

THREE CITIES, ONE VOICE.



## MEETING MINUTES

**Regular Meeting of the Tri-City Council  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Lake Havasu City Council Chambers  
92 Acoma Boulevard S., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**



**City of  
Bullhead City, Arizona**

Steve D'Amico, Mayor  
Dan Alfonzo, Vice Mayor

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sheehy at 10:40 a.m.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**  
Chairman Sheehy led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Roll Call and Introduction of Special Guests**  
(\*Present via remove conferencing)

#### Lake Havasu City:

##### Council Present

Cal Sheehy, Mayor  
Michele Lin, Vice Mayor  
Nancy Campbell, Councilmember  
Jeni Coke, Councilmember  
David Diaz, Councilmember

##### Staff Present

Jess Knudson, City Manager  
Anthony Kozlowski, Assistant City Manager  
Allison Blum, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, Mayor & Council  
Jerri Bracamonte, Community Engagement Officer  
Steve Blake, Digital Media Coordinator  
Kelly Williams, City Clerk  
Shannon Davis, City Clerk Assistant\*  
Tim Kellett, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Chad Williams, Police Captain\*  
Kirk Cesena, Police Captain\*

#### Bullhead City:

##### Council Present

Dan Alfonzo, Vice Mayor  
Gene O'Neill, Councilmember  
Jason Newlin, Councilmember  
Rodney Head, Councilmember\*  
Karen Dallman, Councilmember\*

##### Staff Present

Toby Cotter, City Manager  
Edigar Kajirwa, Assistant City Manager  
Travis Pruitt, Assistant City Manager  
Debie Ogden, City Clerk\*



**Lake Havasu City, Arizona**

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**City of Kingman, Arizona**

Ken Watkins, Mayor  
Cherish Sammeli, Vice Mayor



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## City of Kingman:

### Council Present

Ken Watkins, Mayor  
Smiley Ward, Councilmember

### Staff Present

Tim Walsh, City Manager  
Tina Moline, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director  
Annie Meredith, City Clerk  
Sarah Hall, Marketing & Communications



## **City of Bullhead City, Arizona**

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## **Lake Havasu City, Arizona**

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## Others Present

Jeanne Kentch, Mohave County Assessor  
Trudy Hernandez, Mohave Military Museum  
Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County Board of Supervisors  
Coral Evans, Senator Mark Kelly's Office\*  
Sam Elters, Mohave County Manager\*  
Kirk Lacy, Mohave Community College  
Stacey Klippenstein, Mohave Community College  
Tim Culver, Mohave Community College  
James Jarman, Mohave Community College  
Jolene Pruitt, Mohave Community College  
Anthony Brozich, Arizona Department of Transportation  
Todd Steinberger, Arizona Department of Transportation  
Tami Ursenbach, Mohave County Economic Development  
SueAnn Mello, Mohave County Treasurer  
Sarah Hall, Supervisor Buster Johnson's Office  
Rene Guillen, Arizona League of Cities & Towns  
Linda Alfonzo, citizen

### **3. Call to the Public**

Chairman Sheehy opened the call to the public. There being no comments, he closed the call to the public.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes from the October 28, 2024, Tri-City Council Meeting**

Mayor Watkins moved to approve the October 28, 2024, Tri-City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Alfonzo and carried unanimously.

### **5. Updates from Mohave County Board of Supervisors and other Elected Officials**

Mohave County Supervisor Travis Lingenfelter expressed his appreciation to the newly elected Board of Supervisors and encouraged citizens to contact his office with any questions or concerns.

Mohave County Assessor Jeanne Kentch said she has been keeping busy during this legislative season with several bills going through the Assessor's office and has also been serving on the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) Board.



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Mohave County Treasurer SueAnn Mello stated that an online tax lien sale will begin January 27, 2025. She said information can be found on the Mohave County’s website at [www.mohave.gov](http://www.mohave.gov).

### 6. Legislative Update – League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Mr. Rene Guillen, League of Arizona Cities and Towns (“League”), said the legislative session began with a Republican majority that was gained in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Mr. Guillen stated that Governor Hobbs provided her State of the State address focusing on housing, low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC), restore authority to cities and towns regarding short-term rentals, and provide a five percent salary raise to Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers.

Mr. Guillen said elections would continue to be an issue with the primary focus on speeding up the vote tabulations to obtain election results quicker.

Mr. Guillen spoke on HB 1013 and said this bill would allow cities and towns to impose fees or tax assessments with a 2/3 majority to pass and added that there are concerns on secondary property taxes that are subject to levy. He noted that they expect to see more housing bills and clean-up of bills that were passed in 2024.

Mr. Guillen stated that the League is supportive of LIHTC which would bring in resources for affordable units and there would be several bills for short-term rentals that are looking to restore authority and authorize a cap on the number of short-term rentals in the community.

Mr. Guillen said to expect a bill regarding food tax and spoke regarding the impacts it would have on rural communities. He noted the deadline to introduce a bill is February 7, 2025.

Councilmember O’Neil asked for clarification regarding the food tax. Mr. Guillen said the intention is to eliminate the tax and explained there is no food tax (home consumption) at the state level; however, this bill would preempt the ability for cities and towns to have one.

Bullhead City Manager Toby Cotter asked for clarification regarding the food tax. Mr. Guillen clarified that the food retail businesses assess a tax; however, he is referring to home food consumption businesses.

Chairman Sheehy said Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and the City of Kingman need to advocate for local control regarding taxes.

### 7. Mohave Community College Update – Dr. Stacey Klippenstein

Dr. Stacey Klippenstein, Mohave Community College (MCC), thanked Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and the City of Kingman for their collaboration and partnership. Dr. Klippenstein encouraged everyone to read their January news release that highlights upcoming initiatives.



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Dr. Tim Culver, MCC, said there are 4,356 students enrolled for Spring semester and highlighted the breakdown of the students by city: 950 (Lake Havasu City), 1,482 (Kingman), 1,500 (Bullhead City), 239 (Colorado City), and 300 (Others). Dr. Culver said for the past couple of years MCC has been collaborating with members of the community regarding the implementation of an Academic Master Plan and expansion or modification of existing programs.



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Councilmember Campbell asked if they are looking into any heavy equipment apprenticeship programs in the community. Dr. Culver said there have been discussions regarding this topic on how to offer it.

Ms. Jolene Pruitt, MCC, spoke regarding the development of the Facility Master Plan and spoke in detail on the facilities that need to be modernized and/or replaced that are located on the campuses throughout the Tri-City area. Ms. Pruitt added that they are looking to promote community collaboration and partnerships, elevate sustainability, landscape stewardship and plan for future growth.



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Dr. Klippenstein also emphasized the priority on improving the facilities that are located at all campuses throughout each community.

Councilmember Diaz asked if the critical buildings would be demolished or rebuilt. Ms. Pruitt stated that there are critical buildings located throughout all campuses and the need to combine or demolish the buildings.

Dr. Kirk Lacy, MCC, spoke regarding the strategic plan for academic and workforce partnerships to ensure the academic programs are aligned with surveying the priority workforce development needs of the Tri-City area. Dr. Lacy explained that the plan is built around data and the labor market out of priority workforce needs of each community and the demand for apprenticeship programs.



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Mr. James Jarman, MCC, spoke regarding a rebranding committee and requesting feedback from the community to determine the logo and name change from Mohave Community College to Mohave College.



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### 8. Mohave County Economic Development Update – Tami Ursenbach

Ms. Tami Ursenbach, Mohave County Economic Development, said she is working with over 20 businesses regarding new development that are largely focused on manufacturing, warehouses, and natural gas to diesel fuel and potential opening of two mines. Ms. Ursenbach said she is focusing on workforce housing, retail, energy and solar, data centers, expansion of the Kingman airport, tariffs assessed on manufacturing companies, and the benefits of a foreign trade zone. She spoke on business retention expansion through the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network grant and explained the need for resources to educate businesses on a higher level related to human resources. Ms. Ursenbach expressed the need in Mohave County for heavy equipment training and childcare services. She said they have been focusing on increasing tourism throughout the Tri-City area and improving trailheads to be ADA compliant.



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### 9. Arizona Department of Transportation Update – Anthony Brozich & Todd Steinberger

Mr. Todd Steinberger, Northwest District Administrator with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), provided an update on current and upcoming construction projects and outlined the following in his presentation:

#### Current Construction Projects

- US 93/I-40: W. Kingman TI – System to System Interchange Contract: \$160,200,002
- I-40: E. Kingman T.I. OP WB Bridge – Bridge Deck Replacement Contract: \$10,534,220
- I-40: Rancho Santa Fe TI/Rattlesnake TI – New Traffic Interchange Contract: \$43,950,205
- I-40: CA Border to Flagstaff – Broadband Project Contract: \$55,566,795
- I-40: Needle Mtn. Rd. TI to Lake Havasu TI – Pavement Preservation Contract: \$33,859,000
- I-40: CA Border to Needle Mtn. TI – Pavement Preservation Contract: \$19,200,000
- I-40: Walnut Creek to Holy Moses – Pavement Preservation Contract: \$35,385,000
- US 93: Cane Springs – Four Lane Divided Highway Contract: \$48,750,981

