



Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Summary  
[March 12, 2020](#)

---

Mayor Mueller called the March 12, 2020 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 Rick Mueller – present  
Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Gray – absent  
Council Member William Benning – present  
Council Member Gwen Calhoun – present  
Council Member Sarah Pacheco – present  
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey - present  
Council Member Kristine Wolfe – present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager  
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief  
Brian Jones, Fire Chief  
Laura Killberg, Leisure Services Manager  
Richard Cayer, Public Works Operations Manager  
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Adam Curtis, Public Information Officer

Invocation - Council Member Benning conducted the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – Girl Scout troops, Brownie 419, Junior 104, and Cadette Senior 1224, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards and Presentations

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation declaring March 8 through 14, 2020 as the 108<sup>th</sup> year of Girl Scouts in the United States to Girl Scout Troops Brownie 419, Junior 104, and Cadette Senior 1224.

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Wolfe moved that the Agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of March 12, 2020 be approved as written. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council Work Session will be held on March 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with a primary

interest on the beginning of the development fees discussion. The next regularly Council Meeting will be held on March 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. also in Council Chambers. He reported that the City Hall Remodel Project bid opening is scheduled for March 27, 2020 and the Big O Driveway Project's quotes are due on March 26, 2020 (project is tied to the annexation agreement). He also reported on the Southeastern Arizona Communications (SEACOM) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Meeting, where several items were discussed to include the fact that hiring/training has picked up; but the big item of discussion was the proposed budget for SEACOM as the City has a cost share with the County and other subscribers. The proposed budget will be brought back to the JPA Board for a final vote and then it will be brought forth to the Council at one of the budget work sessions.

Lastly, he stated that under State Law, the State of Arizona designates a County Health Department to be the lead agency in any emergency that exists that the Governor has declared. The City looks to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State Department of Health Services, and County Health Department for information, which is on their web sites. However, the City recognizes that a lot of people rely on the City for information; therefore, the City will be standing up its own web page regarding the Coronavirus that will have information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State Department of Health Services, and County Health Department. The County Health Department is working closely with the City, first responders, health agencies, and the senior facilities because those are the ones that are primarily receiving the bulk of the attention due to the risks involved with senior citizens. City staff is also prepared in the event that an emergency occurs, by getting information out and following all of the protocols that are mentioned for personal hygiene, sending employees home immediately that are ill, providing Teledoc and first line medical care for free to full and part time employees. The City's first responders are also prepared, working with the County Health Department and other agencies, but the City does not have the numbers to be able to afford to have full crews go into quarantine; therefore, staff is well prepared in terms of how to respond and are acting accordingly.

There are zero cases of the Coronavirus in Cochise County and people will be kept aware with transparent information. Currently the City does not see an emergency locally, and while looking at events and facilities, the City is not yet to a point in declaring an emergency; however, the City is prepared if this occurs.

#### Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2020

[Item 2.2](#) Resolution 2020-016, Appointment of Joseph Nelson to the Environmental Affairs Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2021

Council Member Pacheco moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2020 and Resolution 2020-016, appointment of Joseph Nelson to the Environmental Affairs Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2021, be approved. Council Member Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

#### Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Consideration of funding applications for FY 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan

Mr. McLachlan briefed the item.

Call to the Public - There was no response.

#### Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Wolfe acknowledged some of Council's family members people in the audience and asked everyone to wash their hands like grown people, and everything will be ok.

Council Member Pacheco congratulated the girl scouts and shared that she lived in Savannah, Georgia, where the Juliette Gordon House is located. She gave a special shout out to a couple of girl scout troops that took their cookies over to the Pantry for families in need, a total 400 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. She thanked first responders, doctors, nurses, and professionals who are on the front lines dealing with the Coronavirus. Lastly, she explained that the Coronavirus is troubling for food banks and asked the public to remember that this is a hard time when there is panic because folks who rely on their hourly wage are a paycheck away from not having enough food, and they will not have food now if they cannot be at work due to the Coronavirus. This is going to be a fallout and it is already being seen at the Pantry because requests for food have going up; however, this area is not the only one because Tucson is experiencing the same situation. The economic fallout is real from everything that is going on and people are going without food. In closing, she stated that spring break is next week and announced that the All City Choir Concert is being held on March 12, 2020 at Buena High School.

Council Member Umphrey stated that there is panic and noted that it was a ghost town on her way back from Washington, D.C. because there were no lines and no one sitting next to her at the Dallas, Fort Worth Airport. She further stated that she will have a trip report for Council in a couple of weeks about the conference, a quiet conference because everyone was being careful. She did get to speak to a few of the City's senators, congress woman and a few of their aides.

Council Member Benning stated that is always a blessing when the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are present and thanked staff for the Fry Boulevard Improvement Open House, second one that has been held, and there 120 plus people in attendance. He further stated that when he first came on Council, he has heard some negative and positive comments, but for the most part for Plan A and B the comments were all positive, which makes him glad. The City will make available information on what it is going to look like, traffic patterns etc., and the public should continue to ask questions in order to make a difference. He also stated that family members are in the audience, his daughter who is on an extended spring break from ASU. Lastly, he announced that on March 21, 2020 will be the Little League Opening Ceremonies along with the field dedication at Domingo Paiz, which depicts the results of the Schneider Project as well as Cyr Park in April and asked everyone to be vigilant with the Coronavirus and noted that the City will be putting out information.

Council Member Calhoun thanked her granddaughter Tea, grandson Mason and her husband Ernie for being in attendance. She congratulated Mr. Nelson on his appointment to the Environmental Affairs Commission and she looks forward to working with him. She also reported that Sierra Vista Be Healthy is a group that looks at the community being healthier, who has worked on the hydration stations, helping people in getting to the Farmer's Market to buy local and continue to look for ways to demonstrate healthy ways to eat to the community. The Carmichael Neighborhood Association held a great presentation from Mr. Adam Curtis, who talked about the Census 2020 and its importance for funding that the City receives from the

federal government and state government. The more people are counted legally and correctly, the more funds will be brought into the community. Lastly, she reported that the Environmental Affairs Commission is working on important sustainable issues for the community and the Commission on Disability Issues has been working on a community resource guide for people with disabilities.

Mayor Mueller thanked the Girl Scouts for sending cookies to service members overseas and noted that it is always a pleasure to have the Girl Scouts present. He then reported that he and staff met with the County Health Department, where a concise, cool-headed presentation was provided about the Coronavirus, which is on the County's web site for people to review. He stressed that there is a difference between being concerned and panicking and everyone at this point should be concerned, not panicked.

The government has done smart things, i.e., stopping travel from China in order to help flatten the curve on people coming in with the virus and transmitting it. Recently, the President announced that the same will be done with Europe because since the epidemic has been lessening in China, it is now significantly growing in Europe; therefore, it makes sense for the EU countries to also have the travel banned as a prudent step for prevention. The public does not need to panic because the Governor has declared Arizona as a health emergency because this is a preventative measure so that during a critical time, there is no longer a need to go through the federal bureaucracy/red tape. This measure now provides the Governor access to funds and, etc. to be able to ensure that the State's health posture is better than it would be if he had not declared an emergency. The County's web site and the City's review of its emergency plan are a responsible, preventative method. The City will continue to be active in its planning and there will be a process put into place to determine if City events can be held, based on the reasonable level of threat, which is also a preventative measure. Sierra Vista is not in a situation where there needs to be a panic. This is a time to take positive steps to ensure that any impact is minimized of any virus and the best thing to do is hand washing, covering mouth when coughing, and cleaning surfaces that may have liquid on them.

#### Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the March 12, 2020 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:35 p.m.