

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 Tuesday, June 4, 2019, in the Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Blvd., Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Discussion regarding funding options related to the structural costs of the second bridge connecting Bullhead City to Clark County, Nevada.

City Manager Cotter said the Council and the public were provided with many documents that provided an in-depth historical background of the entire project. He said Bullhead City and Clark County had been discussing a second bridge for more than 20 years. He said, in 2010, an environmental assessment was completed that outlined the proposed locations. He said after a great deal of debate and discussion on both sides of the river, the Parkway location was chosen as the site for the new bridge. He said Bullhead City was recently ready to complete the infrastructure on the Arizona side of the river. He said the Laughlin Town Board passed a resolution objecting to the expenditure of Clark County funds on the bridge and related Nevada infrastructure.

City Manager Cotter said Clark County was now requesting shared costs on the actual bridge structure, not including streets and infrastructure outside of the bridge landing. He said Clark County would be responsible for Nevada infrastructure, and Bullhead City would be responsible for the Arizona infrastructure. He said the only item for debate and discussion for this item was the sharing of costs for the actual bridge. He said the bridge was estimated to cost approximately \$30 million. He said the State of Nevada and Clark County had approximately \$21 million in federal funding for the project leading to a \$9 million difference in available funding. He said Clark County was requesting a cost sharing between both agencies to cover the difference. He said the cost of the bridge could possibly come in cheaper during the bidding process. He said; if not, the city would have to commit to spending approximately an additional \$4.5 million for the new bridge.

Mayor Brady said this was the most important decision the Council would make for a long time. He said they were discussing spending \$7.7 million on the bridge. He said this was the largest expense the Council had been asked to consider without taking it to the voters.

Mayor Brady said in 2001, the City Council allocated \$80,000 to fund a study for the location of the bridge. He said there was no reason to make a hurried decision that day and urged the Council to be cautious. He said the cost of the bridge alone was estimated to be \$30 million, and \$21 million in federal funding was available. He said that did not include the cost of the infrastructure on both sides of the river. He said after ten years of cooperating, the Laughlin Town Board recently “killed” the project. He said up until that time, Clark County would have been responsible to pay the entire cost of the bridge. He said other proposed bridge sites were rejected because they were located in residential neighborhoods and homes would need to be removed. He said the Parkway location was the only one left. He asked if spending \$7.7 million on the bridge was the highest priority.

Mayor Brady displayed information and maps to show the possible benefits of the bridge to residents. He said residents living on the south end of the city could more easily jump on the Parkway to get to Laughlin. He said Clark County would benefit more from the bridge. He said the proposed speed limit was 35 mph on the Nevada side. He said it would take 6 minutes to drive the three miles across the desert to Laughlin from the second bridge. He said people living south of Aztec using the existing Avi bridge would take 24 minutes to drive 17.6 miles to get to the Edgewater. He said the new bridge would take drivers the same amount of time to get there. He said the closest residence on the south side on the Parkway by the fire station would take 16 minutes to travel the 10.2 miles to the Edgewater via the Parkway, and said taking the new bridge would take 6 minutes longer.

Mayor Brady asked Council Member D’Amico if he would use the new bridge to get to work. Council Member D’Amico said he would use the bridge, as there had been many occasions he needed to take the Avi bridge due to a collision or road closure.

Mayor Brady said the congestion on Highway 95 was supposed to be eliminated when the new bridge was built. He asked the Council to consider what else could be done to get traffic off of the highway if they did not spend \$7.7 million on the bridge. He said the Landon and Arcadia connectors would get traffic off of Highway 95. He said they could get two main arterial roads constructed for the same price of the bridge that would serve the purpose. He said he thought the bridge would be a bridge to nowhere. He said he thought this money would be better spent helping the residents of the city. He said the Bullhead Parkway needed to be reconstructed which was estimated to cost \$13 million. He said the new Fieldhouse should not be a major factor in their decision.

Council Member Shutts said the amount of businesses at the Target Center would be impacted, and said the cost of building a bridge would be much more in the future. She said she was looking into the future about 20 years from now, and said she saw an increase in the population with more growth and development. She said she was in favor of the Parkway location all along. She said all of the public comments she had received were in favor of the bridge.

Vice Mayor Ring said she remembered when the Parkway was built and they heard many negative comments. She said the Parkway continued to be a wonderful amenity for the city. She said they needed to look many years into the future, not just today.

Council Member Wegmann said the bridge was either a “need” or a “want.” She said the citizens in the community want this bridge, and said she thought they needed a bridge. She said the community and surrounding communities in the Tri-state area would all benefit from this bridge.

