

Sierra Vista City Council
Work Session Minutes
March 9, 2021

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Mueller called the March 9, 2021 City Council Work Session to order at 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Mayor Rick Mueller – present
Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Gray – present
Council Member William Benning – present
Council Member Gregory Johnson – present
Council Member Angelica Landry – present
Council Member Sarah Pacheco – present (arrived 3:13 p.m.)
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey - present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Jeff Pregler, Planner
Laura Wilson, Leisure and Library Services Director
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Mike Cline, Management Analyst
Jill Adams, City Clerk

2. Presentation and Discussion:

A. March 11, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda Items ([agenda attached](#))

Mayor Mueller stated that the Council Meeting for Thursday, March 11, 2021 starts at 5:00 p.m. with the Call to Order followed by roll call, invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and the acceptance of the agenda, an asked if there should be anything else added/deleted. There was no response.

Mayor Mueller noted that there will be a special presentation by Dr. J.D. Rottweiler on the City of Sierra Vista and Cochise College Partnerships.

In response to Mayor Mueller, Mr. Potucek stated that he will report on a few projects on Thursday, March 11, 2021 and reported on the proposed Endangered Species Act with Critical Habitat for the Arizona eryngo that resides in the Lewis Springs area by the EPO. Anytime that Critical Habitat is mentioned, the City has a concern not only for the Fort but for the City. The City's consultant is preparing comments, which are due on May 3, 2021. He added that the Waters of Arizona Bill in the Legislature has made it out of the House by party line vote and will be going to the Senate. He further added that all the amendments that the City wanted to see on behalf of the Fort and the City have been included.

Mayor Mueller asked if the party line vote consisted of Republicans with four Democrats against a restrictive water and environmental bill. Mr. Potucek stated that he is correct.

Mayor Mueller stated that the Arizona erylgo at Lewis Springs would probably not be there if there was not a mound of water because it goes over the clay layer that causes Lewis Springs to act like a spring on an irregular basis, but it is the City's issue to correct. Mr. Potucek stated that Ms. Darling is going to walk the site.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

Item 2.1 Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2021 – There were no comments.

Item 2.2 Resolution 2021-016, Approval of the Holiday at PDS, Phase 5B final plat, Lots 30-59, Acceptance of Subdivider's Agreement, and Improvement Security – Mayor Mueller stated that this item is a technical issue and is the last action to be taken for the subdivision.

Public Hearings

Item 3 Consideration of Funding Applications for Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan – Mr. McLachlan stated that the public hearing on Thursday, March 11, 2021 is the Council's first review of applications for Community Development Block Grant funding for the 2021 Program Year. The final list gets packaged into the City's Annual Action Plan, which is essentially the funding application to HUD. The feedback and direction received on Thursday, March 11, 2021 will be factored into the draft document, which will come before Council during the second meeting in April followed by a 30-day public review period with final adoption and authorization to submit to HUD during the second meeting in May.

The City has received notice that the funding amount for next year will be \$254,678, which is a 6.3 percent decrease over the allocation received last year, based on a formula that factors in current population estimates and poverty statistics.

The proposal in the agenda packet was put together to advance the priorities in the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The City is moving into the third year of the five-year planning cycle. The charts provided with the memo show how the City is tracking relative to the funding levels in the Plan. Stabilizing and enhancing neighborhoods within the target areas through public facility and infrastructure investments has been assigned the highest priority, highest amount of funding level due to the associated capital costs. The City has limited the number of projects in the past due to intensive federal requirements associated with the implementation. The City has been able to lower costs by doing design and engineering in-house and saved some on construction by using park maintenance and street staff for portions of the construction.

Mr. McLachlan warned that parking lots are expensive and primarily attributed to rising asphalt costs. Last year the City earmarked the entire allotment towards the redevelopment of the former Public Works Yard on North Avenue to start work on Phase II of the Eddie Cyr Park Master Plan. The current budget would get the City about half of the spaces needed to better accommodate the tournaments that are occurring at the new sports fields. Staff recommends completing the parking lot in one construction phase to lower the ultimate cost. The proposed Program Year 2021 budget is just under \$175,000, to bring the total budget to \$446,488 which is in line with the engineer's estimate. This will get the City 106 standard spaces and six ADA-compliant spaces.

The Consolidated Plan earmarks \$100,000 towards housing rehabilitation services. The proposal includes \$50,000 to get the City halfway to that amount with two more program years to go. To accomplish the goal, staff is proposing to reactivate the Emergency Home Repair and Disability Modification Program that was administered in 2017 to provide needed assistance to low-income households within the City limits. Funding would be used to make emergency repairs to substandard housing conditions as well as accessibility improvements. The updated application form was provided to Council in the agenda package to provide a more detailed understanding of what that program encompasses. Also slated is \$15,000 towards neighborhood stabilization initiatives and staff proposes to use this funding for blight removal activities to assist with code enforcement efforts. The scope of this program would cover small demolition projects, fee waivers for roll-off containers to assist low-income homeowners with necessary abatement projects. The proposal sets aside another \$15,000 for outside nonprofit agency assistance, which is consistent with the historic funding levels outside the special funding provided for COVID-19 relief.

This year, the City has received three applications, late Friday, March 5, 2021, just before the deadline. Representatives have been invited to the public hearing on Thursday, March 11, 2021 to present their proposals and to respond to any questions that Council may have. Two of the applications are for projects and one is for expanding a program service. Staff will be looking for Council feedback and direction on any adjustments that they would like to make to the proposed activities and funding levels following the public hearing. This would get factored into the draft Annual Action Plan that will be presented in April followed by a public comment period, with the final version coming before Council at the end of May.

Council Member Johnson stated that he went through the various applications received, and they were all more than the program services except number three. He further stated that he did some research on the various not for profits and the only one that appealed to him is the Good Neighbor Alliance; however, he questions their program expense ratio because as of 2017 they were spending 22.1 percent on program services and the rest was all going towards administrative costs. He added that he is dubious in lending them money.

Mayor Mueller stated that instead of looking at percentages you need to look at the hard numbers on the cost of operations versus the cost of administration for small operations like the Good Neighbor Alliance. He explained that when it is a small group and they are doing things, the numbers for the administration may appear to be out of whack, but if they want to have a good manager to run the place, they must pay a minimum decent salary otherwise the organization is not going to function properly. There is a size factor and maybe actual numbers rather than percentages would be a better way to look at it.

Council Member Benning stated that the Good Neighbor Alliance has three hats. The shelter itself is funded by donations. He suggested that all three branches be looked to determine where those percentages are going in/out because a lot of the administration is in one area and that accounts against it, but the other two hats are not accounted for.

