

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
July 25, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey called the June 27, 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 – absent
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
Lis Chatham, Police Department Commander
Brian Jones, Fire Chief
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Services Director
Emily Duchon, Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services Manager
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Adam Curtis, Marketing and Communications Manager
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Dillaha, Financial Officer
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Mark Slania, Attorney for the Industrial Development Authority
Michael Hoerig, Heinfeld Meech and Company, P.C., Audit Partner

Invocation – Council Member Messmer led the audience 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 July 25, 2024, be approved. Council Member Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Awards and Presentations

A proclamation declaring August 2024 as Hummingbird Month in the City of Sierra Vista was presented to Emily Duchon.

Ms. Duchon thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that there will be a whole month worth of activities and events planned from art to hiking events, sporting events. She encouraged people to look in the Vista 411 or online at the City's website for a list of those events. She thanked the City's friends and internal partners that helped with this effort, Economic Development, who was instrumental in providing guidance through the Hummingbird Heros, the business community to get them involved, and the Marketing and Communications Department who helped publicize these events with their standout flyers and posters. In closing, she thanked SIBO and the Southwest Wings folks.

Chris Hubard with Southwest Wings stated that this is their 33rd year and noted that they have been in Sierra Vista for a long time with its festival which is a fabulous gathering for people and an opportunity to learn a lot about birds, wildlife, and everything that makes the area special, the sky islands. He noted that the field trip registration is closed, but there are free talks and birding walks starting on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 through Saturday, August 3, 2024. The talks are all happening at the Sierra Vista Mall on butterflies, birds, beavers, and jaguars. There will also be a lot of vendors and exhibitors.

Heinfeld Meech and Company, P.C. [presentation of Fiscal Year 2023 audit](#) as required by Arizona Revised Statute §9-481- Mr. Hoerig presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2023.

[Presentation by David Felix](#) of compliance with Arizona Revised Statute §41-1494 – Mr. Felix explained Arizona Revised Statute §41-1494 and stated that the City is not spending any money and any sort of training, harassment or otherwise that lays blame for any fault of anything based on race, gender, call or anything like that.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next Council work session is on August 6, 2024, and the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is on August 8, 2024. The annual Spotlight Breakfast is on August 13, 2024 from 6:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at Cochise College in the Student Union Building. He reported that after the Council approved the acquisition of the PDS Golf Course, staff has been working on a contract with Paradigm Group and they may be taking over the operation by September 6, 2024, but staff is also working in parallel on a contingency plan to operate in case that contract is not done by that date. The golf course name will be the Golf Center of Sierra Vista at Pueblo del Sol. Staff had to move fast on that because Paradigm is also working on setting up the website in the Golf Now App for setting up tee times etc. There will be opportunities if Council feels the need to rename the golf course after somebody in the future. He also reported that the City has received from an estate a donation of \$1,000,000 for the Animal Control Center and that money will be put towards the project that is currently going on. Originally staff thought the City had \$1,000,000 bequest for the facility but found out that the City was only going to get the annual interest from that, which the City is getting. Lastly, he reported that the Sierra Vista Pavement Conditions Survey, part of Council's Strategic Plan, has been completed and once reviewed by Ms. Flissar and her staff, there will be a work session on that. In closing, he mentioned that the sales tax report for the last month and the City's actuals over last year at this time were .6 percent over.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Work Session Minutes of June 25, 2024

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Special Minutes of June 27, 2024

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2024

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2024

[Item 2.5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-047, Reappointment of Gary Smith and Victoria Yarbrough to the Fire and Police Pension Boards, said terms to expire August 1, 2028

[Item 2.6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-048, Accepting the resignations of Sophia Rosa and Lexi Prickett with regret from the Youth Commission and Appointing Ian Burnett and Anna Burnett, said terms to expire April 30, 2026

Council Member Johnson moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the City Council minutes of the June 25, 2024 Work Session, June 27, 2024 Special Meeting, June 27, 2024 Regular Meeting, July 8, 2024 Special Meeting, Resolution 2024-047, reappointment of Gary Smith and Victoria Yarbrough to the Fire and Police Pension Boards, said terms to expire August 1, 2028, and Resolution 2024-048, accepting the resignations of Sophia Rosa and Lexi Prickett, with regret from the Youth Commission, and appointing Ian Burnett and Anna Burnett, said terms to expire April 30, 2026, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Property Tax Levy

This was a public hearing; however, there were no comments from the public.

