

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Summary  
April 11, 2024

Mayor McCaa called the April 9, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Roll Call:

Mayor Clea McCaa II – present  
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Umphrey – present  
Council Member William Benning – present (5:19 p.m.)  
Council Member Gregory Johnson – present  
Council Member Angelica Landry – present  
Council Member Marta Messmer - present  
Council Member Mark Rodriguez – present

Others Present:

Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager  
Chuck Potucek, City Manager  
Chris Hiser, Police Chief  
Brian Jones, Fire Chief  
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director  
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Services Director  
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney  
Adam Curtis, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Elizabeth Wrozek, PIO  
Michael Slania, Industrial Development Authority Attorney  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Armin Lewis, Deputy Police Chief  
Lis Chatham, Police Department Corporal

Invocation – Paston Becky Preiss, Hope and Healing Christian Church, led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance – Council Member Landry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Johnson moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 11, 2024, be approved. Council Member Messmer seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Awards and Presentations

Alexandra Kosmider from the UA Cooperative Extension's Water Wise Youth Program presented the 2024 Water Wise Youth's Poster Contest Awards:

- Italia Espinoza, first place, third grade, Ms. Carns, Veritas Christian Community School;

- Ahitza Morales, second place, third grade, Mr. Cooke, All Saints Catholic School;
- Mila Gonzalez, Honorable Mention, third grade, Mr. Cooke, All Saints Catholic School;
- Olivia Vinch, first place, fourth grade, Olivia Vinch, Huachuca Mountain Elementary School;
- Taden Hargis, second place, fourth grade, Ms. Burden, Bella Vista Elementary School;
- Cecelia Yost, Honorable Mention, fourth grade, Ms. Burden, Bella Vista Elementary School;
- Amia Martinez-Empie, grand prize, first place, fifth grade, Ms. Rojas, Village Meadows Elementary School;
- Eli Gonzalez, second place, fifth grade, Ms. Rojas, Village Meadows Elementary School;
- Adeline Gosch, Honorable Mention, fifth grade, Ms. Rojas, Village Meadows Elementary School;
- Jazelle Sanchez, first place, sixth grade, Ms. Nogales, Huachuca Mountain Elementary School;
- Mikaylin Hartmann, second place, sixth grade, Ms. Sides, Town and Country Elementary School; and
- Ava Ramirez, Honorable Mention, sixth grade, Ms. Nogales, Huachuca Mountain Elementary School.

A proclamation declaring the Month of April as Water Awareness Month was presented to Alexandra Kosmider, Instructional Specialist for Water Wise Youth, CALES Cochise County Cooperative Extension. Ms. Kosmider thanked the Mayor and Council and talked about the importance of water.

A proclamation declaring the Week of April 8 through 12, 2024 as Young Child Week was presented to Deanna Waves and Demetry Simonton with First Things First Association. Mr. Simonton thanked the Mayor and Council and spoke about the Library, Cove, and everything that is being done.

A proclamation declaring the Month of April as Fair Housing Month was presented to Randy Wilcox with Bradley Properties and representatives of WeServe. Mr. Wilcox thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation and talked about fair housing and doing what is right.

A proclamation declaring the Month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month was presented to Police Chief Hiser, Lieutenant Jordan Boltinghouse, and Cochise Family Advocacy Center. Police Chief Hiser spoke about sexual assault awareness, a year-round collaboration in bringing about awareness.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that the next scheduled work session is on April 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to continue budget discussions, and the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is on April 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. also in the Council Chambers. He reported that bids for the State Route 90 Sewer Re-route Project are due on April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.; the needs assessment for the municipal court will be getting underway as discussed at the work session on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, and the Feasibility Study for the Space Re-entry Port at the Sierra Vista Municipal Airport is also getting underway. He further reported that at the SEACOM JPA Meeting the primary item of discussion was SEACOM's budget for the coming year that will be presented to Council at the work session on May 7, 2024. Lastly, he stated that the February report is a concerning sales tax report because sales tax receipts were down across the board in all categories. Staff will be eyeing that closely

with regards to the next budget year. Staff found that one of the items was a one-time item of tax overpayment reimbursement; therefore, this will help to normalize the numbers next month.

## Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2024

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-018, Appointment of David Jones to the Sierra Vista Environmental Stewardship Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2026

Council Member Landry moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of March 26, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting of March 28, 2024, and Resolution 2024-018, appointment of David Jones to the Sierra Vista Environmental Stewardship Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2026, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

## Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2024-019, New Series 10 Limited Liability-type Liquor License for Francisco Javier Romero on behalf of DG Retail LLC dba Dollar General Store #24646 located at 5240 E Highway 90, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2024-019, a New Series 10 Limited Liability-type Liquor License for Francisco Javier Romero on behalf of DG Retail LLC dba Dollar General Store #24646, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 4](#) Consideration of DRAFT PY 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Annual Action Plan

Mr. McLachlan stated that the City is moving into a new consolidated planning cycle which includes the City's first year Annual Action Plan. The City has been doing this type of planning since 2014 when the City became an entitlement community and a direct recipient of HUD funding. The Consolidated Plan basically identifies the goals and priorities that the City will be pursuing over the next five years and how the City will be applying the block grant funding towards meeting the housing and community development needs of the community. Staff is still working with the funding estimate because the official allocation has not yet been announced.

The Plan is built around a \$250,000 per year assumption, which has been a historical amount that the City has received. The City is expecting the official allocation within the next month or so, prior to the final draft being presented to Council next month. Based on the feedback received at the Council's January work session, staff will continue to focus the Plan around carrying out activities focused on upgrading public facilities and infrastructure in target areas and helping improve accessibility and offering homeowner rehabilitation assistance and

supporting nonprofits in providing needed services. Towards this end, the Annual Action Plan, which is for next year's grant funding, recommends the amount to go towards finishing the needed fire hydrants in the Montebello Neighborhood that is located southeast of Giulio Cesar and Charleston Road, replacing the beds and mattresses at Good Neighbor Alliance Emergency Shelter, splitting the public services budget between the Boys and Girls Club and United Way to fund the before and after school scholarships, and the Emergency Crisis Fund activities at United Way that has helped over the past couple years. The amount allocated towards projects will be proportionally adjusted to match the actual grant amount when it is established.

The second document placed into the public record for review and comment is the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, or AI. This study is reviewed and updated every five years as part of the consolidated planning process. The Arizona Attorney General's Office is responsible for administering fair housing complaints in Arizona and the HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity maintains data for the State. Over the past five years, five complaints were filed, which is a relatively low number. The landlords and property managers are doing a good job adhering to Fair Housing Law, which is again the right thing to do.

The documents are up for public consideration through May 8, 2024 and any feedback that is received will be incorporated into the final draft that will be presented to Council next month.

#### New Business

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-020, Restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-020, restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-021, Authorizing the Issuance, Offer, Sale, and Delivery of one or more Series of its tax-exempt and/or taxable Education Facility Revenue and Refunding Bonds for Desert Heights Charter School Project, Series 2024, in an Aggregate Principal Amount of not to exceed \$16,000,000

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2024-021, authorizing the issuance, offer, sale, and delivery of one or more series of its tax-exempt and/or taxable education facility revenue and refunding bonds for Desert Heights Charter School Project, Series 2024, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$16,000,000, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-022, Authorizing the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of one or more Series of its Education Facility Revenue for Edkey Charter Schools Project, in one or more series, in an Aggregate Principal Amount of not to exceed \$75,000,000

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2024-022, authorizing the issuance, sale, and delivery of one or more series of its education facility revenue for Edkey Charter Schools Project, in one or more series, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$75,000,000,

be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Call to the Public - There was no response.

#### Comments and Requests of Council

Council Member Benning apologize for being late, explained that he was on his way back from a doctor's appointment in Tucson, announced the Military Intelligence Ball on Saturday, April 13, 2024 in Tucson, and cautioned safety.

Council Member Johnson congratulated all the student artists that were awarded and noted that they graced the Council with their talents and sent a valuable message to conserve precious water resources. Additionally, he congratulated his friend Armin Lewis, who has been promoted to Police Deputy Chief and Lis Chatham, promoted to Commander. In closing, he welcomed David Jones and thanked him for joining the Economic Stewardship Commission, which will meet on April 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the second-floor conference room.

Council Member Landry thanked everybody who came to the meeting, noted that the City has multiple commission members in the audience, thanked the commission members who are willing to serve, which is great to see a lot of people that have passion for various things because that is what makes the community such a great place. She also thanked everyone that came due to the various proclamations and noted that it is important to get awareness out there on a variety of things, and she especially appreciates bringing awareness to sexual assault and having so many different partners and people to help the survivors in providing resources. She then announced that Xena, the longest resident of the animal shelter, almost 800 days, has found her forever home, she thanked her new family, and encouraged people to go out to the animal shelter and check out the animals, take them for a walk, bring them some presents, anything that will help them out. In closing, she announced that on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Doc's Watering Hole there will be a dog show, Pups on Parade. The adoption fees will be up for live auction and 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the Friends of the Animal Shelter. Also, the Sherry Ethel Team has pledged to match that donation.

Council Member Messmer announced the West Fest on April 20, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. where there will a lot of Craftsman, stores, and vendors.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked the students for their entries, 55 entries, for the Water Wise Project, noted that it is one of his favorite events of the year, thanked the teachers and parents for encouraging the students. He reported that there is a lot of exciting things going on at Soldier Creek Park, starting with the installation of a big slide, noted that Roadrunner Park had 681 entries through [engageyourvistaaz.gov](http://engageyourvistaaz.gov). He encouraged people to go to that website and provide feedback, thanked Home Depot for supporting local veterans by donating materials and services for veterans in need via Cochise Serving Veterans, reminded everyone to get their taxes done by Monday, April 15, 2024, and announced that the month of April is also the Month of the Military Child that is important to him because his kids are military kids, and that life is a different kind of life. Military children are exposed to a lot of things, but they are moved around when they do not want to move and must leave behind their friends. The military children have a lot of benefits, but there are a lot of struggles that come along with that life. He thanked the Cochise Family Advocacy Center for the great information put out regarding sexual assault, a much-needed resource, and announced that Canyon Vista Hospital is always looking for

donations for kids, i.e., stuffed animals, toys, coloring book and crayons. He noted that they also have homeless patients that do not have clothes to change into. In closing, announced that on Saturday, April 20, 2024, in Palominas, Nine to One, a young entrepreneurs' market, will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey wished everyone a great weekend.

Mayor McCaa congratulated Armin Lewis promoted to Police Deputy Chief and Lis Chatham promoted to Commander. He commented that his mother feels a sense of security every time Commander Chatham walks by her house. He also thanked all the citizens for their inquiries, emails, and a special thank you to staff because when he forwards these emails, they always come back in less than 24 hours with an answer. Lastly, he gave a shout out to the Boys and Girls Club on the great program on Saturday, April 6, 2024, Cars and Kids and for all the auction items going to the kids of the community.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the April 11, 2024, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 6:00 p.m.

A recording of the Council Meeting is available at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PtUplbkQsixlhSy-jeR\\_Q/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PtUplbkQsixlhSy-jeR_Q/videos)