Mr. McLachlan stated that staff's recommendation was provided prior to receiving the application. If Council wants to fund the full amount, then other projects would have to be reduced. He added that he spoke to the operations manager and the scope of work that they are looking to accomplish is replacing the cabinetry and adding a pantry, replacing the dishwasher. They can also consider scaling back some of that scope.

Mayor Mueller noted that this is the type of discussion that needs to take place after the

applicants' presentations. He stated that he has some questions because they Good Neighbor Alliance listed 312 people and he would like to know if that is for two meals per day. The number is out of whack, it should be significantly higher than what they are projecting. Once they do their presentation, Council may ask questions. He also noted that this item is not going to be voted on. Council will come to a consensus after Mr. McLachlan presents staff's recommendation and each of the applicant's presentation.

Mayor Mueller stated that he plans to ask the applicant from Tucson regarding housing if they are aware that SEAGO currently provides that type of service to the City. He would also like to know why they are asking for \$10,000 and if this information only goes to City personnel and not everyone else in the County because it will be an issue if they provide this on the internet. He suggested to Council that they prepare their questions to be able to ask the applicants after their presentations. Afterwards, Council will provide a consensus to give guidance to staff because it takes more time to spend \$250,000 during this discussion versus the rest of the time during the year due to the community need and sensitivity. There is not enough money to pay for all unless the project in the park is stopped.

Mayor Mueller noted that the picture of the park needs to be worked on because it was sold as a neighborhood park as well as a support for the ball fields.

Council Member Benning asked why nonprofits do not apply. Mr. McLachlan stated that the nonprofits would need to be asked. Council Member Pacheco stated that it is a very stringent application process. Mayor Mueller agreed and added that there are requirements by the federal government and there is not much that the City can do about making it less stringent. He added that even if they received the whole ball of wax, which is only \$250,000, there is not a whole lot that they can do with it, if it is one or two agencies. They look at it as if it is worth their time and effort, or do they have an opportunity to find other additional funds.

Council Member Pacheco added that it is a project, and they can say that this is funding that they can count on every year. Mayor Mueller noted that they also must show a 10 percent growth year to year in the service to continue to qualify and that can be a challenge in a small community. Mr. Potucek stated that the administrative effort that goes into the CDBG project for a small nonprofit is very onerous and the City also carries some risk because if the job is not done properly, the City runs the risk of having to give the funds back.

Council Member Johnson asked if the Home Repair and Disabilities Modification Program was previously in place. Mr. McLachlan stated that the City ran it for a year in 2017 and all the funds were used. The Department still gets calls about it. Mayor Mueller stated that there is always potential as in past years, SEAGO has kicked in additional money to help deal with that.

Council Member Johnson stated that he questions the amount of \$50,000 because it is not going to go very far. Council Member Benning concurred. Mr. McLachlan stated that it will replace a hot water heater and there is \$7,500 limit on funding requests. It can also replace an AC unit, and it does help the homeowner with limited resources.

Council Member Umphrey stated that her questions can wait until Thursday, March 11, 2021. She asked if the applicants confirmed that they will be present. Mr. McLachlan stated that he has not heard from the Southwest Fair Housing Council, but the other local nonprofits will be present.

Mayor Mueller stated that if the applicants do not show to present, then the only presentation

provided by them is the written presentation. If Council has significant questions, that may come up during discussion as unanswered issues, and they risk not being accepted and they understand that.

Mr. McLachlan stated that he will need the feedback/direction after the public hearing to proceed with the drafting of the Annual Action Plan.

New Business

Item 4 Resolution 2021-017, Approval of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Funding (GOHS) Contract #2021-405c-010 to purchase equipment to implement Arizona TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) – Police Chief Thrasher stated that Arizona TraCS stands for Traffic and Criminal software, an electronic forms management software program operated by the Arizona Department of Transportation. The system is used by law enforcement for other states to submit electronic citations, traffic crash reports, DUI affidavits and other traffic safety related form directly from patrol vehicles through their mobile data computers.

The Department intends to implement the Arizona TraCS as a system that will improve department efficiency in process various forms, improve officer safety as officers will spend less time exposing themselves on the side of the road while filing a traffic stop. ADOT maintains the program and agencies are responsible for purchase the patrol vehicle equipment including driver's license scanners/printers. The Department applied for and were awarded a grant from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$69,939 to purchase those driver license scanners/printers to implement TraCS. Currently the Department is still having to work through ADOT on the TraCS agreement as if the Department also wanted to integrate with the Spillman Program, so that it saves the record clerk from entering traffic citation data into the records management system.

Police Chief Thrasher stated that hopefully by the end of the year, this program can be implemented.

Council Member Johnson asked about the estimate for the expense to integrate with Spillman. Police Chief Thrasher stated that ADOT ends up helping with the bill; therefore, he does not have a total expense. This grant only covers the equipment. ADOT provides grants for the other part of it.

Mayor Mueller asked Police Chief Thrasher if he has any idea of what the operation will cost. Police Chief Thrasher stated that he does not know now. He added that Huachuca City is going towards this system and Benson or Bisbee, but they are not integrating in with Spillman at this time. It is toll free of cost if it is not integrated with Spillman.

Mayor Mueller asked if there is anyone in the State that has already integrated with Spillman. Police Chief Thrasher stated that there is, but he does not know who they are.

Mayor Mueller suggested finding out before the budget process.

B. [Economic Development Update](#)

Mayor Mueller stated that Mr. Boone will provide a status of where the City is at in economic development. The idea is to get everyone at the same level on economic development. Afterwards there will be discussion on the Strategic Plan in preparation for discussions later during the Strategic Plan and any actions that come out of that. Economic development is a key

part of the City's future.

Mr. Boone stated that this is not his brief, this is the City Council's brief, and noted that he has had great assistance across the staff, which are present to provide both the data and the hard work to get the City to where it is at.

The agenda is to get to a common understanding from definitions/principles to the Sierra Vista Economic Framework or the Plan for Prosperity. Retention, expansion, attraction, some unique features that come with the community, legal considerations, and review of the same economic indicators that were presented to Council a couple of years back.

Mr. Boone pointed out a slide depicting an ad from Judy Hector and her team, which are sprinkled throughout the presentation. He noted that Council is not the target audience therefore they do not get to see these ads.

- What is economic development?

The Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED) put together a presentation for elected officials in the past, but they do not have anything scheduled due to the pandemic. However, if Council is interested, they can look at that presentation, Economic Development 1010.

Mr. Boone stated that if 12 people are asked what the definition is for economic development, there will be 24 answers. He did this when engaging with the community to start with the City's perspective, the Arizona Association. Some of the key factors that go into that, whether it is business growth, tax base, real estate, open space, and the key functions that go along with that. He noted that those are not all the City's because the City has some significant partners, i.e., Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development, the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation, and others in the community providing different services. The intent is not to duplicate service, but to maximize the City and its partners' functions within the community itself.

- Other definitions

Mr. Cline and Mr. Boone are members of the International Economic Development Council, representing economic development around the world, with over 5,000 members. The key are the programs and policies that provide aid; however, a different word is used when referring to the City of Sierra Vista. They talk about creation, retention, and expansion of jobs.

Mr. Boone stated that in going through some of original documentation that created economic development in the City, effectively his and Mr. Cline's positions, the definition that was included, "the process by which a community creates, retains, and reinvests wealth and improves the quality of life."

- What does this mean for the City?

The City has been using the word "facilitate" and that is the guidance that was received by Mr. Boone from the Mayor and Council over the last three years. The City sets conditions, works on the environment, but does not create jobs. The core is business retention - retain the businesses that the City has. Most of what is seen in the literature is somewhere between 75 and 85 percent of the job growth comes from the businesses that are already in the community.

- Plan for Prosperity Update

The Plan for Prosperity that the City has been operating under was formally approved by Council in 2018. Some key snip its really drive back to when Mr. Potucek's guidance to Mr. Boone when hired, "don't do this yourself, pull the staff together, pull the team together." Staff has been working collaboratively for the last four years. The baseline in going through this process was to combine efforts to make a significant change in the environment. This is described in both the real environment, the physical environment, parks, road, the construction, the virtual environment, the things that Ms. Hector has done with the website, presence, Bang the Table, and the ever-present perceptions of how the City has been run for many years.

Mr. Boone stated that he firmly believes that they all have a piece and part to it, whether it is the way that Public Work handles the roads and how the police officers interact with the public and a visitor. This all provides a frame of reference to how a community is seen and how the outside sees the City.

A slide was shows of the Plan for Prosperity that was in two strategic plans ago. Mr. Boone stated that he was directed to take the Plan for Prosperity, where an outside consultant was hired to update it and bring it forward, which was done in-house, saving \$30,000 to \$40,000. This was community-based. The City reached out to stake holders within the community that were business owners, educators, healthcare, real estate, banking, defense contractors as part of the Base, and invited Fort Huachuca. Also, the folks that deal with workforce were brought to find out how to get people and places tied to business or get them prepared and trained. Even the nonprofits played a role/ responsibility. These stakeholders really drove the Plan for Prosperity as well as City's staff.

- City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT)

Displayed were the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that stakeholders identified to take forward into the Plan for Prosperity. There was a strategic initiative by Council for economic development to work with the educational partners, which does not show up in the Plan for Prosperity along with other but do show up in other documents. Cost of living was not gone after as an opportunity; however, as Ms. Hector has gone out with the digital marketing, the cost of living and the cost of housing has significantly changed and shows up a lot more in 2020 than it did in 2018.

Mr. Boone stated that he believes that the City is still solid, and the pandemic will have changed the environment in some way.

- Framework objectives

Mr. Boone stated that the effort is to attach these together and displayed a slide listing the following with a note that stated that the objectives were not prioritized:

- Tourism and retail development with Mexico

Of the six objectives, tourism and retail related to Mexico has not been funded, which was good during the past year due to the wall, some of the tension and the pandemic because there was probably not a lot of folks transiting from Sonora, Mexico into Arizona. There are a couple of things that have changed and those were brought up in the Appropriations Bill. Up until then there was a cap which would keep Sonorans within 75 miles of the border. The City had an

advantage because of where the City is located. The 2017 MPO Study the estimate was between \$4.6 and \$8.3 Million that Sonoran Neighbors spent within the City. The change in the Appropriations Bills, effectively it opens the State of Arizona and New Mexico and now the City of Sierra Vista is in competition with Prescott, Prescott Valley, Sedona and on up. Maricopa Association of Governments was a big push on this. Also, with the completion of I-11 and the significant traffic flow from Mexico, there is a chance that Sierra Vista will get missed. He suggested that Council revisit this next year and the year after.

Mayor Mueller stated that Sierra Vista has its Sister City Cananea, and they did change the law in Cananea so that the mayors can have more than one three-year term so should the next mayor be elected for another three years, Sierra Vista has a chance to work six years with them rather than stopping, starting, and getting to know each other and working together for cross border travel, cross border commerce. The Hispanic Chamber has also helped in trying to maintain some of the relations during the pandemic. They plan to restart efforts with Mexico and the whole idea for Sierra Vista is to first capture the Mexican shopper and start a mercado where businesses south of the border come in and sell permanently Mexican products.

Mr. Boone stated that the baseline on the mercado was that the folks at Fort Huachuca with security clearances were prohibited from going into Mexico. Staff has been working through for the last couple of years on the partnership to bring traditional Sonoran artisans to Sierra Vista.

- Maximize economic impact of municipal airport

A slide was displayed of the ad that was put in business facilities about two years ago. Staff is currently working a long-term lease situation with the Forest Service to station a couple of helicopters and 15 folks. From a community perspective, this gives the City another asset. During the fire season they were temporarily at the airport, but this would put them in for a year-round application and it does reactivate the municipal airport along with jobs.

Staff continues to work with Fort Huachuca on the dirt and 13 acres. The City wants to stage the excess material on Fort Huachuca's property for the benefit of the City and the Fort. When Fort Huachuca does projects on the airport, they need excess material and dirt, i.e., when they did their fence project. There is a benefit to the federal government and a cost benefit to the City. Once the dirt is moved, it will set the stage for an advertising campaign to really go find the companies for the 13 acres. Staff has spoken to several folks that wanted 50 to 200 acres, but staff thinks that the sweet spot is to maximize the airport as the third longest in the State to go after the large airframes.

Council Member Johnson asked for a timeline on the removal of the dirt. Mr. Boone stated that he must know where to put the dirt first to complete the scope to put it out on the street. He added that he is waiting on the formal approval from Fort Huachuca. Mr. Clines has got about an 80 percent solution on the scope, that will be put out and then a hard timeline can be provided.