#### Upcoming Preservation Projects

- US 93: Sanctuary Rd. to I-40 – Pavement Preservation FY 27: 4<sup>th</sup> QTR Programmed: \$108,160,321
- I-40: Holy Moses Wash to Rattlesnake Wash – Pavement Preservation Advertised Programmed: \$47,023,641
- I-40: US 93 to Silver Springs Rd. – Pavement Preservation FY 27 4<sup>th</sup> QTR Programmed: \$16,830,907
- US 93: Old Hillside Rd. to 17 Mile Rd. – Pavement Preservation FY 27 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR Programmed: \$53,631,613



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### Upcoming Modernization Projects

- US 93: Tony Ave. to Bonanza Dr. – Various Safety Improvements FY 25 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR  
Programmed: \$831,448
- SR 95 – S. Palo Verde to Price Rd. – Center Raised Median FY 25 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR  
Programmed: \$4,050,032
- US 93: MP 175 to 177 – Passing Lanes FY 27 1<sup>st</sup> QTR Programmed: \$5,029,130

### Future Expansion Projects

- US 93: Big Jim Wash – FY 26 \$110 Million – Four Lane Divided Highway
- I-40: Kingman Crossing Traffic Interchange Adv TBD \$31.5 Million – Construct new Traffic Interchange
- US 93: Gap A: Adv TBD: Construct Four Lane Divided Highway



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### **10. Rural Transportation Update – Kevin Adam**

Mr. Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation Advocacy Council, spoke on the legislative session and the Senate Appropriations Committee and Joint Budget Committee meetings regarding the future budget outlook. He said when they enacted this year's budget on June 15<sup>th</sup> they did not have the collection numbers for May or June, which happens to be nearly half a billion dollars above what was forecasted. Mr. Adam stated that through the first half of the current year growth is at approximately 8 percent; therefore, they are already \$600 million above what was anticipated, and the budget's staff is forecasted to finish at approximately \$940 million above what was expected. Mr. Adam said they want to set aside some funding to make sure there is some carryforward allowance for next year. He said there are some expenditures that they are not going to be able to avoid; however, currently the budget staff is anticipating they are going to have an additional \$560 million to work for in next year's budget. Mr. Adam said after speaking with legislators there will be a continuation of prioritizing transportation infrastructure with some of that funding. He also spoke on the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) priority project legislation and added that the bill has not dropped yet; however, Representative Biasiucci, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, is committed to introduce that bill. Mr. Adam spoke regarding the reappropriation of funding for the Arizona Smart Fund that was created in Governor Ducey's administration that provides rural communities with state assistance to pursue the competitive federal grants that became more available after the passage of the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. He said that HB 2101 would appropriate an additional \$10 million that will be in negotiations and hoped it would be in the \$20 to \$25 million range.



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## 11. Mayor’s Reports – City Updates

Vice Mayor Alfonzo reported that Bullhead City will be holding several upcoming events that include a home show at Anderson Field House on January 31, 2025, to February 2, 2025, Slaborama sponsored by Kiwanis that will be held at Rotary Park on January 17, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and January 18, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the Elks Lodge #248 First Responders’ Dinner. He said that the Optimum Center is currently being refurbished and scheduled to open in February.



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Mayor Watkins reported that the City of Kingman broke ground on the Rancho Santa Fe TI Project, new soccer fields are planned to break ground late summer located at Airway Avenue, and the Beale Street Improvement Project is completed. He also noted that their meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is advancing regarding land lease at the industrial park.



**Lake Havasu City, Arizona**

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Chairman Sheehy reported that Lake Havasu City has been working on the Downtown Catalyst Park at the corner of Querio Drive and McCulloch Boulevard and is expected to be completed by late spring, the Second Bridge is currently in the design process and the city is soliciting proposals for construction services, the City Council is reviewing the General Plan Update, Fire Station No. 7 is in the design process, and the city recently updated an ordinance regarding e-bikes. He said the city is working with the Mohave County Assessor’s Office, City of Sedona, and the League regarding short-term rental legislation that will be occurring this year. Chairman Sheehy added that there are many upcoming events that can be found on Go Lake Havasu’s website at [www.golakehasvasu.com](http://www.golakehasvasu.com).

### ADJOURN

Chairman Sheehy adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.



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