



# Laughlin Town Advisory Board

June 9, 2020

## MINUTES

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Board Members: Gina Mackey – Chair- excused absence Nile Smith-unexcused absence  
Kathy Ochs – Vice Chair Herman Walker  
James Maniaci

Secretary: Tammy Harris, (702) 298-0828 tammy.harris@clarkcountynv.gov

Town Liaison: Dr. Brian Paulson, (702) 298-0828 bkp@clarkcountynv.gov

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- I. Call to Order by Chair Gina Mackey, Invocation by Pastor Doug Westly, Pledge of Allegiance led by Kathy Ochs.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Approval of Minutes for March 11, 2020 (For possible action)  
Moved by: Gina Mackey  
Action: Approved as written  
Vote: 3-0 Chair Mackey abstained due to her absence at the March 11, 2020 LTAB meeting.
- IV. Approval of agenda for June 9, 2020, and hold, combine or delete any items (For possible action)  
  
Moved by: James Maniaci  
Action: Approved as written  
Vote: 4-0
- V. Informational Items
  1. Receive a report from Lt. Jeff Hewes with Metro Police regarding activity and statistics during the past month and other area crime concerns. (For discussion only)  
  
Lt. Hewes was unable to attend. Vice Chair Kathy Ochs read the report provided by Metro.  
  
May 2020 Statistics:

Calls for Service: 185, down 51.95 percent from this time last year  
Traffic Citations: 64  
DUIs: 0  
Battery Domestic Violence Arrests: 2  
Bookings: 10  
Juvenile Citations: 0

2. Receive a report from Nevada Highway Patrol regarding activity and statistics during the last month and other public safety concerns. (For discussion only)

No report

3. Receive a report from Clark County Fire Department regarding calls for service during the past month and other fire prevention issues. (For discussion only)

Battalion Chief Scott Straily provided the 2020 May report.

Statistics May 2020:

Station 76:  
Total responses: 36

Station 85:  
Total responses: 99

Total May calls: 135

Battalion Chief Straily said the reduced calls are due to COVID-19. After businesses reopened, the calls started to increase.

Vice Chair Ochs inquired why there was an increase in April from last year, Battalion Chief Straily said people are concerned with the COVID-19 and the confirmed cases in Laughlin, which has attributed to the increase of calls.

James Maniaci reminded Battalion Chief Straily of board's request for the number of the mutual aid calls between Laughlin and the rest of the tri-state area. The battalion chief said Chief Touchstone was unable to make it to Laughlin today but possibly can be here next month.

4. Receive a report from Greg Turner with Clark County Water Reclamation District regarding the status of the wastewater system. (For discussion only)

In Greg Turner's absence, Chair Gina Mackey read the May report.

Statistics:

May 2020:

The Laughlin Water Reclamation Facility had an average of 1.14 million gallons per day producing clean water returned to the Colorado River. Flow saw a decrease of 890,000 gallons per day from this

time last year.

Sewer Service Complaints: None

Odor Complaints: None

Call Before You Dig: 26

- 5. Receive a report from Jason Bailey with Big Bend Water District regarding the status of the water system. (For discussion only)

In Jason Bailey’s absence, James Maniaci read the January – May report.

The #3 Raw Water Pump and Motor has been rebuilt, reinstalled, and back in service. There are no major leaks or issues to report at this time and total diversions are noted below:

DIVERSIONS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	248 acre-feet	236 acre-feet
February	238 acre-feet	217 acre-feet
March	226 acre-feet	269 acre-feet
April	226 acre-feet	293 acre-feet
May	293 acre-feet	318 acre-feet
YTD total diversions	1,231 acre-feet	1,333 acre-feet

As COVID-19 activities continue to affect communities, our commitment to provide a safe and reliable water supply remains a top priority for the Big Bend Water District. The BBWD maintains robust emergency response and readiness plans to help maintain water system operations during natural disasters, community-wide illness, and other emergency situations. We are closely monitoring the situation and are taking the appropriate precautionary measures in our offices and in the field. Please be assured that our staff will continue to work hard to ensure that the system remains stable and operational during these trying times.

- 6. Receive a report from Will Douglas with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Will Douglas said the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) has been closed to the public since the shutdown but was able to provide videos and kits were mailed to the kid’s homes for them to be able to complete projects. This has worked out well and will continue.

Dawn Estes, in conjunction with UNCE, is planning a school garden at the Junior/Senior High School for the kids to participate in.

Mr. Douglas introduced Hailey Maio from New Mexico as the community’s new extension educator.

Ms. Maio introduced herself and she is a recent post grad and her specialty areas are in family consumer sciences, specifically in nutrition, dietetics, agriculture education, youth development and adult programming. She said she is looking forward to bringing these types of programs to Laughlin and help the community grow.

Summer camp has been cancelled, but plans are currently underway for a stay camp using ZOOM for the kids to participate using STEM activities. Mr. Douglas said he is trying to figure out something since “something is better than nothing” and to keep the kids engaged.

7. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with Laughlin Chamber of Commerce regarding current and upcoming business activities in Laughlin. (For discussion only)

Jackie Mazzeo provided reports for March through May.

Events:

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Connie Davis 5K Walk and Roll for Cancer was held March 7<sup>th</sup> and broke another record with an excess of 540 people registered. The River Fund Cancer Connection benefited with the \$13,447 raised from this event.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chef’s Food Fest has been cancelled this year.

Updates:

March 18 - May 15 Office closed. Full member services were being provided remotely.

May 18 – Staff returned to the office.

June 8 – Office was reopened for members and visitors under strict conditions that adhere to the state requirements and the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce Mitigation procedures authored by the Board.

Ms. Mazzeo also cited:

- Wednesday newsletters did not stop
- Member marketing continued
- Connect citizens and travelers with resources
- Layoff Aversion Program for Laughlin Small Business – DETR and Workforce Connections preserved 12 employee jobs and kept businesses open
- Continued education on Chamber and Tourism
- Attended 3-6 webinars and meetings every day to obtain COVID-19 program knowledge for business and community
- Produced weekly COVID-19 newsletter for Friday distribution to include every resource available to any business and any citizen. Federal, State (NV/AZ/CA), County, GOED, COVID 19 Task Force, US Federation of Chambers, US Small Business Admin & NSBA, USDA, WHO & CDC, Better Business Bureau, Surveys, workshop/teleconference sign up information, LVGEA and Council of Chambers, and neighboring program availability is included and still being published today
- Organized and provided 25 volunteers for a 2-day Clark County Strike Force testing site at the Aquarius with 776 of 1,000 tests administered with zero positive
- Volunteered at COVID-19 testing site in Searchlight

Mixers:

- Networking and Educating - ZOOM Business Event presented by Tri-State Community Health Care.
- Wednesday, June 3 - introduction of Mobile Healthcare and COVID-19 Testing Program for our Colorado River Communities. Q & A proved to be very educational and informative.

Membership:

Mar-May

293 Active Members

9 New members – 2 dropped

27% are Laughlin Members

James Maniaci inquired as to how many of the new members were from Laughlin, Ms. Mazzeo said two.

8. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with the Laughlin Tourism Commission regarding current and upcoming events and activities. (For discussion only)

BEST IN THE DESERT – The Jagged X National Desert Cup  
Off Road Races Motorcycle, Quad and UTV 17 mile loop  
4WP Youth UTV Race Championship Series on Friday  
March 20-22, 2020 – **POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 25-27**  
<https://bitd.com/race-events>

Rockets Over the River – Celebration of Independence  
June 27 and July 4, 2020 - **READY TO GO FOR BOTH DATES**  
[www.visitlaughlin.com](http://www.visitlaughlin.com)

SPARTAN GAMES - Obstacle course event for competitors Elite, Para and kids  
November 13-15, 2020  
<https://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/5208/overview>

Run Laughlin 5K, 12K and Half Marathon “Two States, Two Time Zones and ONE DAM GREAT RACE”  
Saturday, December 5, 2020  
[www.mercuryevent.com](http://www.mercuryevent.com)

SNORE – McKenzie’s Rage at the River – Off Road Races  
December 10-13, 2020 Laughlin Event Site/Park  
<https://www.snoreracing.net/>

COLORADO RIVER LIFEGUARDS

Complimentary Resort Rooms have been secured 5/22-9/7/2020

9. Receive a report from Richard deClercq with Parks & Recreation regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

The LTAB was informed that Richard deClercq took another position with Clark County Parks and Recreation and was replaced with Shelly Gulotta for the Laughlin/Searchlight area.

The following report was provided and read by Chair Mackey.

Statistics:

March-April-May 2020- 0 programs, monthly visits 0

Building visits due to COVID-19: 0

Upcoming Special Events: None

Updates:

- South County has a new Supervisor, Shelly Gulotta.
- The Boys & Girls Club in the Spirit Mountain Activity Center will reopen on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senior Center will remain closed for the time being.
- The County is working through the process to reinstate part-time employees.
- Laughlin Water Park may open once the Aquatics Team has been reinstated and trained.
- Once part-time have been reinstated and trained for COVID-19 practices, recreation programming will resume.
- CDBG Update: The 2020-2024 CDBG Capital Improvement Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 5, 2020. Approved projects included funding for the proposed Laughlin Multi-generational Center Expansion at Mountain View Park. The funding for these projects is projected over the five years of the capital plan and Parks and Recreation is hoping that the Laughlin project will be scheduled early during that time frame, but that is yet to be determined. We will keep the town board posted on any future dates. It is important to note that the Laughlin project was approved with reduced funding of \$3,970,473. This amount is about \$700,000 short of what Parks and Recreation requested as part of the application process. Nevertheless, Parks and Recreation will continue to see this project through completion.

At this time, Chair Mackey opened this up to the public for discussion:

Robert Bilbray, who represents Laughlin as the TAB's representative to the Community Development Advisory Committee, or CDAC, provided additional comments to the Parks and Recreation updates and the reduced funding in addition to a historical summary of the CDAC review and deliberations of the CDBG recommendation process.

To receive a copy of the BCC agenda item with background information of the projects and plan chart, contact Laughlin Town Manager's Office or go on line at [clarkcountynv.gov](http://clarkcountynv.gov).

Contact Info:

Shelly Gulotta, Supervisor

A'lonn Bilbray, Recreation Specialist

Laughlin Office – 702-298-3413

10. Receive a report from Laughlin school system regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

In Dawn Estes's absence, James Maniaci read the current report.

Year End Enrollment:

LHS: 370 students

Class of 2020: 44 Graduates

Bennett: 390 students

Class of 2033: 35 PK students enrolled in full-day program 2019-20 school year

- **CHROMEBOOKS & VIRTUAL LEARNING:** Between April 2 and June 5, 322 Chromebooks were distributed to Laughlin families to support virtual learning. Families are encouraged to continue to access a variety of educational programs throughout the summer months, including MAPS Accelerator, KHAN Academy and IXL. Additional summer learning information can be found at [ccsd.net](http://ccsd.net).
  - **CCSD SUMMER LEARNING RESOURCES CCSD:** Launched a summer learning resources website [summerconnections.ccsd.net](http://summerconnections.ccsd.net) and [conexionesdeverano.ccsd.net](http://conexionesdeverano.ccsd.net). CCSD Summer Connections will be the one-stop-shop website for parents and students to locate information on credit retrieval services, family guides for summer learning, and virtual learning opportunities with educational partners and more.
  - **GRADUATION:** Multiple ceremonies are being planned during the week of June 15, with adherence to Governor Sisolak's Phase II social distancing guidelines, including 50 or less at each ceremony (social gathering).
  - **FALL 2020:** CCSD surveyed all stakeholders at the end of May through June 1, Superintendent Jara will release a district plan for Fall 2020 reopening by June 30.
11. Receive a report from Tanya Brown-Wirth with Laughlin Library regarding current and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

In Tanya Brown-Wirth's absence, Chair Mackey read the report.

As of Thursday, June 4, we are happy to announce that the Laughlin Library is partially reopened with limited services.

Patrons are welcome to come to the library for the following:

- One hour of computer use
- Print, copy, scan and fax
- Pickup of holds and requests
- Curbside pickup for books and movies (please call ahead to schedule)
- Outside book drop is open 24/7 for books or movies
- Request materials by phone

- Reference questions by phone
- Free Wi-Fi in the parking lot
- Summer Reading Program

Unfortunately, at this time, there is no browsing or shopping of books or movies. The stacks in the library are all closed. Seating has also been removed. Lastly, all programs and events have been cancelled until further notice.

We are keeping our regular operating hours and will offer assistance to patrons seven days a week. Please call our library with any questions. The direct line is (702) 507-4063. We look forward to hearing from you.

12. Receive a report from Dr. Brian Paulson regarding tentative Clark County Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget for the Town of Laughlin and status of Fort Mohave Valley Development Fund. (For discussion only)

Dr. Paulson provided and read the Clark County Budget for FY 2021 pertaining to the Town of Laughlin and including the Fort Mohave Valley Development Fund.

Vice Chair Ochs asked about a more detailed report for the vast variances. Dr. Paulson said he didn't have access to that information, but surmised if all monies are not used it probably goes back to the general fund. Ms. Ochs said generally businesses would provide a report as to why there is large variances. Dr. Paulson said upon talking with a budget analyst in Las Vegas, there is no one reason why variances can occur as they can change from year to year.

James Maniaci expressed some concerns with the expenditures and said from looking at the expenditures page, there is subtotal of expenditures from Parks & Recreation, Fire, and Administrative Services of \$12.3 million. "When \$3.2 million is added in for Metro and an ending fund balance of \$17 million which does not add up," he said.

Dr. Paulson said he did not have a clear explanation for this discrepancy. Mr. Maniaci said he can't help wonder who in Las Vegas, is playing games with our money, before adding, "the Fort Mohave Valley Development Fund does not have any encumbrances for the first quarter but shows \$18,000 in expenditures and \$1.5 million in expenditures on the capital portion of that."

For the complete report please contact the Laughlin Towns Manager's Office for a copy.

13. Announcements of upcoming neighborhood meetings and County or community meetings and events. (For discussion only)

During the office closure from March to May, Dr. Paulson said the building contractor installed a new roof and skylight at the Regional Government Center, pointing out the new skylight in the hallway. He said the contractor's work was 99 percent completed. The new roof is completed with just final



touches needed for the skylight portion.

Next week, a new ATM machine will be installed in the lobby area by the Clark County Credit Union which is currently working on a date for a ribbon cutting next week.

Chair Mackey asked if a non-member of the credit union can use the ATM. Dr. Paulson said he believed so but would probably involve a fee.

James Maniaci said the ordinance was published in Las Vegas for the assessments and how to pay them for SID 162B to maintain the Laughlin Lagoon channels.

Mr. Maniaci said we are still waiting to hear from Republic Services on the two-year report regarding the land use. He also said there was notice given by the County that they are looking for COVID-19 small business support programs for the market in Laughlin to be working with.

Vice Chair Ochs said the grants are from Clark County and there are three of them for COVID-19 relief that range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. “That was federal funding that was given to Clark County for businesses. Commissioner Naft was hoping there would be several businesses in the Laughlin area that would be able to use these grants,” she said.

**Chair Mackey called a 10 minute recess and this time.**

VI. Planning & Zoning: None

VII. General Business:

1. Appoint one member as the Laughlin TAB’s representative to be involved in the update of the county’s Comprehensive Master Plan and development code (Title 30). (For possible action)

James Maniaci and Vice Chair Kathy Ochs volunteered to represent Laughlin for the Clark County Master Plan & Development Code Rewrite. The first kick-off meeting will be held on June 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Mackey asked for a vote for Mr. Maniaci with two votes from James Maniaci and Chair Mackey.

Chair Mackey called for a second vote for Vice Chair Kathy Ochs, who also received two votes from herself and Herm Walker, which resulted in a tie vote. To break the tie, Chair Mackey called on Dr. Paulson to toss a coin to determine the representative for Laughlin. Mr. Maniaci called heads and Vice Chair Ochs called tails.

After a faulty first toss, Town Manager Dr. Paulson tossed the coin a second time with heads being called and *Laughlin Nevada Times* Journalist Kane Wickham being asked to verify the result. James Maniaci was announced as the winner of the coin toss and will represent Laughlin moving forward with the master plan rewrite committee.

Dr. Paulson said this will be a two-year project which will meet probably quarterly by ZOOM.

VIII. Public Comment:

Kathleen Hoss, Laughlin resident, expressed her concerns regarding how the Town Manager's Office handled the shutdown. She said, "The community didn't have any guidance or information on what resources were available to them and was grateful that there was organizations here in Laughlin that included the Laughlin Chamber who worked with the needs of businesses, the Laughlin Elks who worked with the food bank to help families obtain food. The American Legion did the same by reaching out to residents in need. During this time the town manager or the town board members were not seen participating with any of these organizations, or the COVID-19 testing for the Laughlin Community, and asking where they were.

"You can't pick and choose who you are going to represent and help. This community is scared because they have no representation. The first time the town manager was seen was when the casinos were opened. This is an outreach to do better," she said.

Fred Wells, Laughlin resident, said a couple of months ago he provided information for street improvements and a petition. He said he received a letter from the town manager that read in part:

*"...Your complaint and petition were forwarded to the Public Works Department. Public Works started the research but fell behind when the COVID crisis arose. Although there are currently no plans to do road resurfacing in Laughlin, Public Works will be scheduling to have roads inspected and rated by its road inspector team during the late fall or early winter this year, which is the first step in developing a plan for maintenance."*

Mr. Wells expressed concerns on how County funds are spent for road improvements, criticizing plans for a new bridge at the expense of street repairs.

Brea Chiodini introduced herself as a member of the Laughlin Chamber Board, River Fund Board, and business owner. She thanked the TAB members for serving on the board and how difficult it can be. However, she said she wanted to comment on Kathleen Hoss's earlier statement, saying she felt it was important for the businesses and community to be supported in Laughlin, but the businesses didn't have anywhere to go and she witnessed the Laughlin Chamber jumping in and serving in places they shouldn't have been and should have had the support of our town manager. "There should have been some guidance and it was missing, the businesses and the community didn't know where to go." She asked the board to take Ms. Hoss's comments into consideration and move forward with positive change and be there for the business community and for the residents. "Laughlin deserves better."

IX. Next Meeting Date: July 14, 2020

X. Adjournment: 3:30 p.m.

***These minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the July 14, 2020 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting.***

To listen to the audio recording of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board go to:  
<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/administrative-services/laughlin/Pages/LaughlinTownAdvisoryBoard.aspx>