Council Member D'Amico said if something happened to the Laughlin Bridge, people would not have to drive all the way to the Avi bridge to get across the river if there was a second bridge. He said the majority of people living in Laughlin would use the bridge to come to Bullhead City to shop. He said the second bridge would ease the traffic off of Highway 95. He said the city was spending a lot of money on other things, but said the cost of the bridge would increase as time went by.

Mayor Brady said State Representative Regina Cobb procured \$20 million for a Kingman interchange from the state budget. He said she was the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and might be able to help procure additional funds from the state for infrastructure. He said she suggested that she and Mayor Brady could go back and talk to Laughlin officials. He said the Council could consider taking more time to make their decision, and said they did not have to make a decision tonight.

City Manager Cotter said the Laughlin bridge did not have any structural problems at this time, but said the state were looking at a remodel of the decking in a few years. He said they based the "F" rating on traffic loads.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Dan Alfonzo said he was new to the area. He asked if an economic benefit survey was done. He said there was a lack of data to make a rational decision. He suggested making the bridge a toll road, and putting the question on the ballot.

Laurie Crampton said prolonging the decision would just increase the price of the bridge. She said the community would use it. She said the Fieldhouse was working with Laughlin and the resort properties on holding events, and said the current one-way in and one-way out access would be problematic. She said the community needed the bridge.

Jackie Mazzeo said she was the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, and said they were in support of the bridge. She said every Laughlin resident she talked to wanted the bridge, as it would be convenient for them to access retail shops.

Tom Hixson said more research was required before a decision was made. He said a price should be established for the bridge construction through a bid process before they could make a decision.

Lori Deschene said she owned the Culver's Restaurant and said she supported the bridge. She said it has been 18 years and said they needed to act.

Tom Meizenbach thanked the Mayor for the information he provided. He said he supported the bridge as the city would grow and thrive in the future.

Ed Catalfamo said he represented the Anderson Auto Group Fieldhouse and supported the bridge. He said traffic from Fort Mojave would use the bridge and alleviate some traffic on the Parkway. He said this might save on the wear and tear on the Parkway in the future.

Rick Girado said he was against the bridge, but realized there were a lot of benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brady declared the special meeting adjourned at 5:12 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 4th day of June 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of June 2019.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk

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, June 4, 2019, in the City Council Chambers, 1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and invited Captain Bob Lueras of the Salvation Army to deliver the invocation. Council Member Shutts 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

CITY CLERK: Susan Stein

POLICE CHIEF: Brian Williamson

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rudy Vera

INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Angie Johnson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR: Jeff Tipton

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Glen Wiltse

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Brady opened the call to the public.

Ron Anderson said he had concerns about deterioration of the metal bull sculpture as it would be sitting in the Arizona weather.

John Pynakker said he represented the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce. He asked the Council to consider approving a ballot measure to increase the city's Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT). He said visitors would pay the tax, not city residents. He said the current TOT rate was 2 percent which was woefully low compared to other communities. He said the TOT tax collected by Mesa was 5%, Sedona 7%, Phoenix 5.3%, Laughlin 3.65% after resort fees, Needles 10%, Kingman 4%, Lake Havasu City 5.78%, and Scottsdale 5%. He said they believed the fair amount would be to increase the rate from 2 to 4 percent.

Ray Rhines said she represented the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce. She said she had received many phone calls requesting that "Poki" the tortoise remain at the current location in front of the Chamber building.

Scotty McClure asked if the city could provide additional locations for meeting postings. He said Governor Ducey appointed an APS lobbyist as a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

He urged the Council to continue to pursue the acquisition of the water company. He said he would like to see "Poki" remain at its current location.

Dan Alfonzo asked if the Council considered the cost of moving the large tortoise sculpture. He said the money would be better spent on training for first responders.

Al Scigliano said the Arizona Corporation Commission favored the utility companies, and said they needed to inform the public about this. He said if the city had not acquired the wastewater system many years ago, the rate would be much higher.

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

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

WAIVER MOTION

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 Bruck seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Update on Recycling Program Modifications

City Manager Cotter said the recycling proposal would be coming to the Council in August, following the Franchise License Commission meeting that would be held in July.

2. EPCOR Valuation and Interim Rates

City Manager Cotter said the interim water rates have begun. He said questions on increased water rates should be directed to EPCOR Water. He said residents and businesses would be feeling the effects of the new rates this summer. He said a special Council meeting regarding the EPCOR evaluation would be held on July 9th, and said Council action would be taken on July 16th.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member D'Amico said he wanted everyone to know that the city had no affiliations with the Bullhead City Fire Department.

Mayor Brady said he met with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in Phoenix last week. He said they discussed the Randolph-Sheppard Act which controlled the use of vending machines in municipal facilities. He said the blind were trained in running a vending service and said any

government in the state was prohibited from contracting with any vending companies. He said this was not fair as the city had to provide electricity and got nothing in return, and said a blind person from Parker was the vendor for Bullhead City. He said the Mohave County Board of Supervisors wrote a letter to the Chair of the Senate, the matter was discussed at a Tri-City Council meeting, and said the League of Arizona Cities and Towns picked it up. He said they were looking at possibly changing the program. He said currently 286 people were employed by the vending companies and not one of them was blind.

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion that Items No. 1 and 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 Shutts seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 21, 2019. (City Clerk Stein)
2. Adoption of Resolution No. 2019R-18 appointing and directing the City Finance Director to submit the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report to the Arizona Auditor General. (Finance Director Vera)

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

3. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for an Interim Transfer and New Series 12 Liquor License No. 63571 submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller for the Samurai Noodle House Restaurant located at 1047 Highway 95, Suite A-1, in Bullhead City. (City Clerk Stein)

City Clerk Stein said this application was withdrawn by the state and would be re-posted and brought back to the Council next month. She said no Council action was required at this time.

No legal action was taken on Agenda Item No. 3.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for an Interim Permit and New Series 10 Liquor License No. 63308 submitted by Theresa June Morse for the River City Chevron located at 1626 Highway 95 in Bullhead City. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said staff had reviewed the application and had no objections or concerns.

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

MOTION: Council Member Shutts made a motion to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for an Interim Permit and New Series 10 Liquor License No. 63308 submitted by Theresa June Morse for the River City Chevron located at 1626 Highway 95 in Bullhead City. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

5. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a New Series 8 Liquor License No. 63316 submitted by Mary Jean Johnson for Sun Country Airlines located at 2550 Laughlin View Drive in Bullhead City. (City Clerk Stein)

City Manager Cotter said the consumption of alcohol would be onboard aircraft in flight, and said staff had no objections.

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

MOTION: Council Member Wegmann made a motion to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve the application for a New Series 8 Liquor License No. 63316 submitted by Mary Jean Johnson for Sun Country Airlines located at 2550 Laughlin View Drive in Bullhead City. Council Member D'Amico seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Building, Planning and Zoning Items

None

Bid Awards, Contracts, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Purchases

6. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-19 authorizing the submittal of a new bulletproof vest grant application for fiscal year 2020-2021; and authorizing Chief Williamson to sign all resulting documentation. (Police Chief Williamson)

Police Chief Williamson said this grant covered one-half of the city's cost for 23 bullet proof vests.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one from the public spoke.

MOTION: Council Member D'Amico made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-19 authorizing the submittal of a new bulletproof vest grant application for fiscal year 2020-2021; and authorizing Chief Williamson to sign all resulting documentation. Vice Mayor Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

7. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-20 adopting the tentative budget; adopting the estimated amounts required to meet the public expenses of the City of Bullhead City for the fiscal year 2019-2020; authorizing and directing the publication of statements and schedule of the tentative budget, together with notice of hearing on said budget; and notice of date of final adoption of said budget. (Finance Director Vera)

City Manager Cotter said this line item budget outlined all of the expenditures for the public to view on the city's website. He said this was the first Council action to adopt the tentative budget. He said additional Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) revenue was added to the budget since the Council held their work session on May 13th. He said \$750,000 for the wastewater treatment plant interconnect project was shown as a grant funded obligation. He said \$100,000 from the general fund was allocated to build a tot track and pump track in Rotary Park. He said the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding of \$416,000 was allocated for the Senior Nutrition Center remodel project, and said the proposed Marina Blvd. project would not qualify for funding. He said other minor technical changes were also made during the budget workshop.

Council Member D'Amico said he would like the \$100,000 for the construction of the tot track and pump track removed from the budget.

Mayor Brady said he reviewed the May 1, 2018 Council meeting video related to consideration of a feasibility study for mountain bike trails. He said \$10,635 was approved for the study to map out

mountain biking trails east of the community to include design, flagging, and GPS recording of trail segments. He said the trails were supposed to enhance Bullhead City as a tourist destination location. He said he was disappointed in the study. He said the study results did not include any mapping system, and looked like a cut and paste. He said the recommendation for a tot track and pump track was not part of the feasibility process, but was included in the budget without much discussion. He said he was uncomfortable in allocating \$100,000 based on consultants' recommendation in a worthless feasibility study that did not address what was in the contract. He said the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff should evaluate the project before any money was spent.

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing.

Eva Corbett said she was in support of removing the tot and pump tracks from the budget.

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

MOTION: Council Member D'Amico made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-20 adopting the tentative budget; adopting the estimated amounts required to meet the public expenses of the City of Bullhead City for the fiscal year 2019-2020; authorizing and directing the publication of statements and schedule of the tentative budget, together with notice of hearing on said budget; and notice of date of final adoption of said budget; deleting the \$100,000 in reserve proposed to construct the tot track and pump track in Rotary Park. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion and possible action to discuss funding options related to the structural costs of the second bridge connecting Bullhead City to Clark County, Nevada and direct the City Manager in regards to those future discussions with Clark County related to additional City funding of the bridge structure. (City Manager Cotter)

City Manager Cotter said the Council discussed this topic at a previous Council meeting and at a work session prior to this meeting. He said Bullhead City and Clark County had been discussing a second bridge for more than 20 years. He said, in 2010, an environmental assessment was completed that outlined the proposed locations. He said after a great deal of debate and discussion on both sides of the river, the Parkway location was chosen as the site for the new bridge. He said Bullhead City was recently ready to complete the infrastructure on the Arizona side of the river, and received a bid for \$3.3 million to build the project. He said the Laughlin Town Board passed a resolution objecting to the expenditure of Clark County funds on the bridge and related Nevada infrastructure.

City Manager Cotter said Clark County was now requesting shared costs on the actual bridge structure, not including streets and infrastructure outside of the bridge landing. He said Clark County would be responsible for the Nevada infrastructure, and Bullhead City would be responsible

for the Arizona infrastructure. He said the only item for debate and discussion for this item was the sharing of costs for the actual bridge. He said the bridge was estimated to cost approximately \$30 million. He said the State of Nevada and Clark County had approximately \$21 million in federal funding for the project leading to a \$9 million difference in available funding. He said Clark County was requesting a cost sharing between both agencies to cover the difference. He said the cost of the bridge could possibly come in cheaper during the bidding process. He said; if not, the city would have to commit to spending approximately an additional \$4.5 million for the new bridge. He said Bullhead City had already paid for some infrastructure near the Target Center.

Council Member D'Amico said he did not want to spend money on the bridge, but said the city needed it. He said it might be better if the decision was put off for six months to allow more time to determine if opportunities for other funding options were available.

Mayor Brady said he provided a lot of information on the location of the new bridge, time factors involved, and who would benefit at the work session. He said there was no question the city needed a bridge, but the question was if it was in the best interest of the community.

Council Member Clark said he did not want to spend the money, but the city needed a bridge which was part of the city's future. He said it was extortion on the part of Clark County to come back and ask the city for more money at the last minute. He said he supported moving the process forward, and said this did not prevent them from working with the state in the next year. He said a lot of work had to be done before construction began. He said they needed to cap the maximum amount of \$4.5 million through an IGA with Clark County now before they were asked for more money.

Vice Mayor Ring said she agreed with Council Member Clark and make a decision today.

Council Member Wegmann said this was a long time coming, and said the majority of the citizens want this done and said it would benefit the entire Tri-state area.

Council Member Bruck said they needed to move forward now.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Eva Corbett said her neighbors wanted the bridge, and said this was Bullhead City's first bridge.

Scotty McClure said 35 mph would be a speed trap on the Laughlin side. He suggested a toll road. He said this was extortion on the part of Clark County and Laughlin.

Mayor Brady said toll roads were not legal in Arizona

Al Scigliano said the city would have to borrow the money to pay for the bridge. He said the location of the bridge was poor.

Gene Quitmeyer said the cost of living was going up and said people are strapped. He said he would not use the bridge.

Jackie Mazzeo said she was the President and CEO of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and the manager of the Laughlin Tourism Commission. She said they were in support of the bridge for

many reasons; such as, get their employees from one side of the river to the other and to classes at Mohave Community College. She said the bridge would benefit both sides of the river.

Ray Jackson said he supported the bridge. He said traffic circulation needed to be updated in order to maintain the roads and keep traffic moving.

Ray Rhines said she represented the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce. She said she was in support of the bridge.

MOTION: Council Member D'Amico made a motion to direct the City Manager in regards to those future discussions with Clark County related to additional city funding of the bridge structure to move forward with the IGA, and continue to seek additional funding options with a cap of \$4.5 million. Council Member Wegmann seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Bruck, Clark, D'Amico, Ring, Shutts, Wegmann NAYS: Brady
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 6:30 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 4th day of June 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of June 2019.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk