

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey called the June 13, 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
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Bryce Kirkpatrick, Civil Engineer II
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
Xo Terra, Marketing and Communications Graphics
David Carnes, Marketing and Communications Department Specialist
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager

Invocation – Pastor Randy Youngblood, Thunder Mountain 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 June 13, 2024, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Awards and Presentations

Presentation of Photography Winners: Mr. Curtis stated that Ms. Adams, City Clerk, recently oversaw the rejuvenation project of the City Council Chambers. He noted that all the chairs are new and more comfortable compared to the ones from 1980. The incorporation of local art is part of that update. The City held a contest and asked community photographers to come forward with their work, which resulted in over 440 entries. The Mayor, Council and staff appreciate everyone who came out and helped showcase the extraordinary community. In closing, he thanked his team members, Xo Terra, who oversaw this project, everyone that assisted, and the selection committee who helped with the work. Lastly, he gave a shout out to We Frame It for the production of the photo prints and the framing.

Mayor McCaa presented certificates to the following awardees: Tina Glidden, RJ Luce, Sean Yeterian, Rich Milligan, Mike and Linda Cline, Bob Bosier, Gary Smith, Joyce Genske, Kordeen Kor, Adam Curtis, Beatrice Richardson, and William R. Radke.

Sierra Vista Police Department Annual Award Winners – Police Chief Hiser stated that whether they are the winner or an alternate, it is something significant. Every year there are several nominations for great performance in several categories. The Department has a formal review committee, a nine-member panel that is a true cross section of the Department from sworn civilians in all ranks and positions, who rank each nomination and determine the winner. The employees being recognized truly went above and beyond and it is an honor to talk about some of their accomplishments.

The following 2023 Awardees were presented: Volunteer of the Year Alternate, Rick Tutor; Volunteer of the Year, Robert Lorentsen; Client Service Award, Lonnie Loper-Carbajal; Civilian of the Year Alternate, LeAnn Schmidt; Civilian of the Year, Trisha Clark; Supervisor of the Year, Branden Eaton; Rising Star Award Alternate, Mike Goodman; Rising Star Award, Brighton Yarbrough; Police Officer of the Year Alternate, Michael Arellano; Police Officer of the Year, Matthew Quinn; and Steve Ritchie Professional of the Year, Susan Immes and Earl Franklin.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the City's offices will be closed Wednesday, June 19, 2024 in observance of Juneteenth, and the next scheduled work session is on June 25, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, followed by the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on June 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers where the Tentative Budget will be voted on. He reported that the SR90 Sewer Reroute Project was awarded to KE&G Construction for \$489,000 that came in under what was originally expected; Greenbrier Road and Four Winds Circle Pavement Replacement Project is in progress, which is also being done by KE&G Construction. The Annual Street Maintenance Project is going on; therefore, people should be careful while driving around town because seen will be a lot of that work being done, which is estimated to be completed by the end of June. The Wastewater Master Plan Project is also expected to be completed in June and staff will be going over that with Council during an upcoming work session. The Animal Control Center Improvement and Expansion Project is expected to be completed by the fall, and lastly, he mentioned that although the buildings will be open on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., much of the staff will be attending Mayor Mueller's services at the United Methodist Church. He stated on behalf of the staff that it was certainly an honor and a privilege to serve the community under his leadership as Mayor and Council Member for many years, and prayers and condolences go out to his family. In closing, he thanked them for sharing him with staff for all that time and noted that his passing is certainly a loss of the entire community.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2024

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2024

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2024-036, Addendum to the City Attorney's Contract

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-040, Ratification of Employee Loan Agreement between SEACOM and Cochise County – Tammi-Jo Wilkins

Council Member Rodriguez moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of May 21, 2024, and Regular City Council Meeting of May 23, 2024, Resolution 2024-036, addendum to the City Attorney's contract, and Resolution 2024-040, ratification of Employee Loan Agreement between SEACOM and Cochise County, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-037, Authorization to proceed with Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2024-037, authorization to proceed with the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

Police Chief Hiser stated that this resolution approves the renewal of an intergovernmental agreement with Cochise College and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the regional police academy. It has been a great partnership and high caliber recruits come out of this better than any other academy that has been used. The City's requirement is to provide a recruit training officer from the Police Department and the benefit is that it not helps the Academy, but it is also a good leadership opportunity for upcoming leaders in the Department. It is a win-win opportunity to send an RTO to the academy. This agreement provide overtime reimbursement from the College in the amount of \$11,800 and requires the Police Department to provide its defensive tactics training room to the academy.