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-049, Final Budget for FY 2024–2025

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-049, Final Budget for FY 2024–2025 in the amount of \$172,359,341, be approved. Council Member Council Member Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-050, Authorizing the issuance of its Education Facility Revenue Bonds, American Leadership Academy Project, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000, the proceeds of which will be loaned to American Leadership Academy Inc., a nonprofit corporation

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2024-050, authorizing the issuance of its Education Facility Revenue Bonds, American Leadership Academy Project, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000, the proceeds of which will be loaned to American Leadership Academy Inc., a nonprofit corporation, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-051, Intergovernmental Agreement with Cochise County for Funding of a Consultant to Promote Retention and Expansion of Missions of the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-051, an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cochise County for funding of a consultant to promote retention and expansion of Missions of the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-052, Approval of Release of Payment Plan with Castle & Cooke Arizona

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2024-052, forgiving a payment plan by Castle and Cooke, Arizona, contingent upon a successful closure and transfer of the Pueblo Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course to the City of Sierra Vista based on the outstanding balance on the day of the closure, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-053, Amendment to Personnel Rules and Regulations

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2024-053, amendments to Rule 1, Section 3, Rule 3, Section 5, Rule 4, Section 13, Rule 10, Sections 1 and 13 of the Personnel Rules and Regulations, effective August 1, 2024, be approved. Council Member Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Council Members Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Call to the Public - There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Messmer invited everyone out to Veterans' Memorial Park on Saturday, July 27, 2024 for Buffalo Soldier Day from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. There will also be speakers, music, food trucks, and vendors.

Council Member Landry gave a shout out to everyone involved in the Visitor Center's grand reopening and encouraged people to visit the Oscar Yrun Community Center where they can find a lot of great information and Sierra Vista swag. She announced that the Nancy J. Brua Animal Care Center has a dog sleepover program where people can take a dog home for as little as a night, a weekend, or as long as 30 days. The shelter will provide the food, bowls, and supplies. She noted that this is a great program that helps with socializing the dogs in the shelter while giving them a break from being in the kennel. She also gave a shout out to all the teachers and noted that school will be starting next week. She cautioned everyone to be extra mindful in the mornings and the afternoons in the school areas or crosswalks because the kids going back to school will be excited to see their friends, teachers, and will not be paying attention to traffic. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to give love to the teachers and check if they need any supplies.

Council Member Johnson announced that July 30, 2024 is the Primary Election. He encouraged people to vote, whether Democrat, Republican, or Independent, and to please have their voices heard. He noted that there is a drop off box at Foothills Drive.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that last week, the Arizona District 8 Little League Tournaments took place in the City and there were cities from all over Arizona. He thanked staff for getting the fields ready due to the monsoon, the volunteers, which made it possible to play. He congratulated Litchfield Park that is moving on to the West region, a great event. He added that he is looking forward to the Hummingbird Month events, thanked Southwest Wings for sharing information. He thanked Officer Bowser.

Mayor McCaa announced that July 31, 2024 is the first day of school and the 100 Men In Suits and Uniforms are scheduled for that day at 6:00 a.m. to welcome the high schoolers back into another year and to make them feel like rock stars at Buena High School. He also asked everyone to be safe, look out for their neighbors, and be kind to somebody.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the July 25, 2024, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:47 p.m.

A recording of the Council Meeting is available at:

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