



# Tri - City Council

## MEETING MINUTES

**Regular Meeting of the Tri-City Council  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.  
Bullhead City Council Chambers  
1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City AZ 86442**



**City of  
Bullhead City, Arizona**  
Tom Brady, Mayor  
Mark Clark, Vice Mayor

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Mayor Gates.

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Mayor Gates led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

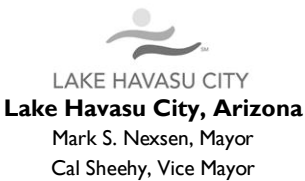
#### Lake Havasu City

##### Council Present

Mark S. Nexsen, Mayor  
Jeni Coke, Vice Mayor  
Donna McCoy, Councilmember  
Gordon Groat, Councilmember  
David Lane, Councilmember  
Michele Lin, Councilmember

##### Staff Present

Jess Knudson, City Manager  
Kelly Williams, City Clerk  
Jerri Bracamonte, City Administration  
Shirlee Palbicki, Human Resources Risk Manager  
Shawn Irula, Human Resources Risk Management Supervisor



**LAKE HAVASU CITY  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona**  
Mark S. Nexsen, Mayor  
Cal Sheehy, Vice Mayor



**City of Kingman, Arizona**  
Monica Gates, Mayor  
Jen Miles, Vice Mayor

#### Bullhead City

##### Council Present

Tom Brady, Mayor  
Mark R. Clark, Vice Mayor  
Kathy Bruck, Councilmember  
Annette Wegmann, Councilmember



Staff Present  
Toby Cotter, City Manager  
Sue Stein, City Clerk  
Pawan Agrawal, Public Works Director  
Garn Emery, City Attorney



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City of Kingman

Council Present  
Monica Gates, Mayor  
Jen Miles, Vice Mayor

Staff Present  
Jim Bacon, Interim City Manager  
Annie Meredith, Deputy City Clerk

Others Present

Jason West, Bureau of Land Management Lake Havasu  
Amanda Dodson, Bureau of Land Management Kingman  
Alvin Stump, Arizona Dept. of Transportation  
Michelle Beggs, Arizona Dept. of Transportation  
John Hastings, Mohave County Airport Authority  
Jeremy Keating, Mohave County Airport Authority  
Sue Ann Mello-Keener, Mohave County Treasurer's Office  
Tom Belshe, League of Arizona Cities and Towns  
Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation Advocacy Council  
Megan Wolford, Erin Collins and Associates  
Michael Kearns, Mohave Community College  
Jason Gee, Mohave Community College  
Chelsea Lett, Senator Jeff Flake's Office  
Dale Weikel, Citizen



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**3. Introduction of Kingman Interim City Manager Jim Bacon**

Jim Bacon said he would serve as Interim City Manager until a new manager was hired, probably by the end of May.

**4. Introduction of New Lake Havasu City Manager Jess Knudson**

Jess Knudson said he had been on the job for two weeks, and said he looked forward to creating long lasting partnerships.



**5. Introduction of Special Guests**

There was no discussion under this item.

**6. Call to the Public**

There were no requests to address the Tri-City Council.

**7. Approval of the Minutes from the October 18, 2017 TCC Meeting**

**Mayor Brady moved to approve the October 18, 2017 Tri-City Council meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Nexsen seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. Mohave County Supervisors Update**

There was no discussion under this item.

**9. Northern Arizona Employee Benefit Trust (NAEBT)**

Megan Wolford, representing Erin Collins and Associates, presented the championship belt to Lake Havasu City Manager Knudson.

**10. Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Update**

Alvin Stump, Northwest District Engineer, said they were working on some ongoing projects along Interstate 40 that included the Audley Bridge at MP 113, pavement preservation in the Willows area, the Holy Moses Wash Bridge Rehabilitation, and Blake Ranch Road crossroad improvements. He said they had upcoming projects that included a drainage improvement project in Lake Havasu City (El Dorado Wash), I-40 Markham Wash to West Seligman, I-40 Audley Bridge work, I-40 Haviland Rest Area, and US 93 Carrow-Stephens. He said they recently met with business owners located along Highway 95 between Teller and Valencia Road in Fort Mohave regarding roundabout and upgraded signal alternatives. He said they also completed a speed study in the area. He said an Intergovernmental Agreement was in progress for the signal construction at Corwin Road and Highway 95 in Bullhead City, and said they would submit an application to construct a southbound right turn lane at Marina Blvd. and Highway 95 in Bullhead City. He said they would partner with Lake Havasu City on the SR 95 and Kiowa Avenue project to construct an additional signal and extend the raised median.



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## 11. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council Update

Kevin Adam said a significant item of note was that ADOT was ready to finalize their update to the Long Range Transportation Plan that covered the next 25 years.



