

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024

Mayor McCaa called the April 25, 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 – absent
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
Armin Lewis, Deputy Police Chief
Lis Chatham, Police Department Commander
Brian Jones, Fire Chief
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Allen Humphrey, Engineer
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Services Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Jeff Pregler, Planner
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Adam Curtis, Marketing and Communications Manager
Elizabeth Wrozek, PIO
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst

Invocation – Allison Cornell, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, led everyone present in prayer.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Landry moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 25, 2024, be approved. Council Member Johnson 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

A proclamation declaring April 29 through May 3, 2024, as National Small Business Week in Sierra Vista was presented to Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager.

Mr. Boone stated that small businesses are the lifeblood of the United States and local economies. They provide most jobs, goods, services, and service catalyst for the community support and economic vitality. According to the Small Business Administration, as of 2023 there were 33.3 million small businesses across the country employing more than 61.6 million people and accounting for 44 percent of all economic activity. Sierra Vista is proud to be the home of many fantastic small businesses and entrepreneurs and recognizes the positive impact they make in our community and on our rural economy. As such, we seek to join in the nation recognition for Small Business Week.

The Mayor, Council and the Economic Development Commission recognized Vista Pros Heating and Cooling as the City of Sierra Vista' Small Business of the Year. Ms. Angela Bailey thanked the community for supporting and trusting them and stated that Vista Pros Heating and Cooling is a young company. In closing, she thanked the fantastic employees for their devotion and hard work.

A proclamation declaring May 11, 2024, as Letter Carriers Food Drive Day was presented to Janice Green. Ms. Green encouraged people to donate food by leaving it at their mailbox or at a community mailbox that will be picked up during the day during deliveries.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that the next scheduled work session is on May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers where continued budget discussions and presentations will take place. The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is on May 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He reported that the SR90 Sewer Reroute bids are due April 26, 2024, and the Greenbrier Road and Four Winds Circle Pavement Replacement Project bids are due May 7, 2024. The contract is out for signature for the needs assessment for the RFP for the municipal court, the Annual Street Maintenance Project, asphalt patching, crack seal and liquid road sand seal is in progress as well as the Animal Control Center Improvement and Expansion Project that is expected to be completed in September 2024.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-023, Acceptance of Resignation of Rachel Gray and Appointment of Paul Cimino to the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2025

[Item 2.5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-024, Granting of a Sewer Easement to Church of God.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of April 9, 2024, Special Meeting of April 11, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting of April 11, 2024, Resolution 2024-023, acceptance of the resignation of Rachel Gray, with regret, and appointment of Paul Cimino to the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2025, and Resolution 2024-024, granting of a sewer easement to

Church of God, be approved. Council Member Johnson 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.

Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-025, Surface Water Master Plan and Associated Code Amendments to Section 151.08.005, Surface Drainage and Storm Water Systems, and Declaring a 30-day Comment Period

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2024-025, Surface Water Master Plan and Associated Code Amendments to Section 151.08.005, Surface Drainage and Storm Water Systems, and declaring a 30-day comment period, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. Pregler stated that this is a request to consider the updated Surface Water Master Plan and associated Code amendments to Section 151.08.005 of the Development Code. The proposed Surface Water Master Plan is the result of a study conducted by CMG Drainage Engineering in cooperation with the City's Public Works Department, and the purpose of the Plan is to guide the planning, construction, location, and function of surface water conveyance systems within Sierra Vista. The Plan was originally adopted in 1985 and most recently was amended in 2006. There have been a few significant changes to some of the water courses since that time, both natural and man-made to include channelization, a roadway, culvert modifications, enlargement of detention basins in Fort Huachuca, and channel entrenchment. These changes warranted the need for the updated plan. The new Plan will also be used for any future revisions to defective FEMA floodplain maps and for design of private or public infrastructure within the wash environments.

In addition to the Surface Water Master Plan, the Council considered Development Code amendments to Section 151.08.005 that reflect the updates in the Master Plan so that both documents have consistent rules and regulations.

These items were considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 16, 2024, and the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the City Council. There was one member from the public that had questions and comments regarding the Surface Water Master Plan which staff addressed. The member of the public was supportive of the document. This is a request for a 30-day comment period. Further comments received during this time can be included in the document prior to final adoption.

In response to Council Member Rodriguez, Mr. Pregler stated that the document will be located on the website and people can provide information through the website which will come to the Planning Department. Staff will provide those comments to the Public Works Department.

Council Member Landry stated that the Plan is a very comprehensive document that has a lot of information. She voiced her appreciation at the pictures in the Plan and stated that she learned a lot about what is used to control flooding and the reason as to why there is concrete pieces in certain areas. She thanked staff for the flow chart in the Plan which was very helpful as well as the Fab Avenue assessment and the breakdown of estimates addressing concerns. Lastly, she encouraged the public to look at the Plan and noted that there are sections that summarize the major sections.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-026, Intergovernmental Agreement with Cochise County for Election Supplies and Services

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-026, an intergovernmental agreement with Cochise County for election supplies and services, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement allows the City to contract with Cochise County to perform the election services for its General Election scheduled for November 5, 2024. At that election, the City will have the question of the General plan and three council seats. The contract will allow the County Elections Department to provide the ballots, polling places, the counts, all the security, all the Election Day happenings on the City's behalf, an excellent deal for the City.