Mr. Potucek stated that Ms. Yarbrough and he met with Garrison and Garrison Deputy Commander and the MOU is finally in the queue to be signed. Once that is received, Mr. Boone will be able to get moving. Mayor Mueller explained that people wanting to come into the community look for a prepped site, with transportation, power, access, etc. so that they can start operations. Therefore, it is critical that the City has as much on the 13 acres as possible so that those folks can be ready to move in. If there is a building there, they are even happier because it is easier.

Mr. Boone stated that he is correct. A lot of folks do not want to own a hangar and if they do, they are looking for a long-term lease to be able to get the financing and once they pull the trigger on the decision, they want to be functional within nine to twelve months because time is money for these businesses. He added that from an industrial perspective, there is very limited land, and the City can deal with that separately and that is what makes this more important and to say that it is 12,001 feet is a significant issue for the aviation community and it is only eclipsed by Yuma and Davis Monthan and they generally do not like folks landing on Davis Monthan.

- Improve and sustain parks and community events

Ms. Wilson, Mr. Healey, and the Sports Division went after the tournaments and did a significant job at Christmas, the Highschool Mountain Bike Race on Fort Huachuca, a statewide tournament. The question came up on how to have better events in the City for its own teams so that the children do not have to travel every weekend. The flip side is that it is bringing in people and there is an economic benefit to it and an exposure benefit that far exceeds what can be spent on advertising. If the City can bring in a professional, CEO, business owner to have a phenomenal experience, see the great community and experience the weather, their ability to take that away and come back in the future is significant. There were four tournaments, and it was not only California, Arizona, and New Mexico. People are travelling from all over the country to come to the tournaments, a significant impact to the local businesses and hospitality industry that has been severely hindered during the pandemic. There is one more tournament pending, fast pitch tournament on March 13 and 14, 2021, a soccer tournament on March 20 and 21, 2021 along with an adult softball tournament/charity in April. El Tour De Zona is being worked on by the crew that puts on the El Tour De Tucson Bicycle Event, a one-day event with over 6,000 cyclists converge on the City of Tucson. The Sports Division has been working on a multi-day event in early 2022 with the intent to advertise and pull from cyclists across the country. A lot of them are from the northeast, Midwest and staff is looking at a three-day cycling event replete with food, entertainment and cycling festival with the intent to grow this each year and expose them to Sierra Vista, Cochise County, and the true Arizona. The next day would be Tour De Mesa, another one-day event traveling to Monterey, California for Sea Otter, the biggest cycling festival in the country.

Council Member Benning pointed out that this is not a one-month time, and commended Ms. Wilson and noted that the Schneider Project, a good decision, is doing well.

Mayor Mueller stated that there will be continued improvement, especially if the bridge across the creek is finished along with the new sports complex in Veterans' Park. He added that for several years, the City worked hard to get new hotels and they came, setup and are operating at a relatively good rate. However, without the City's knowledge, the Department of the Army decided to build a hotel on the installation that deflated the balloon for a while. This is a way to make sure that the events, sports, etc. are ways to draw people in regionally to enhance the community and provide benefit as well as additional tax base and fill those hotels.

Mr. Boone stated that it balances out because the City has a lot of business travel, Monday through Friday, but the weekends are down. The sports tournament piece is a significant improvement to increase the foot traffic.

- West End Redevelopment

Mr. Boone stated that from an economic development perspective the West End Redevelopment is how businesses are incentivized. Significant efforts on the West side are bikeable, walkable efforts as well as working with the West End Sierra Vista Partnership and redevelopment area grants. He noted that Mr. McLachlan listed all the companies that they have engaged with during the 18-month Strategic Plan Update. The Entertainment District is another strategic objective from Council is complete and the Urban Infill District has been worked on. The incentive is to help a business in these areas on the West End to close the gap on their financing and to get things done and improved. Lastly, he stated that KE&G has begun work on Soldier Creek Park and Landwehr.

A graphic was displayed depicting the priority properties to be re-established. The upper northwest corner has Daisy Mae's site plan being worked on for Tombstone Brewery. To the south is Sierra Vista Glass on the corner of Fry and Garden, and the Fab and Fry property has been leveled that plays a significant role in how the City will move forward. The restaurant 143 Street Tacos in their efforts and the Politi's efforts in the lower righthand corner with their plaza and the office park to the north of Fry. The two things that remain are the Horizon Moving Company and the old lumber yard. In a couple of short years, the City has seen significant private redevelopment on the West End, a great move and tied into the Fry and North Garden improvements, the Fab and Fry improvements.

Mayor Mueller stated that there was a statement in the Vistas that 42 percent of the vacant commercial space is in the West End for several reasons because most of the buildings were built in the 50's and 60's and those buildings do not have ADA, right power for computers, etc. That is why Council has focused on this area for both the streetscapes as well the commercial areas to try and revigorated the area.

- Increase awareness of Sierra Vista

Businessinsider.com showed the 17 best cities in the western United States to live in after the pandemic, which included Sierra Vista that was listed as number 13. Other cities include Ogden, Utah, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Billings, Montana, and Boise City, Idaho. Sierra Vista is the best place to telework; therefore, the digital marketing campaign was changed on the website. Arizona was not included because there are a lot of numbers, but Arizona was up 3.7 percent, Texas was up 81 percent, New York lost seven percent, but 10 percent was picked up in Colorado, 46 percent in California. New Mexico, Nevada, and Florida are not Sierra Vista's target markets, but staff believes that the tournaments created interest.

Staff has gone out with marketing on the web about the wonderful homes that can be purchased in Sierra Vista, which has shown up in the real estate market and Yahoo identified Sierra Vista as the best place on a fixed income. In a couple of different documents, Sierra Vista is shown as the Hummingbird Capital to include the Clean Daily Herald, the home of the great place Fort Hood Texas and one of the paces that is listed to go birdwatching was the Galapagos Island and the awareness is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Potucek stated that one thing that is on the radar that Council needs to be aware of is current administration's proposal to downsize the metropolitan planning areas. Sierra Vista, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu, and Prescott Valley are on the list to lose that status. If Sierra Vista were not a metropolitan area, Sierra Vista would not show up on any of the lists mentioned. It has been a two-edged sword because Sierra Vista gets bumped in with Douglas on the bad side, but on the good side, Sierra Vista is picked up because it is a metropolitan area. Staff will be talking to the other cities in the State that may be affected by this negatively.

Mayor Mueller stated that, having overseen the MPO setup, even though it was not wanted and expanding areas so that there were more cities than just Sierra Vista, Sierra Vista will be down by 70,000 in population. He added that the option needs to be given to folks that are between 50 and 100 if they want to keep the MPO. This means that if the MPO is dissolved, Sierra Vista will go back to SEAGO and the way that it operated, with the 14 cities and four counties all bidding for projects, means that Sierra Vista would probably see a major project maybe once every two, three years because that is how long it takes for them to have enough money to be able to do a project. The old system did not work well; however, the new system works, and Sierra Vista has taken the time to invest in doing the proper procedures, and to have it cut from underneath does not seem to be fair. Lastly, he stated that this is an issue that needs to be taken to the Congresswoman and the State as well other cities to make sure that Sierra Vista is getting its fair share. There are things in transportation, that the City can do better and more effectively than it was when the City relied on SEAGO for funding.

Mr. Potucek added that CDBG is a part of this, and Sierra Vista only received the same level of funding every two years as opposed to every year as it currently stands. Having that status has been a significant benefit to the City not only for practical funding reasons, but the whole awareness and getting the word out to others, a bigger deal in the long run. The City needs to work with its fellow cities that are affected and approach the delegation to see what can be done to stop this from occurring because it is not a good thing for the City.

Mayor Mueller asked if this comes out of the Office of Management Budget. Mr. Potucek stated that it is in the federal register.

- Expand awareness and opportunity of military missions on Fort Huachuca

Mr. Boone stated that the discussion held was to think about this positively and to think about the expansion of Fort Huachuca and not protection. This was the thought of the stakeholders because there is excess capacity.

There have been good engagements with Jeff and crew on where they want to go with multi domain battlefield. This sets the City up to meet the requirements of the Department of Defense in 2030 and 2040. As the military finds different adversaries, Fort Huachuca must shape itself to do that. There are things that can be done on Fort Huachuca and around Fort Huachuca that cannot be done anywhere else. The City's role and advocacy is to assist and make sure people understand that, which includes partnerships with Cochise County, Huachuca 50. At the core is business retention and it is no different than any other city with a major employer. This is business retention via congress and looks different.

Mr. Boone stated that he works with the Association of Defense Communities to ensure that the City of Sierra Vista keeps its seat at the table, and they are aware of that Sierra Vista.

- Business Retention

At the core of bread and butter, business retention is where Mr. Cline and Mr. Boone spend a lot of their time:

- Council approved small business grants

Ultimately 11 business applications to the tune of \$86,000 were processed. Of the 24 businesses that made it through the process, 21 received some federal funding about six to

eight months ago. The three that did not receive federal funding could not meet the low to moderate income requirements. They may have moved on and picked up paycheck protection.

Mr. Boone and Mr. Cline also have an ombudsman role to engage the business owners at any point of friction, whether it is a permitting issue, right-of-way, access, especially when the construction on Fry Boulevard starts because there will be a significant role to engage with the businesses to ensure that they have access, and that their concerns are met.

Mr. Boone and Mr. Cline also work with the building official and Fire Department for free inspections before people lease or buy and to provide a business owner the requirements that they may need to change the use, upgrade the building because the Departments does not want someone to buy a building and find out that they must spend a lot of money to meet ADA compliance.

They worked on the Brown Field grants and are currently working with Freedom Automotive.

Mayor Mueller stated that years ago he talked to Mr. Cline about annexing the tire place on the corner by the mall. At the time they were not for it, but they are now annexed into the City after Mr. Cline and he explained to them the process and how they could save money. Council Member Benning added that they also have a new driveway.

- Buy local campaign

Within the Strategic Plan there was an element of buy local, which was changed due to the pandemic.

Mr. Boone stated that he and Ms. Hector got together to find out how to help the business community at large and not picking winners or losers. The focus was the economic impact of buying local.

Displayed were slides of City initiated video campaign to support local businesses. The first one had 70 shares, 21 comments and over 19,000 views. Ms. Hector's staff followed it up with the second one that had over 100,000 views. This was an in-house way to do it to be able to put that out and engage, especially when thinking about what the City looked like in May of last year in the middle of the pandemic.

Staff has continued to work with the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce on their shop local online campaign. Mayor Mueller wrote a letter of support when they went after a Governor's grant for about \$45,000 that provides education to local businesses and expands it beyond the City's limits, working across Cochise County. The ultimate intent is put an online marketplace. If the business is well situated, then they get moved to the marketplace. This was put out through social media so that business owners know that it is there.

Mayor Mueller stated that getting tax revenue from this would not be possible if it had not been for the Wayfair decision.

- Business expansion and attraction examples

Mr. Boone stated that the City has had 12 expansion projects and noted that a good example is 143 Street Tacos, a food truck that has now set up in their own location and looking to expand again as well as Bone Dry Tap House, who are in the process of doubling their square footage.

There was direct interaction with 19 business attraction projects, i.e., Best Western Plus/Tombstone Brewer in the redevelopment area, estimated to be well over \$6 Million of investment on Garden Avenue in the Entertainment District, and Julian's Gymnastics and Parkour in helping them find a location through Larson Baker, property owner who called the City about warehouse space that he wanted to lease.

- Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation formerly OEA

Mr. Boone stated that the City as a defense community has access to the Office of Economic Adjustment. He further stated that when he first came on board there were a couple of things that were done:

- Airport Study, \$160,000

The City is leveraging the study and if an EDA Grant is obtained, that will be used as the basis, the diversification effort for the municipal airport. This is what has been driving the City on the 13 acres and the development of the airport.

- Sierra Vista Technical Assistance Program, \$279,000

This is an often maligned and misunderstood program, but business owners have stated that they had a revenue growth of 26 percent. Sun Corridor is doing the technical piece of it put out an economic impact of over \$18 Million from those additional contracts and people hired.

- Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (formerly OEA)

Mr. Boone stated that he serves as the program manager for the Joint Resources Utilization Study (JRUS) or Joint Land Use Study that goes to the core of business retention for Fort Huachuca. They provide a list of recommendations that the city, county, and state governments can take to protect the defense missions at Fort Huachuca while also protecting the economic impact of the local communities, being pulled together by Matrix Design. In the City of Sierra Vista's case, because of Fort Huachuca, looking at above land, airspace, restricted air space and the electromagnetic spectrum. He added that he takes that going back into multi-domain battlefield, protecting the spectrum and that situation becomes extremely important.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) is a quality-of-life issue, a response time issue to both the folks on Fort Huachuca as well as the community. The great states of Alabama, Maryland, and Texas are doing some amazing things in the world of defense communities. Sierra Vista is one out of 16 communities that was approved by the Secretary of Defense. The visibility that Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca get through DCIP's grant is truly significant.

Mr. Boone had the opportunity to speak on the Association of Defense Communities a couple of times to represent Sierra Vista and the process. It is an EMS Substation, it will reduce time, and the City will get to built it this year, but it has a bigger role with the relationship with Fort Huachuca and the Defense Department at large.

Mayor Mueller stated that he thinks that the City has a handle on how to deal with feds by meeting through the congress people and senators. He added that Mayor Pro Tem Gray has been working with him on getting state government involved, particularly the word "investment". Last week, it was announced that they are going to do another economic impact analysis on the

six military installations in the state, a good first step as part of the Military Affairs Commission. The challenge is getting the state and the Governor's Office to realize that there is a role for state government investment in the military communities other than just precluding incidences of impact of aircraft flying over or purchasing land to make sure that areas are safer. There is a bigger role for the state and work is being done already through the League of Cities. He added that he is working with the co-chair of the Military Affairs Commission to realize that they have a role in guiding this process so that the state can be involved in investment to ensure the enhancement of the military value of the installations, not unlike Alabama, Texas, and Maryland that are already doing this.

Mr. Boone noted that California is ahead, and they are in better shape.

- Federal Advocacy Example

The UAS Training Mission shows how economic development plays a piece and part of it, but it is a whole effort. There was some staff work to lift the unmanned aerial systems training and return to the mothership of Fort Rucker, Alabama, the home of Army aviation. Staff got wind of it, did the research, and spent time working with the consultant, Joe Corrigan, to draft the paper and supporting documents. The timing was perfect because Mayor Pro Tem Gray was off on the flight out with the Huachuca 50 and City Manager to engage with the congressional delegation. That ultimately set the stage and some of the language was included that went into the Arizona paper that was uniquely signed by the entire Arizona Delegation.

Mr. Boone stated that when Senator John McCain was present, there was no need because his bat was so big that he could pick up the phone and stop things. However, both Republicans and Democrats came together and signed it. It is business retention and at the end of the day, it has significant impact.

Staff also worked on the recent lawsuit and notes on Fort Huachuca, and looking at the Arizona gaps, a lot of the driving force behind Arizona as uniquely and poorly situation from the across the great states.

- Workforce

Workforce is always an issue. In January 2020 before the pandemic, workforce was the significant deciding factor on if a company moved to input their location, i.e., Caterpillar in Tucson. They are doing their heavy mining equipment and they wanted a flow of engineering students and the University of Arizona provides a wonderful flow of engineering students.

Mr. Boone stated that not seen yet is what telework and the ability to work from anywhere is going to do to the whole workforce discussion. He added that he sits on the Arizona Work Board for Southeastern Arizona that covers Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties. This is comprised of a group of folks coming together to think and work about on developing and setting conditions for the workforce and how to meet those needs into the future. Being tracked is about 330 open or vacant jobs in the City of Sierra Vista and those run from very good paying defense contractor jobs to entry level that high school kids would be doing, i.e., waiting tables in restaurants. This runs the gambit across the entire board. There are jobs out there and they are working hard to get the people that need jobs with lined up with the people that can employ them. They also have things that they can provide to veterans.

The City has stayed linked in with Cochise College, University of Arizona College of Applied

Sciences because the work force requirements and the things that they can provide are uniquely situated.

Mr. Cline worked with the Buena High School on their Automotive CTE Committee so there is no question on where to develop the work force to continue and Mr. Boone spent time with Mr. Rottweiler on the virtual reality/augmented reality, which was known would take off. In a world of a pandemic, where students are doing their work from home, and people cannot work together, the potential growth on virtual reality/augmented reality is currently more significant than it was in 2020.

Mayor Mueller stated that the State has just approved community colleges being able to grant four-year degrees. He noted that he plans to ask Dr. Rottweiler about the problem in retaining degree nursing students in rural areas. He would like to know about his first target programs for four-year degrees, which would help Sierra Vista with education, retention of businesses, and quality-of-life for people that need to use hospitals.

- Legal considerations:

Mr. Boone stated that the Arizona Gift Clause poses a unique situation from an economic development incentives perspective in the State of Arizona compared to the other 49 states. Tax incremental financing is great in all 49 states, and all but prohibited in Arizona. He added that the Gold Water Institute likes to pay attention to what cities are doing and where they are putting money, and the Arizona Supreme Court found in favor of the Peoria taxpayers for about \$2.6 Million that the City provided to a private university in the name of \$1.9 Million in cash and over \$700,000 in tenant improvements to the landlord. The Arizona Supreme Court found that not to be on behalf of the gift clause, so there are some limitations.

Non-disclosure agreement (NDA) / Letter of interest (LOI) was explained. The City may be in a situation where an NDA or LOI have been signed, which will go through the City Manager from a binding perspective.

- Asset Inventory – light/heavy industrial

Mr. Boone stated that there was discussion about a light industrial available property within the City's limits. He displayed a map depicting three possible locations, and the best that can be done is eight acres in one location. In the County there are smaller parcels, but there are significant limitations about what can and cannot be done. There might be some things that need to be discussed as to their importance, the airport and looking at some other properties and angles.

Mayor Mueller stated that this is one of the reasons as to why he continuously brings up the 203 acres that has been declared as excess by the Army, north of the airport, which would be great industrial park location next to the highway. However, the City first needs to acquire the land from the federal government.

- Arizona Commerce Authority Lead Recent Example

The Arizona Commerce Authority sends out leads and they usually provide between 48 to 72 hours to respond. They are looking at 200 plus jobs, 300 to 400K in building preferred to purchase because they do not want to wait, 32-foot ceilings, but Sierra Vista is stuck at 20 feet. They are looking at seven acres of land, 250,000 gallons of water a day (176–277-acre feet

annually, and five miles to interstate highway.

Mayor Mueller stated that Council does not want industry that uses a lot of water based on the local situation. The 173-to-277-acre feet per year for one location would be a significant impact on the City's ability to save water and maintain the lifestyle. Mr. Boone noted that it would be 15 percent of Fort Huachuca. He added that he and Mr. Cline look at the criteria, but in the three and a half years in seeing this, not one of these has the City been competitive for usually for more than one category. To help this, he wants to bring in the Arizona Commerce Authority for familiarization because they have business developers that work, and the intent is to take to the Fort, assets, community, and education so that they understand what the City offers. They have people working workforce issues in business development that have not stepped foot in Cochise County nor Sierra Vista.

Mayor Mueller stated that there is an education piece for them because they are focused on the corridor that runs between Pima and Maricopa County and the real Arizona is left out. They need to readjust some of the surveying and scope for business to bring into the state to deal with the real Arizona and the metro Arizona.