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Mr. Adam said the state had projected about \$53 billion was needed for the state highway system, and said there was only \$23 billion in available funding. He said they made recommendations on emphasizing the use of the funding they did have on three spending areas: new construction, modernization, and preservation. He said because of the trends in greater Arizona, the state had minimally provided for needs over the last decade, but those needs have multiplied. He said ADOT agreed to first protect the existing assets. He said there would be a freeze on new construction after the next five year program was over. He said there were not enough funds to preserve the existing system. He said this was an extremely bleak picture for the state highway system.



**LAKE HAVASU CITY  
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Mr. Adam said overall, the state economy was doing very well, but said it had not translated into an increase in public revenue. He said the state's corporate income tax collections had been reduced by about \$25 to \$30 million less due to the lack of auditors. He said Governor Ducey had proposed to hire 25 new auditors and fraud prevention staffers that should improve the situation. He said their top priority should be to stop the state from taking the existing funding that should be dedicated to transportation. He said the Governor's budget proposal indicated they were underinvesting in the infrastructure and more funding was needed to be put towards preservation; but at the same time, no actual solutions were seen. He said over the last couple of years, any savings realized in the state highway fund was transferred into the general fund, rather than be put back into infrastructure investment. He said the Legislature had been more supportive of the infrastructure within the last few years, and said this was their best short-term opportunity to address the investment shortfalls.



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Mr. Adam said there was proposed legislation to enact a new Highway Safety Fee that would be collected upon renewing vehicle registrations. He said the ADOT Director would be tasked with setting a level that would cover the highway patrol annual operations budget of about \$130 million. He said this would alleviate pressure to transfer HURF money of about \$110 to \$120 million. He said there would be a focus on alternative fuel vehicles to eliminate tax exemptions, a fuel tax created for natural gas vehicles, and a fee for electric vehicles. He said there was a current proposal for regions to introduce a ½ cent or a one cent transportation excise tax to the voters.



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## 12. League of Arizona Cities and Towns Legislative Preview

Tom Belshe, Deputy Director for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, said at the least this year, municipalities were not a target for taking funds for other programs, except for HURF. He said they were pleased the state would be hiring additional auditors and third party collectors. He said the Department of Revenue has been good about allowing cities and towns to conduct some local audits, and said their new director and administration had been doing a good job in working with municipalities.



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Mr. Belshe said the strangest bill was the non-partisan elections bill, and said the proposal would also remove the ability to elect candidates outright in the primary. He said the vast majority of cities elected their candidates in the primary election. He said this was a bad idea, but said they did not know if it had a lot of support at this time. He said there had been several TPT exemption bills out there, but said most of them had little impact; for instance, a tax on batteries for hearing aids. He said they were close to having an agreement with the construction industry on the construction sales tax issue. He said the League would oppose an upcoming bill related to spec building and the housing industry. He said he was part of an interim committee that looked at those goods purchased electronically. He said the industry indicated there was confusion about what could be taxed. He said the industry had figured out how to charge for cloud space, and said it needed to be taxed. He said it was difficult to come up with a tax revenue estimate on cloud storage, but said the conservative estimate for the state was \$250 million. He said they thought the Governor's office would lend support, as the bill would potentially take money from the state budget.



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Mr. Belshe said they found a technical glitch in the statute that kept bond attorneys from signing off on new community facility district (CFD) developments. He said both sides agreed this needed to be changed. He said they wanted to make sure that nothing else was added when the bill was opened up, and to take care of the one problem. He said there was very good communication with the industry on this.



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Mr. Belshe said there continued to be issues related to the leasing of city owned property to a private interest. He said the bill was negotiated last year, but said the City of Tempe had a 1487 claim. He said cities were at the point of being tired of fighting this alone without help from developers. He said there were two new 1487 claims; with the City of Tempe and the Town of Patagonia. He said they would try to have a bill that took away some of the provisions of 1487; for example, a provision that only those legislators living inside the district could bring a 1487 claim against a city or town. He said the courts were reluctant to talk about the constitutionality of the bill.



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Mr. Belshe said another big issue this year was regulation on small businesses. He said there was a food truck bill out there allowing food trucks to park in any public space without regard to the impact on surrounding brick and mortar businesses, local laws, and other implications. He said another bill had negative implications related to home based businesses, and said he would keep everyone posted.



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Mr. Belshe said this year there would be a presumption bill on PTSD. He said people get emotional about these issues, and said they wanted to help the officers who needed treatment. He said they would focus on determining where the affliction occurred.

Mr. Belshe said some cities and towns have taken action to pass an additional tax to pay down the unfunded liability on their Public Safety Personnel Retirement balances. He said they would come up with some other instruments to help other cities and towns with this.

Mr. Belshe said the League would fight the proposal that would require the inventorying of fleet vehicles. He said some members of the legislature believed that the use of ride share companies and Uber rentals was better than using city-owned vehicles. He said cities have most likely explored the options in order to save money, and said municipalities did not need the legislature to force them to do this.



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Mr. Belshe said they had a discussion in a policy committee meeting regarding a zoning issue in Sedona when a CVS wanted to expand but was surrounded by residential properties. He said they got permission from all but one out of the 21 property owners, and said because of the wording of the state statute, that one homeowner caused a grievance to be held and it did not pass. He said they would try to get one of the amendments to that bill removed in order to keep the new authority that was in place.

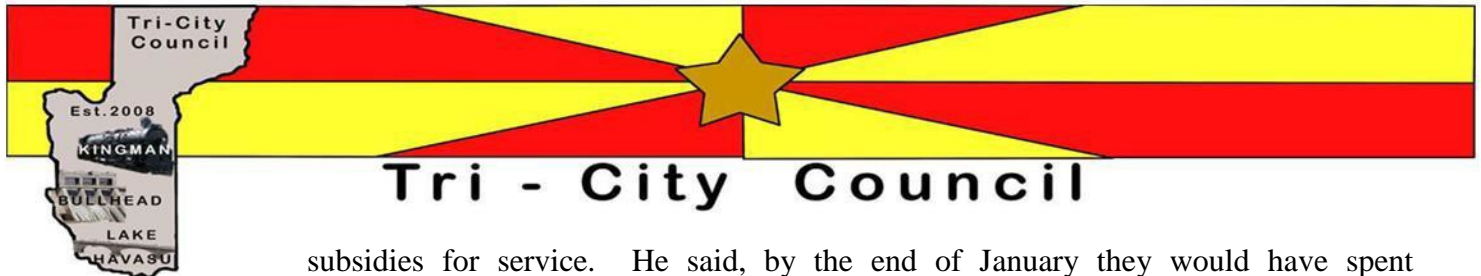


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Mr. Belshe encouraged all politically active local officials to contact their people at the Legislature via phone calls or emails. He said the legislators cared about and had a great amount of respect for local officials.

### 13. Update from Bullhead/Laughlin Airport Manager

John Hastings, President of the Mohave County Airport Authority, Inc., said they oversaw the activities of the Bullhead/Laughlin Airport. He said he had expressed the same statement hundreds of times; that if the city lost its current air service, there was a probable chance that no one in the room would live long enough to see a second chance. He said it was not impossible, but the odds were against having another air service. He said two years ago, they raised \$500,000 in local contributions and applied for \$750,000 federal grant giving them the ability to pledge \$1,280,000 in



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subsidies for service. He said, by the end of January they would have spent \$1,280,000, because they only achieved about a 40 percent load factor. He said they could apply for another grant, but said getting another grant at this time was not in their favor. He said if any group could put together \$1.5 to \$2 million, it could be done. He said the Bullhead/Laughlin Airport was already federalized as they had a baggage claim and luggage screening service. He said the process was extremely expensive. He said the airport was financially solid, and they had a great commercial center. He said the reality was that American Airlines, with their existing hub and availability of equipment, crew, and gate times in Phoenix was the only opportunity. He said they did not have a 50 seat jet in Phoenix, just a 70 seater. He said the flight times worked but the schedule they had was for one flight per day each way. He said for local air service to be successful, it would have taken a 50 seat jet with two or three flights per day each way. He said it appeared the businesses in the community did not support the air service.



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## 14. Local Bureau of Land Management Update

Amanda Dodson, Field Manager, said the Kingman office was undergoing a travel management plan and said they held public scoping meetings last fall. She said their existing route included a 5,000 mile area. She said they were planning to hold the next round of public meetings in late summer. She thanked the City of Kingman for being a cooperating agency. She said their goal was to complete the management plan in November 2018, and said the plan would designate routes with signage, maps, and a mobile app. She said there was a fertility control pilot project in the Black Mountains to control the burro population. She said they were looking into its effectiveness over a four-year period, and said the program had previously been used on horses which proved effective. She encouraged the public to provide them with locations and addresses of burros.



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Jason West, Field Manager from the Lake Havasu City office, said they continued to make inroads to allow the Havasu Riviera project to move forward. He said they worked with the Peace Trail Committee to make sure the trail was included in the travel management plan. He said the fisheries partnerships were going well. He said they used cut landscaping brush to create habitats for baby fish from both endangered species and sport fishing. He said Craggy Wash had been recognized as one of the safest, best places to camp and fish in Lake Havasu City. He thanked the law enforcement agencies for their assistance in turning that area around. He said they were excited about the Bullhead Community Park project, and said they were able to expedite the improvement work taking place at that location. He said the federal government was looking at ways to streamline the Federal Register process, and said they were anxiously waiting to be a part of this process that should take about two years. Ms. Dodson said they were also looking into streamlining the NEPA application process.



## 15. Discussion of possible partnership opportunities with Mohave Community College

Chairman Mayor Gates said they have had previous discussions about workforce development and the ability to provide additional training opportunities in order to fill the skilled positions locally. She said they wanted to discuss their options in order to create a more qualified work force in the community.



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Michael Kearns, President of Mohave Community College, said they had worked with businesses in the past to put together a workforce development program, but said there had not been a lot of interest and it had withered away. He said they had to follow accreditation standards and align the curriculum in a certain way. He said the U. S. Dept. of Education had another set of standards. He said it was expensive to put together a certificate or degree program when there were only a few jobs out there; and said they needed about 40 to 50 jobs to have a market segment that could handle what they produced.



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He said they analyzed the feasibility of some programs, and said they have put together programs in the Allied Health area. He said they currently had strong culinary, welding, and HVAC programs that served the current work force. He said plumbing and carpentry programs were not as strong in the area. He said spring semester began yesterday and said enrollment was down due to low unemployment figures; but stabilized, due to the improved economy. He said the average class completion rate was 82 percent, and said they were working to bring that rate up.



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Bullhead City Manager Cotter said the city worked together with the college to develop a successful truck driver training program to assist in filling new positions offered by DOT Foods. He said people have been hired from all three cities to fill at least 175 positions.

## 16. Discussion and possible action to sign a letter of support opposing the purchase of water rights by CAWCD

Chairman Mayor Gates said each of the three cities passed a resolution opposing the transfer, and said it would be impactful if there was a resolution from the Tri-City Council. Mayor Nexsen suggested the letter oppose both the transfer of water rights and the Quartzsite water transfer.

**Mayor Brady made a motion to revise the letter to reflect opposition to both water transfers. Mayor Nexsen seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. MOTION CARRIED.**





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## 17. Discussion and possible action on hosting an outreach meeting in Phoenix


Mayor Nexsen said a few years ago, they hosted lunches with legislators in Phoenix and said unfortunately some had to leave in the middle of their conversations, so they had to start the conversations over and over again. He said the question came up if it was worth the time and effort to continue this, or possibly take their legislators out to dinner, which might be more impactful. Discussion ensued regarding other possibilities to improve communications. Mr. Adam said one of the biggest impacts was being repetitive, so they were hearing the same thing over and over from local officials and their constituents. He suggested setting up group meetings in the legislators' offices. Mayor Nexsen encouraged everyone to participate in the weekly League conference calls, and said they needed a more focused approach. City Manager Cotter suggested selecting a date to meet that would work for the Legislators; and said some, but not all, would be able to attend.



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## 18. Individual City Updates

Chairman Mayor Gates said there was a great amount of restructuring going on in Kingman. She said they had an interim city manager and they were looking for an interim economic development director. She said they looked forward to finding that vision in Kingman.

  
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Mayor Brady said Bullhead City was moving dirt to expand the Community Park beach area by 1300 lineal feet. He said trucks from the construction of the new field house were delivering sand to the beach and picking up dirt from the beach for fill dirt. He said the \$4.5 million Laughlin Ranch Boulevard extension project was underway. He said the road would connect Bullhead Parkway and Highway 95. He said the Senior Games would be held that week with people from all over the country. He said there were major sports tournaments scheduled for most weekends. He said DOT Foods would open for operation next month. He said Bullhead City had waived building permit fees for any commercial activity last year and said the Council had voted to extend that waiver for another year. He said they attended trade shows in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, and said Bullhead City now had the reputation of being very business friendly. He said the permit fee waiver allowed local small businesses to perform some upgrades and expand their businesses without a lot of pocketbook pain on their part. He said they had waived approximately \$272,000 in commercial fees. He said the River Regatta would be coming back, and said Marnell Gaming (Edgewater/Colorado Belle) in Laughlin would take over the event. He said attendance would be limited to 22,000, and said they would use the city and county parks. He said they have promised \$100,000 in river clean up before the event, and would supplement another \$100,000 after the event by charging a \$5 environmental cleanup fee to each participant.

  
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Mayor Nexsen said Lake Havasu City would hold their annual Balloon Fest this weekend and the Rodeo next weekend. He said the Havasu Riviera project should be opened to the public sometime this summer. He said the Civitas Independent Living Center next to ASU was an independent living condominium facility, with future assisted living and memory care. He said they had a lot of rezoning and building taking place. He said the city would take a ballot measure to the voters this year in order to adjust the base independent expenditure limitation. He said the Council wanted to get some park improvement projects completed as well as the downtown project, and said they needed to increase the expenditure limitation in order for this to happen.



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## 19. Discussion and possible action regarding Future Agenda Items

There was no discussion under this item.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.



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