



Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Summary  
[April 23, 2020](#)

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1. Mayor Mueller called the April 23, 2020 City Council Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ

Roll Call (Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely)

Mayor Rick Mueller – present  
Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Gray – present  
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  
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager  
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief  
Brian Jones, Fire Chief  
Laura Wilson, Leisure and Library Services Director  
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director  
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Nathan Williams, City Attorney  
Jill Adams, City Clerk

Invocation – Council Member Benning requested a moment of silence.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Pacheco moved that the Agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 23, 2020 be approved as written. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

Awards and Presentations

Mayor Mueller read for the record proclamations declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month and City of Sierra Vista Second Chance Month.

Council Member Calhoun suggested placing the proclamations in the weekly newsletter that is sent out through Facebook. There was no objection from the Mayor and Council Members.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council Work Session will be held on May 12, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers as well as the next regularly Council Meeting on May 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. He reported that the City received the February sales tax report, which was up a robust 5.39 percent year over year. This was the second highest month for sales tax revenues, but this is expected to start declining with March and April figures. Those will lag, the March figures will be received in May and the April figures will be received in June. Adjustments will be made accordingly to the budget as the figures comes in. The Joint Powers Authority SEACOM Board met primarily to go over the SEACOM budget. There are still some budget issues to resolve; therefore, there will be a work session on May 6, 2020 to discuss those issues. He added that he plans to present this budget to Council at the May 12, 2020 work session.

He further stated that the Governor started providing guidance on the relaxation of COVID-19 Executive Orders starting with opening the health care system to elective procedures on May 1, 2020. There has not been any other guidance received. As the Governor provides guidance, the City can look forward to a series of press conference by the Governor, where it is hoped to get further guidance on opening things up at which case, the City will move swiftly to implement those orders as they come up. Lastly, he reported that the County has 31 cases, nine of those are out of isolation and 22 active cases.

In response to Mayor Mueller, Mr. Potucek stated that under the CARES Act \$2.8 Million was allocated to the State of Arizona for COVID-related costs. A large amount of that is slated to be taken by the State and then the cities and counties, over 500,000 population of which there are only five entities in the State, can apply for the funds directly. The City has been waiting for guidance in terms of how smaller entities can apply for the funds and for what they can be used for. The Treasury Department did provide guidance – any of those costs must be related to COVID activities. However, the City is still waiting for State guidance in terms on how to apply for those funds. The City has been keeping track of the costs incurred as a result of this and will make application as soon guidance is received on how to do that. There is a lot of discussion on the part of various entities around the State regarding revenue replacement funds, but those are not included in the CARES Act. Discussion is taking place in Congress as to whether those funds will be made available in the next package.

Council Member Calhoun asked if the funds could help with the fact that the City's bus service is losing a lot of riders. Mr. Potucek stated that the Federal Transit Administration is receiving funds through their agency, which will help address issues with regards to transit funding, both this year and next year.

Council Member Umphrey asked if it was confirmed that Council will be meeting on May 5, 2020. Ms. Adams stated that she is waiting on rsvp's from the rest of Council on their availability.

Council Member Wolfe asked for clarification that Council will hold a public meeting on May 12, 2020. She asked if meeting publicly is based on direction from the Governor, and not something that the City has decided upon. Mayor Mueller stated that meeting publicly is tentative. It is hoped that Council will be able to assemble because the problem is that the presentation does not lend itself to the current format. However, Council Members may read the presentation early if they choose not to attend in order to keep to social distancing.

Council Member Wolfe stated that she wants to make sure that the community understands. Mayor Mueller stated that meeting publicly is pending the Governor's actions. He added that the Governor is being cautious and will probably dribble out each change – the pertinent thing to do.

Public Hearing – There were no responses on items two and three.

[Item 2](#) Consideration of Draft Program Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Annual Action Plan

Mr. McLachlan briefed the item.

[Item 3](#) Resolution 2020-016, a Location/Owner Transfer Series 6 Liquor License for Nicholas Dominic Politi on behalf of Southwest Hospitality Services Group, 161A E Wilcox Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Wolfe moved that Resolution 2020-016, a Location/Owner Transfer Series 6 Liquor License for Nicholas Dominic Politi on behalf of Southwest Hospitality Services Group, 161A E Wilcox Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

New Business

[Item 4](#) Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Gray moved that the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2020, be approved as written. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

[Item 5](#) Resolution 2020-017, Restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista

Council Member Calhoun moved that Resolution 2020-017, restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

Council Member Calhoun asked if referrals are being made in Sierra Vista. Mr. McLachlan stated that there are few and far in between, maybe one out of every six months.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Benning thanked everyone in Sierra Vista for doing what they are supposed to do. The light is at the end of the tunnel and the community will get there. He also thanked Council and staff.

Council Member Umphrey wished her mother a Happy Birthday. Celebrating is not taking place the way that they normally do, but they will make up for it when the pandemic is behind.

Council Member Pacheco stated that this week is National Volunteer Appreciation Week and noted that the City has a lot of devoted volunteers, who do a ton of work in keeping the city

going. She thanked the volunteers throughout the City and noted that there has been a big outpour of service and giving during this tough time. The whole community has stepped up and come together to make sure that everyone is taken care of. Lastly, she shared her favorite volunteer quote, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy, you vote in elections just once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community that you want to live in."

Council Member Wolfe stated that she knows that the small businesses are hurting, everyone is currently hurting, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and she believes that it is coming and the business community can do it. There are resources out there. She encouraged people to reach out to the Small Business Development Center, Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce or to her.

Mayor Mueller thanked Council Member Wolfe for reminding him during his call to Senator Sinema, who stated that the additional PPP money was passed. He encouraged the filing of applications and getting in touch with the bank so that funds may be received. He added that he was told that there is also a certain amount of money held for smaller banking institutions so that the Wall Street Giants could not get the first cut just like it happened during the first round.

Council Member Calhoun thanked Council Member Umphrey for reminding her about the School Board Meeting. She announced that the new School Superintendent, Eric Holmes, has been chosen and she looks forward to welcoming him to the community and working with him.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray had nothing to report.

Mayor Mueller reminded the community of the Census and encouraged people to fill out their forms. He stated that he hopes everyone had a good Earth Day and noted that he was unable to pick up the nonnative mesquite in his yard. He added that it looks like the Governor is going to gradually start opening things up, but there is no specific time schedule. Lastly, he stated that he agrees with Council Member Pacheco in that the volunteers keeps the community together whether it is in a time of crisis or every day. He encouraged everyone to look for a way to help their neighbors and to watch out for one another, especially at current times.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:29 p.m.