Council Member Johnson asked how often leads are received. Mr. Boone stated that there are one or two a month. They dried up during the middle of the pandemic, but the City also got leads through Sun Corridor, when the City was a member. However, the City does not get through the screening criteria.

Council Member John asked about the worse that the City ends up with access to an interstate. Mr. Boone stated that it is an airport.

Council Member Benning stated that it does not make sense when looking at the state highway system. Mayor Mueller stated that they put in interstate highway and not four lane dividers, and the City has a four-lane divided and that is another issue. If the City answered the proposal, the way to answer that last bullet would be that the City may not be within five miles from an official interstate, but the City is 29 miles on a four-lane divided highway away from an interstate, and that is the kind of thing that they may or may not accept.

Council Member Benning stated that I-11 is going to kill Tucson and it is the worst thing that happened to a lot of cities because i-11 totally bypasses Tucson.

Mr. Boone noted that it is going to go back to the spec building and even Tucson has challenges. There has been a couple that have gone into Tucson, but Phoenix is doing far more in the West Valley, and they are being gobbled up on 303. Most smaller communities are challenged that makes it an interesting proposition.

Mayor Mueller stated that it is more important for Sierra Vista to reorient the Commerce Authority to Greater Arizona.

- Economic Indicators

These were presented to Council 2018, but there have been some changes based on data. During the pandemic businesses have closed, people have lost fortunes, and people have lost jobs. The City has cut itself back up to 30 or 40,000 feet and looks at the community.

A slide was displayed of supporting data regarding property full cash value. The cash value

significantly shifts in 2014, 83 percent of it was home value and that was when homes went upside down. In looking at 17, 18, 19 and 20 there has been significant growth and interest in the real estate market.

A slide was shown about the Sierra Vista work force from 2014 through 2019 and the ability to put people to work or back up to just under 20,000 in 2019. The 2020 estimate has not yet been provided. From a site selector's perspective or a retail broker, the population is a significant screening criterion.

Mr. Cline reached out to Main Event, the high-end bowling center like a Dave and Busters, but were not interested due to the population figures because they needed over one million persons to even consider the shop.

Mr. Boone stated that he and Mr. Cline pay attention to the population and worked on some interesting things to get it fixed. The population growth is a significant issue. He added that he believes that Sierra Vista is in a good position because of the real estate market and the Census in 2020, which will be adjusted based on housing permits etc.

Mr. Potucek stated that the City has not been growing during the recession and with some of the Fort cutbacks and contractor cutbacks experienced. The City is now starting to recover from that, but during the pandemic, it became clear that the City is really kind of on the edge in terms of population to be able to maintain some of these national retailers, particularly in the restaurant arena. The City experienced some closures and restaurant numbers have not looked good and that is a problem. The population demographic is a big problem and that is one of the reasons why the focus is on the work from home aspect because the pandemic has shown that working from home can be a successful thing for a lot of people and there is anecdotal evidence of people moving to Sierra Vista because they are able to work from home in a better living environment that they had in a larger city. A lot of the marketing effort is geared towards that and it has a spinoff effect of helping the housing market and those kinds of things, but the City really needs to look at how to keep the population numbers up and defending the Fort, which is a big part of that.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray asked about the County enrollment for K through 12. She stated that she knows that it is flat and wonders if it is because the population growth or retirees are older. Mr. Boone stated that when he presented in 2018, he looked at the enrollment in the City and realized that people were moving to Tombstone and for him it looked better to use Cochise County at large. The enrollment popped up in 2015, 2016 while the City and County population was down - there was a bubble. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the populations returned, but he does not have the latest round. However, the concern is the k through 12 enrollments. This year, in Arizona there have been 50,000 students disappear during the pandemic. They are not enrolled in home school nor anywhere else. Parts of that may be seen within the County as a whole, but he does not know.

Mr. Potucek noted that school funding is based on school enrollment and clearly, the City needs to have a strong education system to help with economic development as well.

Council Member Pacheco stated that is occurring across the country. She asked about an economic development commission and noted that she is not sure on the role. Mayor Mueller explained that his goal was to have everyone on the same baseline after the education piece so that everyone knows what is going on. He added that this issue will be discussed during the strategic planning when discussion takes place on what Council wants to do for the next two

years. He then asked Council Members if there is anything that they were hoping for Ms. Boone to cover in his briefing about economic development.

Council Member Umphrey stated that it was a great presentation, and it is one that she wishes they would have had when she first got on Council because it was informative. She added that she wonders if the City is lacking a vision for its economic development. The City has more of a mission, where it is facilitating the retention of businesses.

Mayor Mueller noted that discussion during the strategic planning should include whether there is true vision that can be worked on for the next two to five years on economic development.

Council Member Pacheco stated that to her, the vision was the objectives that were laid out, i.e., the tourism and retail development of Mexico, maximize the airport, improve parks, community events etc.

Mayor Mueller asked if there is anything else or is there anything lacking. Council Member Umphrey stated that those are goals too. Council Member Pacheco stated that direction would come from Council and then staff would go after it.

Mayor Mueller stated that Council decides on what their focus will be on regarding economic development. Then they go through the strategic planning and staff will take it back, work on it, massage it and come back to Council for approval.

Council Member Benning stated that he agrees with Mr. Boone's comment in that the government does not create jobs. The government facilitates it, creates an environment where business-minded individuals and developers can come in and create the jobs that are needed and at each level. Council must keep this in mind when looking at things to bring to the table. He added that he asked for an economic development commission and he looks forward to the strategic planning to see what they can come up with and there may be other work sessions to see what can be done. Lastly, he thanked Mayor Mueller for requesting the briefing because it was informative.

Council Member Umphrey stated that in clearly defining a vision, it might be helpful to Council to look at their policies and see what is hindering economic development or helping it.

Council Member Pacheco stated that policies should be brought up when it is happening. The role of ombudsman is to bring issues forward when faced with something that is hindering. Mayor Mueller noted that it has been done because there are unique situations and that is when they go through the process of updating building codes etc.

