

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
October 24, 2024

Mayor McCaa called the October 24, 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
Council Member Gregory Johnson – absent
Council Member Angelica Landry – present
Council Member Marta Messmer – present
Council Member Mark Rodriguez – present

Others Present:

Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Chris Hiser, Police Chief
Brian Jones, Fire Chief
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Elizabeth Wrozek, PIO
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst

Invocation – Council Member Messmer led the invocation.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Benning move that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 24, 2024, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Presentations and Awards

A Proclamation declaring the week of October 27 through November 2, 2024, as Veterans Small Business Week in Sierra Vista was presented to Mr. Boone and staff.

Mr. Boone stated that according to the SBA, military veterans own over 2 million businesses across the country, employ over 5 million Americans, and contribute over \$1.2 trillion per year in revenue for the US economy. Veterans not only make great entrepreneurs because of the skills they acquired during their service to our country but are also 45 percent more likely to start businesses and become self-employed. The City of Sierra Vista's shared community with Fort Huachuca means that there is a greater than average number of veteran entrepreneurs providing much appreciated goods, services and jobs to our area. As such, the City seeks to join in the nationwide recognition of Veteran Owned Small Business Week.

Mr. Wallace Ricks, Economic Development Commission Vice Chairman, presented Cary Brown and Vish Hirani, owners of Urban Axe Yard, with a certificate in recognition as Sierra Vista's Veteran-Owned Business of the Year. Mr. Brown thanked the Mayor, Council, his staff, and the community.

City Manager's Report: Ms. Yarbrough announced that City's offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024 in observance of Veterans' Day, encouraged everyone to join staff on Fry Boulevard for the Veterans' Day Parade and the ceremony following in Veterans' Memorial Park. She further announced that with Veterans' Day falling on a Monday, Monday trash pickups will move to Tuesday and Tuesday's pickups will shift to Wednesday. There will be no special pickups that week, and Thursday and Friday pickups will be as usual. The next regularly scheduled work session is on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, and the next regularly scheduled Council's meeting is on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. also in Council Chambers. She reported that the bids for the MLK reconstruction from Avenida Escuela to SR90 are due on October 28, 2024; proposals were opened on October 17, 2024 for the on-call demolition services, which includes Kings Court, and are currently under review by Procurement; and KE&G is scheduling to start work at the end of October on the pedestrian walkway connection, construction of shared use path, ADA ramps, sidewalk, driveway, etc.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2024

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the October 8, 2024 work session, Council Meeting of October 10, 2024, and Special Meeting of October 15, 2024, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-074, Amendment to Chapter 31: City Manager, City Code and Declaring a 30-Day Public Record

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-074, an amendment to Chapter 31: City Manager, City Code, and Declaring a 30-Day Public Record, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Public Hearing started at 5:11 p.m.

Public Hearing concluded at 5:13 p.m.

New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-075, Intergovernmental Agreement with Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Services and Cochise County Community College District

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2024-075, an Intergovernmental Agreement with Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Services and Cochise County Community College District, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-076, Dedication of Center Event Space at Veterans Memorial Park to Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller II

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2024-076, dedicating the Center Event Space at Veterans Memorial Park to Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller II, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-077, Dedication of Dog Park located at Hubert Tompkins Park to Canine Bones

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2024-077, dedicating the dog park located at Hubert Tompkins Park to Canine Bones, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-078, Authorization to Accept Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Funding (Contract #2025-AL-030)

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2024-078, authorization the acceptance of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Funding in the amount of \$88,099.00, Contract #2025-AL-030, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2024-079, Authorization to Approve Settlement Agreement

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2024-079, authorizing the City Attorney to take the necessary action to finalize the settlement in the matter of the city of Sierra Vista vs. Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America, be approved. Council Member Messmer seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Call to the Public

Jere Fredenburg stated that she is a volunteer at the Animal Shelter and stated that her concern is over the \$1,000,000 donation that was given to the shelter this fiscal year. She noted that the executor of the estate, Paula Baker, is also present. She stated that she listened to the City Manager's report on the October 10, 2024, where he stated that he had spent the \$1,000,000 budgeted and \$1,000,000 donation on the animal shelter and moved a \$1,000,000 budgeted amount by the City Council to capital improvement instead of spending it this year as it should be. Council budgeted \$2,000,000 and a generous donor gave another million, totaling \$3,000,000 that was for this fiscal year. Construction is ongoing and they have plans. The money could be spent immediately, and this is a Council decision, not the City Manager. In closing, she asked that Council act in good conscience and their decision must be to allocate the budgeted funds and the donation to the Animal Shelter this fiscal year.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Benning congratulated Urban Axe Yard, a great establishment, a lot of fun, and noted that is always great to see veterans doing great things. He offered thoughts and prayers to Council Member Johnson, thanked his brothers and sisters in arms for what they do, for putting that uniform on, thanked the new veterans/new soldiers coming in that enable people like himself, Mayor McCaa and Council Member Rodriguez to retire. He also thanked the family members of veterans and noted that war is hardest on the people at home. In closing, he wished everyone a Happy Veterans' Day, encouraged everyone to go out to the parade. He thanked his beautiful Christie for blessing him and stated that he looks forward to their special day on November 9, 2024. Lastly, he congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey.

