

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, December 2, 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 Bill Jones from Bethel Community Church 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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Billy Chooniyom

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Robert Drexler

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: Mark R. Clark

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Head opened the call to the public.

Steven Lee commented on recent actions by Nicole Shanahan, noting her exposure of certain policies and initiatives she opposed. He referenced her previous role as Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Vice-Presidential running mate and emphasized the importance of moral leadership in government.

Rose Jacobs stated that she was representing the Colorado River Concert Association. She noted that the season began on November 13, 2025 and spoke about upcoming performances in 2026.

Diana Lestat, Royal Knight of the Bullhead City Elks Lodge No. 2408, spoke about the annual "Hoop Shoot" basketball competition that is taking place on December 13, 2025 at the Boys and Girls Club.

Sean Regan said Mohave Electric Cooperative addressed the issue he spoke about at the last council meeting. He requested a future agenda item to review lease agreements with nonprofits using city property to ensure they were current. He also congratulated River Fund on a \$500,000 donation and suggested that financial records of organizations receiving city funds, including Catholic Charities and River Fund, be reviewed publicly or annually for transparency.

Bob Arp, representing the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Bullhead/Lake Havasu Flotilla, thanked the city for supporting boating safety. He noted that a recent community inquiry led to the organization of a “Boat America” safety class, and commended Parks and Recreation staff for facilitating the training, which helped several community members improve their boating safety knowledge.

Paula Hamby expressed concern about federal budget cuts affecting veterans, including job losses, reductions to the suicide hotline workforce, and cuts to programs such as SNAP. She noted that many veterans rely on these services and urged residents to contact their legislators regularly to advocate for continued support and benefits for veterans.

Scotty McClure stated that, as a veteran, he disagreed with the previous speaker’s comments about VA services, noting he had no issues with appointments or care. He expressed frustration with the 30-day waiting period to obtain a police report, describing his own difficulty in receiving one following an accident on November 10, 2025. He said timely access to reports was important for legal and insurance purposes. He also commented on the accuracy and timeliness of meeting minutes and suggested the City Clerk’s Office be provided with AI equipment to improve efficiency. He raised concerns about the Jeeps at Veterans Memorial, referring to them as potential mosquito breeding sites.

Larry Tunforss announced the 27th Annual Boombox Parade will take place on Friday, December 5th and highlighted two inaugural events taking place on Saturday, December 6th: The Lights of the Park and the Community Christmas Caroling celebration at the John and Olivia McCormick Performing Arts Pavilion, featuring Mohave High School, Desert Star Academy High School, and Hope United Methodist Church. He noted that families would receive a free songbook, QR codes for lyrics would be available, and the park’s Christmas tree would be lit during the event. He thanked sponsors, including Mohave Electric Cooperative and Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, and noted that hot chocolate would be provided by the Salvation Army and Culligan Water, with the mayor opening the evening.

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. Flood Control Projects

Public Works Director Johnson provided an update on flood control projects completed over the past two and a half years. She noted that approximately 33,804 linear feet (6.4 miles) of curb and gutter

had been installed in multiple areas, including Buena Vista, Lake Mohave Highlands, Locust Boulevard, and various streets near Mohave Drive. She described installation of drainage pipes and catch basins in low-lying areas, including North Oatman and Arroyo Vista, as well as repairs and stabilization of culverts. She reported that multiple washes and retention basins around the city, including Secret Pass Wash, City Square, Mountain View Wash, and Chaparral Drive, were cleaned and maintained to prevent flooding, and new retention basins were installed where needed. She also highlighted stabilization efforts using riprap, berms, and retaining walls in areas such as Parkview, Riviera Boulevard medians, Holiday Inn's hill, Optimum Community Center, Fox Drive, Hancock, Papago Drive, and Malibu Drive. She concluded by noting ongoing maintenance, including slope stabilization, drainage improvements, and general flood cleanup throughout the city.