Council Member Johnson noted that a lot of Council Members that ran for public office, ran on economic development. He added that he ran on economic development and he sat on an economic development commission in Illinois so he can speak from experience. He has drafted an ordinance for discussion purposes along with a mission statement, and he and Mayor Mueller have been in contact over that. It is not necessarily criticizing the work that Mr. Boone and Mr. Cline do, but to enhance what they do. He further added that his goal is to have discussion about it during the strategic planning as he took the initiative to write something instead of just talking about it. He hopes that Council can work together to make the City better. Lastly, he stated that the slide presentation was spot on and it looks like all homework was done, and he wants to be able to enhance that.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray thanked Mr. Boone for his presentation and noted that it is always good to see it consolidated. She noted that she goes by Mr. Boone's office often and they talk about a lot of what is happening, and she has asked him questions; however, there is a lot that he cannot share. A lot of what he and staff does is so intangible in a lot of ways and years can go by without seeing the shining new building that comes from all the work that is in the background that is often hard to put into words and discuss. She added that a lot of the initiative with Mr. McLachlan and Planning and Zoning is getting rid of duplicative codes and onerous codes and that is a lot of how it comes about, feedback and hearing from the community, i.e., passing the international building codes where it was discovered that the contractors were going to experience significant cost due to fire codes and Council was able to go in adjust that. Lastly, she stated that a key word is "partnerships" that was referred to numerous times during the presentation. It is important in a community, especially one the size of Sierra Vista. The City has those great relationships with the Fort, Chambers, EDF, Cochise College, Small Business Development Center because the City cannot do it alone.

C. [Strategic Plan 18-Month Update](#)

Ms. Yarbrough stated that this is both the regular 18-month update and the last piece of information that Council needed before the strategic planning process. She added that there are a couple of items that were completed in the past six months that referred to the Bang the Table engagement platform, specifically items 1.1B, 2.2 and 5.5, Tribute renegotiation.

There were some items that were marked ongoing because sometimes it is difficult to determine the most accurate status and a goal can be completed, but it may also be going to continue as part of regular business. The goal that most accurately reflects that is item 1.1A, evaluating the web site, ADA compatibility, and updating where necessary. Staff is always going to continue evaluating the web site and fixing any problems that occur. Part of the goal was also identifying some better ADA improvements and there were improvements, but there will also be continuation of that.

The items on Engage Sierra Vista are another good example. The City will continue to use this platform and it is not going to go away because the Strategic Plan ends.

One new item, 4.3, police officer testing is on hold because the strategy focused on getting out and traveling to military installations to do recruiting, but it could not be done during the past year. The Police Department is still going to try and do that after travel restrictions are lifted, which will probably be after the Strategic Plan is over. They were able to do some things, i.e., targeted social media marketing in specific areas of the country.

Initiative 5.1, Fry/North Garden Design – The City received the 100 percent plan design that is currently in review. Staff will meet with the contractor to go over the final comments and ensure that everything was done as requested and expected. At the same time, staff is also preparing the procurement documents so as soon as the City is set on the 100 percent plan design, the City will roll right into the construction procurement process and be on track to break ground during the summer.

Item 5.2, Multi-use Plan Initiative – The City recently heard about potentially using Federal Transit Administration funding for infrastructure projects within half a mile of a bus stop and that means half a mile as the crow flies and not just half a mile streetwise. This encompasses a fair amount of the entire City and so the City is looking at the possibility of using some of that funding in the future for multi-use paths as well as various other infrastructure improvements.

Item 5.6, Park Master Plan – Nearing completion after Ms. Wilson, Mr. McLachlan and their teams took it through an extensive public engagement process using the Engage Sierra Vista Platform, which will be ready for Council to see at an upcoming work session in April. This hit several items throughout the Plan as well.

Item 6.1, West End Redevelopment Plan – A list is attached of all projects and businesses that Mr. McLachlan and his team have worked with to provide project funding. Mr. McLachlan and his team are working on bringing the next expansion of their redevelopment area to Council later in the year.

Item 6.4, Surface Water Master Plan – Under way and included was the Fab Avenue property so that the City knows how much of the land is needed for storm water and drainage improvements. This is expected later in the summer.

Item 9.4, Community events – There are a few items, and the final goal has been another stumbling block due to the pandemic, but staff is looking at opening event permitting starting on May 1, 2021. Ms. Wilson and her team have received requests for event permits and staff is underway in addressing some of the items that have been on hold. Considering any restrictions by the Governor, State Liquor Board that might be placed on the City, staff is looking forward to welcoming events starting in May.

Mayor Mueller noted that these items will be reviewed in detail during the strategic planning.

D. Report on Recent Trips, Meetings and Future Meetings

Mayor Mueller noted that he was invited to attend the Arizona Commanders Conference where all commanders from installations are gathered at one location and meet every six months or year. He welcomed them to the community, and they discussed the air space and how they have decided to work together to deal with air space needs and how they are going to address that to both the congressional delegation, State, and the Military Affairs Commission.

E. Future Discussion Items and Council Requests

There was a request for a potential economic development board/commission as well as a work session in April to discuss the Parks Master Plan.

F. COVID-19 Status Report

Mr. Potucek stated that caseloads in Cochise County are starting to dwindle. After a slow start in terms of the roll out of vaccines, they are now more widely available. The City working down through the various age groups and open to 1B; therefore, staff is getting vaccinated. The combination of dwindling cases and vaccine availability to the public, as well as staff, allows him to think about opening the City's facilities on April 5, 2021. The Library will be in stages, but the rest of the facilities will be able to be open at that time. The outdoor events are going quite well, and staff looks forward to the events that Ms. Yarbrough mentioned. He added that the only thing impeding the City is the potential spike or statewide guidance from the Governor.

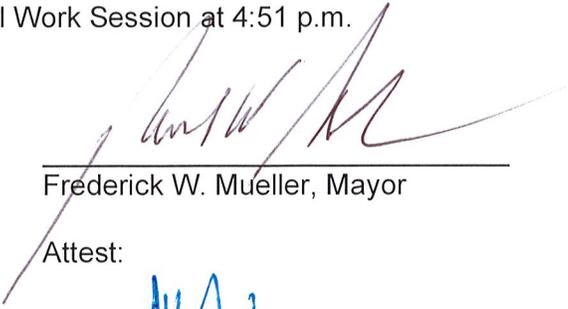
Mayor Mueller shared that he continuously reviews the mask mandate. The numbers are looking good, and it is probable that before the Library is open, that the City will suspend again the mask mandate within the next couple of weeks. He added that he will then wait another four weeks or

whatever seems prudent before he rescinds the order completely. Part of this has to do with dealing with a couple of factors, i.e., talking to the medical professionals, schools, etc.

Council Member Pacheco wished her youngest daughter, Kiki a happy birthday.

3. Adjourn

Mayor Mueller adjourned the City Council Work Session at 4:51 p.m.



Frederick W. Mueller, Mayor

Minutes prepared by:



Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Attest:



Jill Adams, City Clerk