

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 Special Meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Council Member Wegmann to deliver the invocation. Council Member D'Amico led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council Present

Brady, Bruck, Clark, D'Amico, Ring, Shutts, Wegmann

Council Absent

None

Staff Present:

CITY MANAGER: Toby Cotter

CITY ATTORNEY: Garnet Emery

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Debie Ogden

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Keegan Littrell

WAIVER MOTION

Motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Ring made a motion to waive the reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for adoption at this meeting. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Clark, D'Amico, Ring, Shutts, Wegmann NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM.** Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2018R-46 declaring and adopting the election results submitted by the Mohave County Elections Department for the August 28, 2018 primary election for Bullhead City as the official final election results. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said this was a routine matter for the Council in order to ratify the August 28, 2018 primary election results for Bullhead City.

MOTION: Council Member Shutts made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018R-46 declaring and adopting the election results submitted by the Mohave County Elections Department for the August 28, 2018 primary election for Bullhead City as the official final election results. Vice Mayor Ring seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Clark, D'Amico, Ring, Shutts, Wegmann NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

2. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2018R-47, cancelling the call and order placing Proposition 410 on the November 6, 2018 Bullhead City ballot; and directing staff to submit "Mohave County – Scenario 3" along with EPCOR's written support to the Arizona Corporation Commission for consideration in the pending EPCOR water rate case. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter provided background information relating to this item. He said EPCOR filed a rate case in August 2017 that proposed the average Bullhead City residential water rate to increase from approximately \$28 to approximately \$45. He said the city intervened in that rate case this May in order to work for the best interest of the water rate payers of the city. He said Mayor Brady and Council Member Wegmann attended the rate case hearing on July 17th to voice their concerns against the rate case and consolidation. He said he personally testified against the rate increase and eleven-district district consolidation on July 30, 2018. He said the city's outside legal staff had also participated, costing the city thousands of dollars in legal fees; with one common goal to work in the best interest of the city's rate payers. He said Mayor Brady, Council Member Clark, and he traveled to Edmonton, Canada, on August 24th to meet directly with EPCOR President and CEO Stuart Lee. He said as a result of that meeting, EPCOR provided a number of options that could be presented to the citizens of this community. He said since that time, they had been working on three Mohave County consolidation options, or Scenarios 1, 2, and 3. He said Scenario 3 was the most viable option that would best represent the citizens in the county. He said tonight the Council was being asked to remove Proposition 410 ballot in support of submitting Scenario 3 to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). He said the ACC had not yet made a determination, but was expected to vote on the proposed rate case and consolidation later this fall. He said staff was recommending canceling the November election and pulling Proposition 410 from the ballot.

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing.

Eva Corbett said she was a member of the H2O Committee. She said they would continue to fight against the consolidation and said they would eventually win the war.

Mike Huve, a Bullhead City resident, said he was very much opposed to the consolidation. He said he did not see any reason the proposition needed to be pulled from the ballot since the city would not be required to take immediate action.

John Pynakker said he was the President and CEO of the Bullhead Chamber of Commerce and a member of the H2O Committee. He said the Chamber was in support of pulling the measure from the ballot. He said the acquisition of water services would eventually be in the citizens' best interest, but would not be prudent at this time because the ACC had not yet made a decision. He

said due to the actions of EPCOR and its political action committee, there was a lot of misinformation and questions about the plan to purchase these assets. He said as a result of this one-sided media blitz, the community did not know who to believe. He said once the facts were known and the actual costs and purchase price were determined, the Chamber would work hard to address it with facts and not fear-based ads. He urged the Council to remove Proposition 410 from the November ballot.

Charles Pfeiffer, Bullhead City resident, said if the measure could be put off now and revived in the future, the voters would agree with that. He said he felt strongly in favor of the city's acquisition of water services.

Having no one else present wishing to speak, Mayor Brady closed the public hearing.

Council Member D'Amico said they needed more information at this time, which was the reason the measure would be pulled. He said the measure could be brought back at a later date.

Council Member Clark said they had spent a lot of time working with EPCOR to try and get the best deal they could. He said they did not know what the final decision of the ACC would be in relation to the consolidation and water rates. He said they needed to gather more information so they could make a better educated decision in the future.

Shawn Bradford, Vice President of EPCOR Corporate Services, said they had been working with the City Council and City Manager. He said they were in support of coming up with other options for the city.

Council Member Clark said Scenario 3 was a Mohave County consolidated rate filing which would separate Mohave County and Maricopa County rates. He said if the county was lumped into full consolidation with the rest of the state, the rate payers would be subjected to additional increases in their bills. He said they had been pushing to break away from Maricopa County in order to not have to subsidize the rates for cities such as Anthem, Fountain Hills, or Scottsdale.

Mayor Brady said the City Council had never worked harder in protecting the rate payers in Bullhead City. He said they spent much so time, money, effort, trips to Canada, and hiring lawyers; and said he hoped people realized that. He said he thought the ACC would do great harm to the city but said they needed to find out what that final decision was in order to decide on their next course of action. He said the fight was not over and there was more to come.

Council Member Wegmann said the Mayor, Council, and city staff had done an outstanding job and spent countless hours in fighting and determining what was best for the community. She thanked those involved, and said she it was an honor to be a part of the team.

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018R-47, cancelling the call and order placing Proposition 410 on the November 6, 2018 Bullhead City ballot; and directing staff to submit "Mohave County – Scenario 3" along with EPCOR's written support to the Arizona Corporation Commission for consideration in the pending EPCOR water rate case. Council Member Shutts seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Brady, Bruck, Clark, D'Amico, Ring, Shutts, Wegmann NAYS: None
 ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

3. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action related to the Draft Kingman Field Office Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment. (City Manager Cotter)

Mayor Brady said the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a public meeting in Bullhead City on August 22nd to discuss their Kingman travel management plan. He said he received comments from the public about how upset they were about this. He said the public comment period would close on September 18th, and said he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda today in order to have enough time to respond. He said he traveled to Kingman yesterday to meet with members of the BLM, along with State Representative Regina Cobb and County Supervisor Hildy Angius; and received a briefing on everything involved with the travel management plan. He said at this time he chose not to go any further with this item. He asked that the item be pulled from the agenda.

No discussion took place and no legal action was taken on Agenda Item No. 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct record of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Bullhead City held on the 13th day of September 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2nd day of October 2018.

Susan Stein
for Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk