responses from the City Manager and Mayor. He said he believed government at all levels had overstepped its intended boundaries. He said the government's proper role was to establish and enforce laws and codes, ensure public safety, manage infrastructure, adjudicate disputes, and collect and distribute taxes. He said ventures such as purchasing golf courses, restaurants, and meeting centers went beyond those responsibilities and should be left to the private sector. He cited the council's unanimous vote to purchase Chaparral Golf Course as an example, stating that he believed most citizens would not have supported the purchase if it had gone to a public vote. He said residents preferred tax reductions over spending on such investments.

Larry Tunforss with the Bullhead Morning Kiwanis Club announced that they are hosting a community Christmas caroling celebration on December 6th, following the Boom Box Parade, at the John and Olivia McCormick Pavilion beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event would feature 24 Christmas songs with printed booklets for attendees, free hot chocolate, and photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus. He said choirs from Mohave High School, Desert Star Academy, and Hope United Methodist Church would perform. He said Dr. Terry Coyle, Kiwanis District Lieutenant Governor, would serve as master of ceremonies, and Mayor Rodney Head would give opening remarks. He noted that the event was being held in partnership with the City of Bullhead City, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, Daniel Septic Tanks, the Salvation Army, and White Orchid Nails. He added that approximately 600 attendees were expected.

Scotty McClure stated that he had submitted a public records request on April 30, 2025, and had not received a response. He expressed frustration with the Police Department regarding fees for records he said were not explained to him. He also voiced concerns about delays in emergency response, lack of investigation into incidents involving vandalism of his election signs, an alleged arson of his vehicle, and a storage locker break-in. He said he was dissatisfied with how these matters were handled and expressed frustration that Captain Harms was not promoted to Police Chief. He also questioned the boundaries of the newly purchased golf course property and raised concerns about the Council's decision to fund Catholic Charities, stating he believed positions on the matter had changed. He concluded by expressing dissatisfaction with law enforcement's response to issues involving homeless individuals.

Sean Regan stated that he fully agreed with Bart Anderson's comments regarding the role of government. He expressed the view that city government should focus on governance rather than competing with private businesses. He cited examples including the Daily News building sale, Chaparral Golf Course, and the Bullhead Belle, noting concerns about lack of public input and transparency in city purchases. He emphasized that taxpayers' money was being used for city-owned businesses that residents could not fully access and urged the Council to improve public engagement and focus on essential governmental functions rather than ownership of commercial properties.

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. Lifeguard Presentation – Water Rescue

City Manager Cotter reported that a presentation from the Water Rescue Team had been planned, but due to an emergency, it would be rescheduled for a future meeting.

2. Interim Police Chief Daniel Sharp Introduction

City Manager Cotter introduced Interim Police Chief Daniel Sharp, noting his 33 years of law enforcement experience, including service with the Tucson Police Department (1978–2000) and as Chief of Police in Oro Valley (2000–2020). He explained that with the retirement of Chief Trebes, Interim Police Chief Sharp would provide an interim perspective on the department, analyzing its strengths, weaknesses, and budgetary needs, and reporting his findings to the City Manager and the community. He emphasized that Captain Harms would continue in his current role, and the interim chief position was intended to assess the department as a whole while the city continued the recruitment process for a permanent chief.

Interim Police Chief Sharp stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his first two weeks, noting a positive reception from the community, the police department, the council, and city staff. He praised the community and departments for their support and effective service. He expressed his commitment to leaving the department in an improved state and assisting with the transition with the permanent police chief.

3. Summer Boating Statistics

City Manager Cotter provided an overview of summer public safety and park activity, noting 140 police responses to non-beach river access points, resulting in 10 arrests and several warnings. He said on the river, Bullhead City Police handled 49 accidents with no fatalities, issued 115 citations, and made 57 arrests which is an increase from 26 the previous year. He said officers also conducted more than 100 independent rescues, in addition to thousands of contacts made by lifeguards and contracted beach security staff. He commended the Police Department, lifeguards, and water rescue personnel for ensuring a safe summer. He reported \$622,000 in revenue was generated at Community Park, including 43 annual passes sold to non-residents. He said the busiest day was July 4th, with nearly \$32,000.00 in revenue and 735 vehicles from Bullhead City residents, representing about half of that day's visitors. He said parking fees implemented at Rotary Park on Independence Day and Labor Day generated \$17,000.00, which helped offset park maintenance costs. He said park rentals produced over \$75,000.00, and the Chamber-operated River Shop generated about \$70,000.00 in

sales. He explained that all revenue was reinvested into park improvements such as the splash pad, beach expansions, and the new ADA-accessible ramp.

4. Veteran's Day/Boom Box Parade

City Manager Cotter announced that the Veterans Day Parade would take place on November 11th, noting it was always a popular community event. He encouraged residents to visit the parade's Facebook page or contact the City Recreation Office for more information. He reminded the public that the Women's Council Boombox Parade would be held on Friday, December 5th, which drew more than 5,000 attendees last year. He added those interested in participating were encouraged to contact Jennifer Portwood through the Women's Council website.

5. New City Website

Public Information Officer Covert reported that the city launched its new website, BullheadCityAZ.gov, on September 29th. He said the site allows residents to conduct normal city business such as watching council meetings, finding event information, and paying utility bills. He said the new site was designed to be more user-friendly, mobile-responsive, and accessible than previous versions. He explained that a feedback form was available on the homepage for users to report broken links, typos, or issues. He said about a dozen submissions had been received in the first week, mostly minor fixes, and noted that one submission complimented the new site. He thanked the team of city employees who helped develop and launch the website, describing it as a major collaborative effort. He emphasized the importance of the new web domain, BullheadCityAZ.gov, and noted that the old BullheadCity.com domain currently redirects to the new site but would later be repurposed for community and event information.

6. Pavers for Pets – Live Love BARC

City Manager Cotter announced that commemorative bricks were available for purchase to be placed in front of the new animal shelter. He said the idea came from a resident suggestion and was part of ongoing efforts to generate sponsorships and revenue to sustain the shelter. He said the donation website, Bricks for Us – Live Love BARC, was live and would be promoted through a city press release and social media. He noted that shelters across the country use similar fundraising programs, allowing donors to name kennels or facilities. He reported that the city had already received over \$160,000.00 from one donor and anticipated strong community participation through the brick sales. He added that sponsorship funds would help ensure the new, first-class shelter continues to serve animals and the community for years to come.

City Manager Cotter reported that Laurie Thompson, Treasurer of the Bullhead City Community Garden, had delivered a watermelon and a squash grown locally. He said the produce came from the community garden, which was now active and open to the public. He encouraged residents to visit BHgarden.org to learn more and participate in the gardening program.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Newlin announced that October 5th through 11th was Fire Prevention Week. He encouraged residents to practice fire safety, including proper use, charging, and disposal of lithium batteries at hazardous waste drop-off locations.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo thanked the vendors and attendees of the recent Farmer's Market, noting that community members he spoke with enjoyed the event.

Council Member Ring responded to Scotty McClure's earlier comments, stating that allegations regarding a tent and police involvement were incorrect. She also addressed the Catholic Charities funding decision, explaining that although she initially opposed it, she supported the solution after being outvoted by the Council. She requested that McClure apologize for the misinformation.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Newlin made a motion that Items 1-5 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member 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 September 2, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-44, authorizing the submittal of a grant application, receipt of funds, and execution of the "Highway Safety Grant Agreement" for STEP Enforcement Overtime, and Related Professional and Outside Services (2026-PTS-011) and appointing Captain Jason Harms as the city's agent and authorizing Interim Police Chief Danny Sharp and the City Manager to execute the grant agreement. (Captain Jason Harms)
3. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-45, authorizing the submittal of a grant application, receipt of funds, and execution of the "Highway Safety Grant Agreement" for DUI/Impaired Driving Enforcement Overtime (2026-AL-004) and appointing Captain Jason Harms as the city's agent and authorizing Interim Police Chief Danny Sharp and the City Manager to execute the grant agreement. (Captain Jason Harms)
4. Accept the dedication of a water line easement as depicted in Land Split Map 391. (Development Services Director Chooniyom)
5. Approve and direct the City Manager to establish a one-time payout for employees to redeem up to 40 hours of personal time and up to 40 hours of vacation time, 80 hours maximum, for hours accrued. (Assistant City Manager Pruitt)

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

6. Discussion and possible action to approve a construction contract with Perco Rock Company of Cedar City, Utah, for the Safeway Right Turn Lane Improvements project in an amount not to exceed \$2,536,703.40 and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. (Public Works Director Johson)

City Manager Cotter stated that three right-turn lane projects were on the agenda. He explained that these projects aimed to improve transportation on Highway 95, enhance safety, and save lives. He provided financial context, noting that the city had received \$8 million from the State of Arizona the previous year, which had been used for prior right-turn lane improvements, and outlined remaining funds available for the current projects.

Public Works Director Johnson reported that the Safeway Right-Turn Lane project totaled \$2,820,461.00 which included design, engineering, testing, and construction. She reported that the Thunderstruck Right-Turn Lane project came in under budget with no change orders. She said the total project cost was \$401,609.00. She said the Mohave right-turn lane project was expected to start in late October or early November, pending delivery of poles. She said the total project cost was \$418,570.00. She reported that the total cost for the Central/Rising Sun/Sterling Right-Turn Lane project, including design, testing, and construction, was \$526,540.00.

Public Works Director Johnson reported that the Meadows Drive Right-Turn Lane project was currently in the design phase, with an estimated design cost of \$49,000.00 and that bids had not yet been solicited. She noted that the city had received \$8 million in funding from the State of Arizona, had expended \$4,760,355.20 to date, and had a remaining balance of \$3,239,644.80 for ongoing and future projects.

City Manager Cotter reported that the Safeway and Laughlin Ranch Right-Turn Lane projects would be funded with state-provided funds, while a developer would fund another project that is also on the agenda. He noted that approximately \$3.2 million remained for additional right-turn lanes. He praised the bidding environment, contractors, staff, and Arizona State Representatives Leo Biasiucci and John Gillette for making the projects possible, acknowledging prior efforts by former council members and former Mayor D'Amico. He explained that the Safeway project extends from Wells Fargo to the intersection at Safeway and Terrible's, including new turn lanes, elimination of a dangerous access point, and creation of a continuous third lane to improve traffic flow and safety. He emphasized that the projects would provide substantial value, noting that similar work elsewhere in the state would likely cost significantly more.

Public Works Director Johnson reported that the Safeway Right-Turn Lane project had been advertised on August 20th, September 3rd, and September 10th, with bids opened on September 17th. She said two bids were received, and Perco Rock was the low bidder. She described the project design, which included a southbound right-turn lane, modifications to several driveways to improve traffic flow and stacking distance, dual left-turn lanes to reduce congestion, underground drainage improvements, retaining walls, and additional parking for larger vehicles. She noted that right-of-way acquisitions were required and that final paperwork would be brought to Council at a future meeting. She said consultants had ensured that drainage improvements would not impact neighboring property owners, and additional driveway adjustments were planned on the opposite side of Highway 95 to improve vehicle access.

City Manager Cotter reported that the Safeway Right-Turn Lane project required coordination with multiple property owners for construction easements and acquisitions. He noted that Safeway and other property owners had been cooperative. He explained that the city would likely pay Wells Fargo \$1,000.00 to acquire a small portion of their property to facilitate the project, with final approval and agreement expected at the next Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked whether additional traffic signals would be installed for northbound traffic existing the Safeway Center. Public Works Director Johnson responded that no additional signals would be added, noting only that one driveway would be relocated as part of the project.

Mayor Head asked if anyone present would like to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Ring made a motion to approve a construction contract with Perco Rock Company of Cedar City, Utah, for the Safeway Right Turn Lane Improvements project in an amount not to exceed \$2,536,703.40 and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. Council Member Dallman seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the construction contract with Perco Rock Company of Cedar City, Utah, for the State Route 95 at Laughlin Ranch Boulevard Southbound Right Turn Lane project in an amount not to exceed \$474,610.62 and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson reported that the Laughlin Ranch Boulevard Right-Turn Lane project had been advertised on August 20th, August 27th, September 3rd, and September 10th, with three bids received and said Perco Rock was the low bidder. She explained that the project would add a right-turn lane to Community Park. She said most of the intersection infrastructure, including underground utilities, had been prepared during the original construction of Laughlin Ranch Boulevard six to seven years ago. She said the project required minimal work, including relocating the push button for the ADA ramp, adjusting a signal head, and moving a few light poles.