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

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Ordinance 2024-004, [Updated Surface Water Master Plan](#), and associated [code amendments to Section 151.08.005, Surface Drainage and Storm Water Systems](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Ordinance 2024-004, updated Surface Water Master Plan, and associated code amendments to Section 151.08.005, Surface Drainage and Storm Water Systems, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mr. Pregler stated that this item is a request to consider the updated Surface Water Master Plan and associated Code amendments, Section 151.08.005. The Surface Water Master Plan is a result of a study conducted by CMG Drainage Engineering in cooperation with the City's Public Works Department. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the planning, construction, location, and function of surface water conveyance systems within Sierra Vista. The most recent amendments to the Plan were in 2006. However, there have been significant changes to some of these watercourses, both natural and manmade, including channelization, roadway culvert modifications, enlargement of detention basins on Fort Huachuca, and channel entrenchment. These changes warranted the need for an updated Plan. In addition to the Surface Water Master Plan, the Council will be considering Development Code amendments to Section 151.08.005. These were post changes 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, where the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the City Council. The City Council approved a 30-day public comment period for both the Surface Water Master Plan and text amendments on April 25, 2024. The City has not received any additional comments during this 30-day comment period.

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

Council Member Landry voiced her appreciation and encouraged the public to look at this because it has a lot of good information.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-038, Authorize Submission of the City's [2024-2028 Five Year Consolidated Plan](#), 2024 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding, and [Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice](#) (AI) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Review and Approval

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2024-038, adopting the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan including the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and authorizing submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for application to the Community Development Block Grant Program, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

Mr. McLachlan stated that this is the last step in the planning process. The proposed Consolidate Plan went through a 30-day public review and no comments were received during the time frame. However, the Department did receive its official CDBG amount for next year, which was \$3,600 below the planning estimate of \$250,000. Therefore, some changes were made to the allocations in the 24 Annual Action Plan.

The fire safety improvements within the Montebello N\neighborhood, located southwest of Charleston Road and Giulio Cesare, staff is proposing \$187,947 to install fire hydrants to improve fire safety. This will augment the \$162,575 that was allocated in last year's plan, and staff hopes to have that done by the end of the year.

The plan also provides \$11,493.00 to replace the beds and mattresses at the emergency shelter for the Good Neighbor Alliance property.

The public services budget will be split between the Boys and Girls Club and United Way of Sierra Vista. The public services amount cannot exceed 15 percent of next year's grant amount;

therefore, each entity will receive \$18,480. United Way will continue to provide one-time emergency payment assistance for rent and utilities through Saint Vincent DePaul, as well as food and employment assistance. The Boys and Girls Club will use the funds for the before and after school scholarships to help low-income kids access the programs that they offer.

The Plan also earmarks \$10,000 to cover administrative costs, legal ads that must be published, and to stay in compliance with the program. This is the second update to the Consolidated Plan since the City of Sierra Vista became an entitlement community in 2014. The goals that are established are the same goals that were in the last Annual Action Plan. The Department will continue to concentrate on upgrading public facilities and infrastructure within the low-mod neighborhoods of the community, assist nonprofits, and provide public services as well as community housing needs through the Emergency Home Repair.

If Council approves the Plan, staff will submit the services application to HUD through the electronic system that they use by next week. The Department expects to receive the formal grant agreement by the end of the summer to deploy the grant funds.

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

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-039, Adopting a Naming Policy for all City- owned Property or Areas

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2024-039, adopting a Naming Policy for all City- owned Property or Areas, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Wilson stated that this item is a recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Commission to update the City's Naming and Renaming of Public Facilities and Areas Policy. The last update to that policy was done in 2004 by Resolution 2004-093. Examples of spaces that would qualify for naming consideration includes new buildings, remodeled or refurbished buildings, parks, band shells, public transportation facilities, streets, or any other area set aside for public use. The updated policy includes the method for submitting suggestions, outlines the requirements for nominations, updates departmental and commission names, removes redundancies, and defines which commission should consider suggestions based on the type of nominations received. If this policy is approved, staff will create a publicly available procedure form to support the policy and will ensure that it is accessible to anyone interested in providing a nomination, either in person or electronically.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro 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

Mayor McCaa stated that the Council and he will be paying tribute to the life and legacy of their dear friend, Mayor Muller, who for years has guided the City.

Council Member Messmer stated that Mayor Mueller was always very kind and encouraging to her, and always made a point to say to her that she was doing a good job, or to try again. He will be greatly missed by everyone. She announced that on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, there

will be a Juneteenth celebration at Buena High School between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and on July 1, 2024, the Tourism Commission will be holding its meeting 1:00 p.m. at the OYCC.

Council Member Landry stated that she is deeply thankful to have served with Mayor Mueller and to have had the opportunity to learn from his leadership because he was a great leader. While listening to him address people's comments and concerns, she always felt that she was listening to his dedication to the community. His impact and contributions will always be remembered. She noted that he attended all the different events, loved his community, and would always wear his red shirt on Fridays, and she appreciates that he loved his country. She congratulated all the people that sent in photographs, stated that it was amazing to hear how many were submitted, and expressed an interest in seeing all the other photographs that were submitted. She encouraged everyone to attend City Council meetings or commission meetings to see the photographs in person and thanked everyone who submitted a photograph. She then congratulated the 2023 SVPD award winners and thanked them for all that they do in making the community safe, which she appreciates. She also encouraged people who have pets to keep an eye on them on July 4, 2024 because of the fireworks and the festivities. Lastly, she gave a shout out to everyone who made the Summit Challenge possible, a great event. She noted that people go out and mark the trails, put signs out, and make sure that nobody goes off track and gets lost. These people help if anybody gets hurt, lost, or scared, and they track the numbers; therefore, she always feels safe.

Council Member Rodriguez wished his condolences to Mayor Mueller's family, stated that it was a pleasure to work for him, noted that right away, Mayor Mueller invited him to have coffee, he was very accessible. Before he came on Council, he would always see him around the community out and about doing things, at Vinny's at his favorite table eating wings and drinking wine. He had a lot of places like that around town, and he will be missed at multiple places. However, he will remember that he always mentioned to him to be succinct and brief. Therefore, he is going to try, but it is not one of his strong suits. He announced a project going on at the intersection of Carmichael and Timothy Lane on Saturday, June 15, 2024, and encouraged people to contact Rosie Mackey, who is spearheading the project to clean up and paint a wall and clearing the grass in front of it. He shared that his class participated in a cleanup this past Sunday, June 9, 2024, at the animal shelter, which was a good feeling to see all the awesome dogs. He gave a shout out to his class and his daughter who got promoted to Corporal in the Marines, an early Father's Day gift. Lastly, he announced the Dad Olympics taking place this Sunday, June 16, 2024 at the Coach Hampton Fields at 11:00 a.m., congratulated all the awardees of the photos, the Police Department awardees for doing great things, and Ms. Immes for the courtyard upkeep, which has become a Police Department's wide hobby.

Council Member Johnson mirrored the sentiments of everyone that spoke regarding Rick Mueller, a great man, who gave all to this City and to whom everyone owes to him and his family a great amount of debt. He congratulated the photo winners, voiced his amazement at the fact that there were 400 entries, thanked Ms. Adams for getting the City Council Chambers spruced up with a fresh coat of paint and all the beautiful art. In closing, he congratulated the winners, the chosen ones, but he is sure that there are a lot more winners, congratulated his friends at the Sierra Vista Police Department, the annual award winners, and stated that it is always good to see them come out because they are very dedicated to the community. He shared that in having worked with the Sierra Vista Police Department as a County Attorney, felony prosecutor, and as a volunteer, he knows how dedicated these men and women are to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey congratulated the photography winners, everyone who submitted photographs, and stated that she did not realize the number of submissions. However, she loves the ones that were chosen and noted that they are all different in subject and color, very diverse, that highlight the Council Chambers. She further stated that she enjoyed meeting everyone that was able to attend the reception before the meeting and hearing their stories behind their photos. She congratulated all the Police Department award recipients, who always making Council proud and appreciative of all their hard work year after year. In closing, she stated that during her first four years on Council and during Mayor Mueller's last year as mayor, she looked to him as a leader, a mentor, and a friend. Having had the privilege to work alongside him, she witnessed firsthand his unwavering dedication to public service. He approached every challenge with a calm resolve and an unyielding commitment to doing what was best for Sierra Vista. At times, that meant giving himself permission to make decisions with his heart, which she learned from him. Beyond his professional accomplishments, being the longest serving mayor in the history of Sierra Vista, he was a person of great warmth and kindness. His humility was inspiring, and she thinks that this is in part what made him such a great leader. He expressed his views when he had to, had the courage to listen to the perspectives and ideas of others, even when he did not agree with them, or disliked the person. In closing, she stated that she would not be as effective as a Council Member as she is today if it had not been for his leadership and encouragement. His passing is a profound loss to a community, but his legacy will continue to inspire. Lastly, Mayor Mueller liked Winston Churchill and the following quote made her think of Mayor Mueller, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give".

Mayor McCaa stated that Mayor Rick Mueller was a great American and soldier, who he had many talks with, who shared his knowledge of Sierra Vista and the political world, told him to always be true to himself and to do what is right in his heart. Words that will forever be etched in his soul going forward. He stated that Council pays tribute to him, his life, and legacy. In closing, he stated that he is praying for the Mueller family, wished a happy Father's Day to all fathers and to the greatest Army, a Happy 249th birthday, who he had the pleasure to serve for 30 years - Happy Birthday U.S. Army.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the June 13, 2024, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:45 p.m.

A recording of the Council Meeting is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PtUpIbkQsixlhSy-jeR_Q/videos