Ms. Adams noted that the City could not hold its own election with current staff, and it would be outrageously expensive. The City saves money by partnering with the County in this type of an endeavor which is done every election year.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-027, Accepting Operation Stone Garden Grant 23-AZDOHS-OPSG-230416-01 in the amount of \$111,763.00 for Overtime and Mileage Reimbursement

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2024-027, acceptance of the Operation Stone Garden Grant 23-AZDOHS-OPSG-230416-01 in the amount of \$111,763.00 for overtime and mileage reimbursement, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

Police Chief Hiser stated that this resolution seeks approval of the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$111,763 from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security that will be used for overtime reimbursement as well as mileage reimbursement. The reimbursement is for the overtime that also includes employee related expenses, which covers the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System contribution. This grant source has become important for the Police Department because it provides a funding source for overtime for those officers that get involved in coordinated proactive details South of the community that are targeted at smuggling activity.

Operation Safe Streets is a perfect example of coordination with the Sheriff's Office and the Highway Patrol. When the Sierra Vista Police Department works in a coordinated fashion, they are ending pursuits more safely. Everyone is working together and getting these vehicles stopped out in rural areas before they come into the City.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked all the officers that volunteer for this because they are doing a great service to the community in stopping pursuits before they get to the congested areas.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Call to the Public - There was no response.

Comments and Requests of Council

Council Member Messmer thanked staff and volunteers for their work on the West Fest, a great event, and announced that the Henry F Hauser Museum is doing a tour of Camp Naco in Old Bisbee on May 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. People can call the Ethel Burger Center at 520-417-6980 to get your tickets, which are \$40.

Council Member Landry thanked everyone present who came to the meeting and gave a shout out the Sierra Vista Unified School District and Teachers of the Year, Village Meadows Second Grade, Michelle Quinones; Buena Biology, Beverly Adams; Bella Vista Third Grade, Gail Zebr; Joyce Clark Eighth Grade Science, Richard, Graeme; Carmichael Second Grade, Ashley, Blaskowsky; Huachuca Mountain Fourth Grade, Michelle McAllister; Pueblo Del Sol Title I, Mandy Stanley; and Town and Country First Grade, Lorena Russell. She noted that teachers have an impact in young lives, especially in today's world with the technology, and being underpaid. She announced that on Saturday, April 26, 2024 at Veterans' Memorial Park there will be an animal celebration from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with adoption specials, educational booths, alpacas, reptiles, petting zoo, demos, raffles, and food trucks.

Council Member Rodriguez congratulated the small business awardees, Vista Pros and stated that small businesses are the backbone of Sierra Vista's economy when it comes to all the things that they do for the City, by not only providing tax dollars, but also sponsoring sports teams, and giving back to the community because the larger businesses do not do that. He encouraged people to participate in the Letter Carriers Food Drive Day and donate food on May 11, 2024. He then asked about the market rate adjustment for engineers in the Police and Fire Departments and pay incentives. Council Member Johnson asked for point of order because the issue is not on the agenda.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that the old hotel behind the Hana Tokyo is finally boarded up and he is glad that the business owners that are from Las Vegas finally took accountability, he stated that the West Fest was a great event, and it was good to see that all the booths sold out. He also enjoyed the lights hanging over the street and it would be great to have them all year. He announced the Chamber Galla on Friday, April 26, 2024 at TMAC on Fort Huachuca and lastly announced that there are more signs that went up regarding ADOT's work on Moson Road and all around the project area. ADOT will start their guardrail work in Whetstone at Mile Marker 307 at Mustang Corners, however, it is still unclear where the actual road work will start.

Council Member Johnson stated that there are several promotions within the Police Department, Johanna Durham promoted to Corporal; Justin Allen promoted to Sergeant, and Lieutenant Jordan Boltinghouse was awarded his Lieutenant bars. He acknowledged Commander Lis Chatham and Deputy Chief Armin Lewis and congratulated Vista Pros as the Small Business of the Year. In closing he explained that when the Economic Development Commission was going over all the applications, there was a lot of competition for small business of the year because that makes up the City's economy.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey also congratulated Vista Pros and commented that she and Angela Bailey, co-owner, graduated almost a year ago from Cochise College with a business administration degree, however, they were already business owners. She noted that her company is doing well, and it is nice to see them get recognized as a homegrown business in Sierra Vista, well deserved. She further stated that an update was received from ADOT and the latest as of April 24, 2024, was that signs were going up and next week the guardrail, curb, and gutter work will start in Sierra Vista, but pavement is still scheduled for September. In closing, she announced that Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6, 2024 through May 10, 2024; therefore, she encouraged people to get something special for the teachers/instructors in their lives.

Mayor McCaa congratulated the police officers on their promotions, shared that he is running to be able to complete the Torch Run on May 3, 2024, thanked Ms. Cameron, Mr. Curtis and his team, and Ms. Yarbrough for their brief to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on the State of the City address. In closing he offered condolences to Mr. Bob Blanchard's family, a City Council Member, Mayor Pro Tem, Public Works employee, Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission, and a retired Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant Colonel.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the April 25, 2024, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:38 p.m.

Clea McCaa II, Mayor

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk

A recording of the Council Meeting is available at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PtUpIbkQsixlhSy-jeR_Q/videos