Council Member Landry congratulated Urban Axe Yard, encouraged people to visit the business, and noted that Urban Axe yard does different fundraising activities. She announced that on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., the Pit Stop Gourmet Burgers is sponsoring an adoption fundraiser for the Animal Shelter. Also on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Grateful Goods, a vendor market, is also accepting donations for the Animal Shelter. She gave a shout out to Coach Megan Evans of the Girl's Golf Team, who put together a banquet for the girls. In closing, she stated that Halloween is upcoming and cautioned people to be on the lookout for kids running around in the streets looking for candy. There are safe events for them to go to as well. She reminded everyone that Halloween is for all ages. Therefore, if people see older kids, they should keep in mind that they are out there having a good time, holding on to their childhood longer, who should be supported. Lastly, she gave a special shout out to Mr. Keith Landry, a Halloween birthday boy, and wished him a very Happy Birthday.

Council Member Messmer reported that last weekend on Saturday, October 19, 2024, the museum put on the Dusk with the Dead at the Fry Pioneer Cemetery and over 130 people came out to learn the history of the pioneers that built Sierra Vista. She further reported that she went to Saw, a nonprofit that builds ramps for people who cannot afford them. She has asked the organization to present to Council because they are always looking for people to build ramps. Lastly, she announced that on November 2, 2024 at noon, Father Greg will be blessing the Fry Pioneer Cemetery to honor the people that have passed, especially those that built Sierra Vista. In closing she reminded everyone to vote on November 5, 2024.

Council Member Rodriguez congratulated Urban Axe Yard and noted that they do a lot of great things in the community and its events. He announced that 143 Street Tacos has reopened and Carmichael Elementary will host its Red Ribbon Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024. He reported that the local Fire Union 4422 received donations from PetSmart for the

Nancy J Brua Animal Shelter, and a few weeks ago they also donated leashes. The sign at the skate park was vandalized and noted that he would like to get more security cameras out there. He congratulated Corporal Tuggle on his promotion and noted that he saw him out running with Police Chief Hiser and Sergeant Eaton. Thanked Public Works' employees, who were out trimming trees on Fry Boulevard and MLK and noted that weeding needs to take place over by the Fort's gate because they are blocking the view of the mural that was done by Ms. Joanne Berry in 2017. He reported on the Youth Commission's work in the park and the mock interviews, and a potential youth job fair that they have been working with Arizona At Work. He thanked Fire Union 4422 for the food that they provided to the youth during the mock interviews. He also thanked Rhegan Derfus from the U of A Cooperative Extension, Elizabeth Tyndall from Be Healthy, Kelly and Mike Hyman from Synergy HomeCare, Sabrina Wiggins from La Frontera SEBAHS, Eric Grisham from Arizona At Work, Rebekah Tilley from Vision IT, Engineer Mike Derfus and Battalion Chief Matt Irlmeier from SVMS for their assistance with the mock interviews. Lastly, he wished everyone a Happy Veterans' Day and gave a special shout out to his favorite veterans, his wife, Nancy, a Marine Veteran, and his daughter, Alicia, an active Marine in Hawaii.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey echoed Council Member Benning's comments about Council Member Johnson because he is greatly missed, congratulated Council Member Benning, and encouraged people to go the parade on November 11, 2024.

Mayor McCaa gave a shout out to Fire Chief Jones and Police Chief Hiser for their participation in the presidential motorcade, the Speaker of the House, Madam Vice President Harris, past President Trump, and Senator Vance. The City was tasked with its officers to provide protection. He announced the dedication of the Oletski Center Border Building, new Sheriff's building, on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., where the Governor will be present. In closing, he announced that on Friday, October 25, 2024, the Buena High School team will be playing against Marana High School. Lastly, he gave a shout out to Elizabeth Wrozek, PIO, an excellent speech writer, who writes all the speeches that he delivers.

Mayor McCaa adjourned the October 24, 2024, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:46 p.m.