Council Member Smith asked if this project was included in the \$8 million received from the state. City Manager Cotter answered affirmative.

Mayor Head asked if anyone present would like to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the construction contract with Perco Rock Company of Cedar City, Utah, for the State Route 95 at Laughlin Ranch Boulevard Southbound Right Turn Lane project in an amount not to exceed \$474,610.62 and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. Council Member O'Neill seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion and possible action to approve the construction contract with McCormick Construction Company of Bullhead City, Arizona, for the City Centre Improvement District State Route 95 Widening Marina Boulevard to North Oatman Road project in an amount not to exceed \$1,630,178.00 and to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. (Public Works Director Johnson)

City Manager Cotter explained that the next right-turn lane project differed in its funding structure, as it was part of an improvement district where the developer would reimburse the city for project costs. He noted that Assistant City Manager Kajirwa had secured a \$500,000.00 Economic Strength Project grant from the Arizona Commerce Authority to support the project, with the developer covering the remaining costs through the improvement district.

Public Works Director Johnson reported that the North Oatman Right-Turn Lane project was advertised on August 20th, August 27th, September 3rd, and September 10th, with bids opened on September 17th. She said four bids were received, with McCormick Construction being the low bidder. She said the project included access improvements to the property and installation of conduit and infrastructure for a future traffic signal at North Oatman. She noted that the project primarily involved roadway widening to add a right-turn lane with right-in/right-out access, with full access at North Oatman to be available at a later date.

Mayor Head asked if anyone present would like to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the construction contract with McCormick Construction Company of Bullhead City, Arizona, for the City Centre Improvement District State Route 95 Widening Marina Boulevard to North Oatman Road project in an amount not to exceed \$1,630,178.00 and to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the contract and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city. Council Member O'Neill seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

9. Discussion and possible action to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10, approving an amendment to Chapter 12.12, Public Parks, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code, entitled Jetty Code Amendment 2025, by reference; and adopting RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-46, declaring Jetty Code Amendment 2025 a public record. (Recreation Superintendent Heath)

Recreation Superintendent Heath explained that the jetty at Rotary Park, which serves as both a fishing pier and a current barrier for boat launching, was one of the park's earliest features developed over 30 years ago. He said while it continues to function well for its intended purposes, issues have persisted with individuals, mostly children, jumping off the jetty into the river. He noted that fluctuating water levels make this activity unsafe, with depths ranging from less than a foot to about eight feet. He stated that signs are posted prohibiting jumping and diving, and park rangers regularly remind visitors; however, because the rule is not currently a law, enforcement options are limited. He said the proposed ordinance would officially prohibit jumping or diving from the jetty to protect public safety and prevent injuries.

Mayor Head asked if anyone present would like to speak on this item. No one spoke.

Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-10, approving an amendment to Chapter 12.12, Public Parks, of the Bullhead City Municipal Code, entitled Jetty Code Amendment 2025, by reference; and adopting Resolution No. 2025R-46, declaring Jetty Code Amendment 2025 a public record. Vice Mayor Alfonzo seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

10. Discussion and possible action to approve a standing committee for the review and submission of items offered by the U.S. Military static display program, consisting of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager, and Public Works Director. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter explained that the proposal would establish a small, primarily informal committee, formalized through council action, consisting of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager, and Public Works Director to review potential military donations. He said that in the past, items such as the Howitzer were offered directly to the city through a list, but that process has now changed. He said instead, available items will be posted online, and interested entities must apply for consideration. He said the committee would determine whether to apply for available equipment, and if selected, the item would then be brought before the council for formal acceptance, as was done with the Howitzer and the two recently acquired Jeeps.

Mayor Head asked if anyone present would like to speak on this item.

Sean Regan said he believed the proposal was an excellent idea and expressed his full support. He said it would greatly enhance that part of the park, particularly from a veteran's standpoint, and added that if appropriate, he would like to be considered for inclusion on the committee.

Council Member Dallman made a motion to approve a standing committee for the review and submission of items offered by the U.S. Military static display program, consisting of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager, and Public Works Director. Council Member O'Neill 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 6:33 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 7th day of October 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 30th day of October 2025.


Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk