

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 1, 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 Mary Ann Shepherd of the Unity Spiritual Center of Mohave Valley to deliver the invocation. Mayor Brady 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: Absent

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring Wednesday, October 2, 2019, as the Annual "National Night Out" in Bullhead City.

Mayor Brady read the proclamation and presented it to Lorrie Duggins of the Bullhead City Police Department.

2. Proclamation declaring the week of October 6-12, 2019, as "Fire Prevention Week" in Bullhead City.

Mayor Brady read the proclamation and presented it to Lori Viles of the Bullhead City Fire Department.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Brady opened the call to the public.

David Lords spoke in support of Proposition 415. He said the city takeover of the water system would not raise taxes because the city could not assess any property tax without voter approval. He said it would help seniors because the rates would not be raised as dramatically as EPCOR had since it purchased the system in 2012. He said the city could run the system for \$3.8 million less per year than EPCOR because the city was not profit driven and did not have to pay interest, bond payments, and corporate allocations to the City of Edmonton.

Royanne Ortiz spoke in support of Proposition 415. She thanked the numerous organizations and individuals for supporting the proposition and the H2O political action committee.

Joshua Sundstrom said city parks employees were recently observed working in the Palo Verde Meadows subdivision. He said there were allegations that the city was merging the Stone Bridge and Palo Verde Meadows property owners associations because there was a vested interest in them. He said he would like an investigation into the use of city employees to help facilitate the transaction.

Gene Quitmeyer said 45 miles per hour was too fast along Highway 95, and asked the Council to consider reducing the speed limit to 35. He suggested the city implement an "over-watch" program where citizens could audit city departments. He said Suddenlink Cable was owned by France and Burger King moved their offices to Canada, and asked if they city wanted to go after them next after EPCOR.

Sue Demarco, S.A.I.N.T. Pledge Director, discussed the organization's spay and neuter program and the saving lives program. She said they were in dire need of foster homes for larger dogs. She invited the community to attend the Wag and Wine fundraising event to be held on October 19th.

Al Scigliano said at the last public meeting, EPCOR did not mention how much their rates would go up. He said EPCOR's rate would increase by more than 100 percent over the next five years, but said this would not happen if the city took over the system.

Sheila Barger, Bullhead City resident, said she had attempted to contact someone regarding her concern that a poisonous chemical was put into the river, and said she was unable to get a response for several days. She asked that the public be made aware when chemical treatments of the river were happening.

Nick Parsons suggested an "Ag-Science" department be formed to look at various utilizations for reclaimed water. He said water was the most important thing in life and said he would be willing to contribute to the first system.

Ardie Lauxman, Chief Financial Officer for Mohave Electric Cooperative (MEC), said the new tax law change would tax their income on grant revenue and FEMA funds. He said unless revisions were made to the Rural Act, a not for profit cooperative could move into a taxable entity. He said the only means to absorb any increased costs would be to pass them along to their members, which no one wanted to happen. He said MEC works diligently to keep costs as low as possible, and said it was important to take action against this issue.

Scotty McClure said he looked forward to the implementation of ADOT's traffic flow improvement system on Highway 95. He thanked the city for making the traffic flow improvements at the intersection of Mohave Drive and Miracle Mile. He discussed the latest equipment that could be used by the Police Department.

Eva Corbett invited the public to attend the 6th annual Pet Costume Contest to raise funds for the Mohave County Sheriffs' K-9 Division to be held on October 19th at Tractor Supply.

Jackie Mazzeo, President and CEO of the Laughlin Chamber and Tourism Commission, asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the mass shooting tragedy that occurred in Las Vegas two years ago.

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

City Manager Cotter said at the call to the public, a speaker made a number of accusations against the City Manager and the city itself. He said the city did not own the Stone Bridge subdivision, but saved the neighborhood by taking it out of the flood channel. He said the city performed work at the Chaparral Golf Course because the area diverted water into the flood channel and a sewer lift station was located in that area. He said all of the accusations were erroneous and a slap in the city's face.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

WAIVER MOTION

MOTION: Vice Mayor Wegmann 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. Pest Abatement Manager Update – River/Fish Issues, Caddis Flies

City Manager Cotter said members of the Pest Abatement District Board were present this evening, as well as Rusty Braun from the Riviera Marina who was an authority on fish in the Colorado River.

Pest Abatement Manager Michael Cavallero said he was recently hired by the city and was in the process of networking, building local and state collaborations, and conducting research projects with Arizona, California, and New Mexico universities. He said he had reached out to local schools and would begin an after-school aquatic education program. He said he had a PhD in aquatic ecotoxicology and had a background in researching domestic and international contamination events in aquatic systems.

Mr. Cavallero said his primary focus and top priority were health concerns with the river. He requested the community to report to him or Mr. Braun on anything that did not seem right in the river.

Mr. Cavallero said on September 7th, they stocked 6,000 trout in the river from 9 to 12 inches in size. He said on September 10th a black fly survey was conducted and a few dead fish were noted.

He said a Bti treatment was done on September 11th and said four to five dead stripers were also noted along the shoreline. He said Bti was a bacterial larvacide that was non-toxic to fish, pets, and humans. He said there had been about 200 Bti treatments in the river with no negative effects over many years. He said only large stripers were found dead, and said no compound would negatively affect one species of fish. He said a true fish die-off would include hundreds or thousands of fish. He said the vultures made quick work of the evidence and they had to speculate on the reason for the fish dying off. He said stripers were voracious predators and could have gorged themselves, which was one possible reason for the mortality; or it could have been a combination of that and anglers catching and releasing those stripers.

Rusty Braun said Bti had been used for many, many years to treat the river and said it would not kill the fish. He said they could transport dead fish to the University of Arizona or the University of Tucson in order to inspect the fish and find out what killed them. He said more than likely an angler did not want some stripers over 20 inches in length and threw them back. He said they wanted to know if anyone was putting something in the water, and said the environmentalists would be all over that.

City Manager Cotter said they could put a banner on abatement boats alerting the public that Bti treatments were harmless and being used against the black flies. He said the city was doing everything they could to eradicate the caddis flies. He said they would do a better job of communicating in the future.

Mr. Cavallero said the subject of his master's degree work was the caddis fly. He said he had been looking at a pheromone treatment to attract male caddis flies away from high risk areas and trap them. He said he was working with an entomologist to study the insects and determine if they responded to certain compounds. He said he was working with Arizona Game and Fish to locate a potential artificial habitat for trout and other species to have a chance against the larger stripers. He said they were also looking at the depth of water where caddis flies laid eggs, and then work with the dam on water flow regulation.

Mr. Cavallero provided information on his background and education. He said he had a degree in environmental biology and a PhD in aquatic eco-toxicology.

Mayor Brady asked if the caddis fly problem was nationwide and if any solutions were discovered. Mr. Cavallero said this area was one of the most unique positions in caddis fly control research. He said the Central Arizona Project had a similar issue, but said there had been no success in coming up with a solution. He said the proximity of canals in central Arizona compared to the homes along the river was a different situation.

2. Proposition 415 Publicity Pamphlet

City Manager Cotter said the pamphlets were mailed and said some people were receiving them today. He said the pamphlet contained facts and arguments regarding Proposition 415.

3. All-Mail Special Election - Ballots mailed on October 9

City Manager Cotter said the ballots on Proposition 415 would be mailed on October 9th and should arrive in mailboxes a few days later. He said ballots should be mailed no later than the end of October to insure that they are received by the county by 5:00 p.m. on November 5th.

Mayor Brady asked if the city was holding the election.

City Clerk Stein said the Mohave County Elections Dept. and Voter Registration Dept. in Kingman were both administering the all-mail election.

4. Talas Harbor Grand Opening

City Manager Cotter said Talas Harbor, a new boutique hospital, held a grand opening event today in Bullhead City. He said this was a unique hospital for those with geriatric mental health issues.

5. ADOT Highway 95 Construction Project - 7th Street to Aviation Way

City Manager Cotter said the state would construct a raised median from the Laughlin Bridge to the post office in Original Bullhead on Highway 95. He said this was being done in the name of safety along that stretch of road. He said the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) was currently receiving comments from the public during the scoping period through October 18th.

Mayor Brady asked if ADOT had considered their suggestion of lowering the speed limit on Highway 95 from 45 mph to 35 mph between Marina Blvd. and Rancho Colorado.

City Manager Cotter said the ADOT District Engineer had begun to analyze the traffic flow, and said the new automated detection system might assist in formulating a solution.

6. ADOT Highway 95 Smart Detection System to improve traffic flow

City Manager Cotter said the new detection system along Highway 95 had not yet been implemented due to staffing issues at ADOT. He said they believed when the system was working at its optimum level, traffic flow would be greatly enhanced. He said they were all looking forward to improved traffic flow on the highway.

City Manager Cotter said the three-mile section past Canyon Road to the Laughlin Bridge would be fog sealed by ADOT this week. He said it would be all nighttime work and there might be some slowdowns during that time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

None

ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Clark made a motion that Item No. 1 on the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the reports, certifications and recommendations furnished each Council Member and without further discussion. Council Member Bruck 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 Special Council Meeting held on September 10, 2019; and the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 17, 2019. (City Clerk Stein)

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

2. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-37 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Mohave County Flood Control District and Bullhead City to facilitate FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (“CTP”) Grant Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2019-2020; and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. (Interim Public Works Director Johnson)

Interim Public Works Director Johnson said the city had worked with Mohave County Flood Control District for many years. She said they were awarded a grant request from FEMA to perform field surveys and evaluations of three washes and prepare updated flood plain mapping.

Mayor Brady asked if the funds were part of the city’s portion of the flood control allocation.

City Manager Cotter confirmed, and said the city received approximately \$900,000 per year for flood control. He said the city was responsible to pay a total of \$17,526.00 for this project, and said that funding would come from the Flood Control Fund, not the General Fund.

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

MOTION: Council Member Ring made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-37 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Mohave County Flood Control District and Bullhead City to facilitate FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (“CTP”) Grant Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2019-2020; and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. Vice Mayor Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-38 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bullhead City Fire District and the Bullhead City Police Department regarding Knox Boxes. (Police Chief Williamson)

Police Chief Williamson said the agreement solidified the agreement with the Fire Department that would enable law enforcement and fire personnel entry to private properties for emergency and law enforcement purposes.

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

Eva Corbett said the knox boxes were also used to assist senior citizens in an emergency.

MOTION: Council Member D’Amico made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-38 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bullhead City Fire District and the Bullhead City Police Department regarding Knox Boxes. Council Member Ring seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-39 approving the program-funded State and Local Task Force Agreements between the Drug Enforcement Administration and the City of Bullhead City; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements on behalf of the city and to take all reasonable actions to implement the agreements. (Police Chief Williamson)

Police Chief Williamson said these agreements gave the city access to federal funding and equipment to assist with narcotic, dangerous drug, and drug trafficking investigations. He said the agreement would provide the city with more resources that were paid for by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

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

MOTION: Council Member Shutts made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019R-39 approving the program-funded State and Local Task Force Agreements between the Drug Enforcement Administration and the City of Bullhead City; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements on behalf of the city and to take all reasonable actions to implement the agreements. Vice Mayor Wegmann seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

None

COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 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 1st day of October 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of October 2019.



Susan Stein, MMC, CPM
City Clerk