2. Right Turn Lane Projects Update

Public Works Director Johnson provided an update on ongoing traffic and roadway projects. She reported that construction had begun on Laughlin Ranch, with the electrician on site, pole foundations being removed, sidewalk demolition starting, and utilities scheduled for next week. She said curb and gutter work is planned for the week of December 14th, with paving of a new right-turn lane expected the week after Christmas and final striping anticipated in early January. She noted that Mohave Drive is also under construction, with grading expected next week and most work occurring during the day, except for select night operations. She said the right-turn lane by the hospital from Marina to North Oatman is delayed until February 2026 due to a previously unknown gas line, with installation of a box culvert pending coordination with Southwest Gas. She added that the Safeway Right-Turn Lane project will require overnight work, with construction planned to begin February 15, 2026. She said Circle K is installing a right-turn lane in front of their property, which involves relocating streetlights and adjusting a city-owned Hawk System, with a press release planned if temporary shutdown is necessary.

3. Update on Water/Sewer CIP Projects

Utilities Director Clark provided an overview of projects completed over the past year. He highlighted maintenance and emergency repairs, including a leak in the Site Three South storage tank, which required draining, sandblasting, welding, and repainting, and a main line break at Fox Creek. He reported replacing aging ductile iron pipe with PVC on Merrill Avenue and noted ongoing expansion at the Section 10 Wastewater Treatment Plant from 4 million to 6 million gallons per day, including installation of bar screens, wet wells, and aeration basins. He described improvements to lift stations, including 18-1, to remove debris from the sewage stream and reduce maintenance issues. He also highlighted development of the 21 Well site, projected to be the city's largest, and plans for a new 1.125-million-gallon storage tank to serve areas including Miracle Mile, Riverbend, and Holiday Shores. He noted electrical upgrades at well sites and ongoing work to protect force mains and other infrastructure. He concluded by noting that treated water at the Section 10 Plant is filtered, disinfected, and returned to the river, meeting or exceeding quality standards.

4. Chaparral Golf Course and Restaurant

City Manager Cotter said the city's operation of the Chaparral Golf Course and Restaurant was going very well. He noted that the staff operated very efficiently, and said the Series 5 Liquor License was in the city's name. He added that the course was in the best condition it had been in for a very long time.

5. Boombox Parade

City Manager Cotter announced that the Boombox Parade would be held on Friday, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Hancock Road and Trane Road. He said it was by far the best parade the city, volunteers, and local organizations have put on.

6. Magic of Christmas

Recreation Superintendent Heath announced that the Magic of Christmas event would be held at the Anderson Auto Group Fieldhouse and was presented by Republic Services, expressing appreciation for their continued support. He said this year's event would be more fun than ever, featuring rides for both children and adults. He said admission to the event was free, with a \$5.00 wristband available at the door for unlimited access to rides. He said attractions would include numerous inflatables, a 220-foot zip line, and a mechanical reindeer ride. He said there would also be a variety of food vendors in "Frosty's Food Row," including Infuse Energy, Rolling J's, Foodini's, and other local favorites. He added that entertainment would feature Godfrey the Magical Elf, along with local dancers, singers, and bands. He said parking would be free, with plenty of spaces available behind the Fieldhouse, and a free shuttle service would be provided from Boot Barn if needed. He also recognized Senior Recreation Supervisor Claire Adams for her all her outstanding work with the event. He concluded by thanking the event sponsors, including Republic Services, Jimmy John's, Valley View Medical Center, DOT Foods, Canyon View Dental Care, and TWN Communications.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Dallman recognized Los Matadors for their continued efforts with the Lights in the Park displays at the north and south ends of town and at Marina Boulevard and Highway 95. She said Community Pride Advocates donated a 30-foot Christmas tree to the city, which was set up by city staff and would be lit on December 6th, with the Kiwanis Club performing "O Christmas Tree." She noted that a light competition was also underway and encouraged residents to enjoy the displays throughout December. She added that the Kiwanis Club of the Colorado River would host its annual Sleigh Run Poker Run on the first Saturday of December, starting and ending off Boundary Cone Road. She said participants could register online, enjoy a 50-mile off-road ride, and were asked to bring an unwrapped gift for the Fort Mohave Fire Department's toy drive.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo encouraged everyone to attend the Boombox Parade, noting it marked the start of the Christmas season. He said many people put significant time, effort, and resources into the parade displays and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Newlin wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded residents to shop local, noting that Bullhead City has many great small businesses and larger stores. He also encouraged safety when using rechargeable lithium batteries, such as those found in electronics and toys, and recommended using inexpensive battery charging bags to help reduce the risk of battery fires.

Council Member O'Neill said he had volunteered at the Bullhead City Food Bank, where more than 900 families were served during the Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. He noted that the food bank now averages about 900 families a week, a significant increase from previous years. He encouraged anyone looking to volunteer during the holiday season to help distribute food and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor Head wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, noting that it had been an amazing year for Bullhead City and that the city's progress would continue. He encouraged everyone to spend time with friends and enjoy a warm, festive holiday season in Bullhead City.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Alfonzo made a motion that Items 1-2 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, 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 November 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. (City Clerk Ogden)
2. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2025R-51, authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the United States Department of Justice for 22 new bulletproof vests, and authorizing Interim Chief Sharp to sign all resulting documentation. (Interim Police Chief Sharp)

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

3. Discussion and possible action to: 1) approve an agreement with Pepper Ball, A Division of United Tactical Systems, LLC., for pepper ball products and training in the amount of \$77,127.17; 2) authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city; and 3) approve a transfer of \$77,127.17 from general fund contingency. (Interim Police Chief Sharp)

Interim Police Chief Sharp explained that pepper ball equipment is used to help officers de-escalate day-to-day situations. He said the department has used less-lethal pepper balls for more than two

decades, but the current equipment has reached the end of its service life. He said the system needs to be able to be deployed daily, and maintaining the aging equipment has become imperative.

Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if pepper balls have an expiration date. Police Corporal Crawford answered affirmative, estimating the shelf life at roughly 24 to 36 months, after which they could be used for training. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if Bullhead City's frequent winds affect use of the product and officers would need to resort to beanbag rounds instead. Police Corporal Crawford explained that pepper balls function similarly to pepper spray. He said officers are exposed to it in the academy and learn to operate safely in that environment. He said the powder dissipates quickly and does not stay airborne like an aerosol. He added that dispersal is limited enough that evacuating an area would never be necessary and moving people about 25 feet is sufficient. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked about the weight of the equipment. Police Corporal Crawford said it varies by attachment, and said the equipment is lighter than a patrol rifle. He emphasized that the devices are not firearms but tools for deploying a less-lethal projectile. Vice Mayor Alfonzo asked if there was enough room on an officer's duty belt for the equipment. Police Corporal Crawford said pepper ball guns are not carried on an officer's duty belt. He said they are typically equipped with slings so officers can secure them when going hands-on.

Deputy Police Chief Harms added that the equipment would be stored in secured lockboxes in patrol vehicles so officers can retrieve them as needed. He added that they would not be carried to every call.

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

Council Member Dallman made a motion to approve an agreement with Pepper Ball, A Division of United Tactical Systems, LLC., for pepper ball products and training in the amount of \$77,127.17; authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and issue resulting payments on behalf of the city; and approve a transfer of \$77,127.17 from general fund contingency. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

4. Discussion and possible action to approve renaming Firebird Field in Rotary Park to Bighorn Field.
(City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the proposal to move the college soccer team to Rotary Park at Firebird Field had been discussed internally for some time. He explained that Firebird Field was originally named for the Firebirds football team from the 1990s, which no longer exists. He acknowledged the team's successful history and noted that the field now serves multiple users, including the city for championship tournaments, and primarily for the college's Bighorn soccer program. He added that the field may also host future championship soccer events. He described Firebird Field as a top-quality facility and is one of the best in the nation for junior college athletics. He expressed pride in city staff for maintaining such high standards.

Recreation Superintendent Heath provided a history of Rotary Park, beginning before the Firebirds era. He said in 1986, Danny Miller and the Rotary Club worked with the Bureau of Land Management to secure a Recreation and Public Purpose lease for the city's first 10 acres of grass at the corner of Chaparral and Lakeside. He said because the Rotary Club was instrumental in developing the park, the name "Rotary Park" remained. He explained that shortly thereafter, as the community's youth sports programs expanded to include basketball, baseball, and flag football, there was a need for youth tackle football. He said Pop Warner was brought to town, with Rory and Carolyn Hannisch leading efforts to secure equipment, sponsorships, and youth participation. He said they also sought donations to build a stadium, with key contributions from the City of Needles (transformers), the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (poles), and Bob Benjamin (the first light poles on any city sports field). He said while the Pop Warner organization eventually declined, youth tackle football continued in the community. He recounted that in 2017, the city received donated grass from the Cheez-It Bowl via the Legacy Foundation, and was used to improve one of the most difficult patches of grass in Rotary Park because of heavy clay and salinity. He said contractors removed more than 400 loads of dirt and added rock, gravel, sand, top dressing, and planted the new field. He said by 2018, the field had transformed from one of the most challenging areas to grow grass in the park system to the best-maintained field in the city. He noted that the field now features premier grass maintained with advanced care, fertilization, and modern mowers, making it an ideal venue for the college soccer team. He added that the field is still used for local youth tackle football games and occasional soccer tournaments, but its primary use is for premier games.

City Manager Cotter said the city plans to install a monument at the field to recognize everyone who contributed over the years, and emphasized that the Firebird name would not be lost.

Mehdi Azarmi expressed gratitude for the city's support in providing a platform for local athletics to shine nationally. He acknowledged city staff and community organizations, including the Bullhead City Rotary Club, Los Matadors, Mohave Sunrise Rotary Club, and the Kiwanis for helping create a premier facility for the Mohave College soccer team under Coach Camilo Valencia, who was named 2025 Coach of the Year in both the Arizona College Athletic Conference and the Western District NJCAA. He highlighted the team's accomplishments, including defeating the nation's No. 3-ranked team, earning titles as ACCAC Conference champions, Region One champions, NJCAA West District champions, and NJCAA Final Four semifinalists. He said individual honors included Chase Radford as NJCAA Goalkeeper of the Year, Lazaro Ramos as Region One Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the National Tournament, and several players named to All-Region teams. Mr. Azarmi noted that this was the highest athletic achievement for any team in Bullhead City and Mohave County, bringing national recognition to Mohave College and attracting future students. He also announced plans to enhance the field with a high-quality electronic sign to mark the name change to the "Bighorns", fully funded by a sponsor at no cost to Bullhead City taxpayers.

Gary Cooper thanked city officials, staff, and fans for supporting the team, saying it was a great time to be a Bighorn in Bullhead City. Mr. Azarmi also thanked the Bullhead City Police Department and Mohave County Sheriff's Office for providing an escort and warm welcome for the players, ensuring they felt celebrated and appreciated.

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

Larry Tunforss said that anyone curious about how much money was spent in town during the games should ask the manager of Perkins Restaurant. He shared that about three weeks ago on a Saturday, he walked into Perkins and saw the soccer team of about 30 players coming out the door.

Council Member Ring made a motion to approve renaming Firebird Field in Rotary Park to Bighorn Field. Vice Mayor Alfonzo 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 7:07 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 2nd day of December 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 9th day of December 2025.



Debie Ogden, MMC, CPM
City Clerk