



Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
[May 14, 2020](#)

1. Mayor Mueller called the May 14, 2020 City Council Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ

Roll Call:

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 – Mayor Mueller conducted the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro Tem Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Calhoun moved that the Agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of May 14, 2020 be approved as written. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Mayor Mueller requested to add to the agenda the proclamation declaring May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day.

The motion to accept the agenda with the addition of the proclamation declaring May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day passed unanimously by Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

Awards and Presentations

Mayor Mueller read for the record a proclamation declaring May 25, 2020 as Memorial Day. He reported that it is his understanding that there will not be a formal ceremony at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery on May 25, 2020.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council Work Session will be held on May 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers as well as the next regularly Council Meeting on May 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. It is anticipated that these meeting will be held much like the current meetings. The meetings in June will go back to regular Council venues and with the building being open to the public. Memorial Day is on Monday, May 25, 2020 and City offices will be closed.

He also reported that he spent the day with County partners regarding a couple of boards that he sits on, SECAOM JPA Board met and approved the budget for next fiscal year. It is anticipated that the City's cost for SEACOM to be approximately \$127,000 more than last fiscal year because the software system had to be upgraded for the radios, a \$4.3 Million contract. The cost is being divided with the County because the City and the County are the main radio users. The County pays a 64 percent share and the City pays a 36 percent share. Next year will be the largest cost share for the upgrade and staff is currently working on getting approved an agreement with the County and SEACOM Board for a four-year lease deal for the upgrade and that should come back down after next year. The Rate Review Advisory Board for the County-wide landfill refuse system met in the morning and they are finishing out the year by \$400,000 in the black and therefore, there will be no tipping fee increases. The amount of money that the system will owe the County Board of Supervisors will be reduced by \$1.2 Million from a few years ago that stated out at \$2.5 Million.

In keeping with the Governor's Phase I of the reopening guidelines, the City plans on reopening facilities on Saturday, May 16, 2020. On Monday, May 18, 2020 the lobbies of City Hall, Police Department and the Ethel Berger Center as well as the museum will be reopening to the public. The sports fields will be open for practices, but bleachers will be removed, and social distancing encouraged with games starting on May 26, 2020. The skate park, pickle ball courts, outdoor basketball courts, dog parks, tennis courts, and small events in parks, i.e. ramada rentals and the farmer's market will reopen. The OYCC will remain closed because of some construction in the lobby that will be occurring over the next few weeks. The sports building at the Rothery Center will be reopening the front desk and the Library will still closed, but book returns will be allowed in curbside service. The Cove is still closed, and it is anticipated to opening that up on June 1, 2020 for some of the swimming programs. The Public Works lobby will be reopened, but the Transit building will remain closed.

Council Member Calhoun asked about guidelines for coming into the City facilities. Mr. Potucek explained that staff is looking at the public coming into the lobby areas. The buildings themselves will not be totally opened to the public. Staff is taking this one step at a time because there is a cleaning supply issue and everybody getting used to being with each other, both the employees and the public. A gradual approach is being taken to reopening and hopefully within the next couple of weeks, as the numbers indicate, the City will be able to fully open the buildings and that is as long as there are sanitary supplies necessary to proceed.

Mr. Potucek stated that Cochise County is still at 43 cases, 38 out of isolation and down to five active cases. This helps to provide more confidence in terms of opening as well.

Mayor Mueller stated that the City is asking people when they come to the City facilities to practice social distancing and they are not required to wear masks, but if people feel

comfortable wearing them, they are more than welcome to do that. This also applies to the City employees.

Council Member Umphrey stated that it is good news to know that there are only five active cases in the County. Out of the 511 people that the County tested in Sierra Vista during the blitz, 509 were negative with two needing to be retested due to being inconclusive. Mr. Potucek added that there will be a blitz in Douglas during the weekend and he anticipates a few cases out of that, but the trends are very encouraging for Cochise County.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2020

[Item 2.2](#) Approval of the City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2020

[Item 2.3](#) Resolution 2020-020, Termination of Development Agreement concerning 2200 E Mercado Loop (Sierra Vista Mall)

Council Member Pacheco moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2020 and Resolution 2020-020, termination of a Development Agreement concerning 2200 E Mercado Loop, Sierra Vista Mall, be approved. 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.

New Business

[Item 3](#) Resolution 2020-021, Authorization to Accept Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Grants and Federal Resources, Arizona 9-1-1 Program (GFR Grant Number: GFR-ADOA-AZ911-21-001)

Council Member Wolfe moved that Resolution 2020-021, acceptance of the Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Grants and Federal Resources, Arizona 9-1-1 Program, GFR Grant Number GFR- ADOA-AZ911-21-001, be approved. Council Member Wolfe seconded the motion.

Ms. Papatrefon briefed the item.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

[Item 4](#) Resolution 2020-022, Supporting Fort Huachuca's Joint Resource Utilization Study

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2020-022, supporting Fort Huachuca's Joint Resource Utilization Study, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Mr. Boone briefed the item.

Council Member Calhoun asked who will be doing the study. Mr. Boone stated that they would be going out for a consultant. The bulk of the grant is for the study.

Council Member Pacheco asked if there are polices from the previous study done in the past being used in the new study. Mr. Boone stated that the study was done in 2007 and yes. Mayor

Mueller added that if there are companies using certain frequencies, they must get approval. There are a couple of things that have helped that were done in the past.

Council Member Calhoun asked if the document is online. Mr. McLachlan stated that it is, and it has been for a while.

Council Member Pacheco asked for the timeline in completing the improvements. Mr. McLachlan stated that it will be starting next fiscal year. Mayor Mueller added that some projects take up to two years.

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 2020-023, Authorization of Submission of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan to the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2020-023, submission of the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan to the United States Housing and Urban Development, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion.

Mr. McLachlan briefed the item.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

[Item 6](#) Resolution 2020-024, Approval of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for CARES Act funding

Mayor Pro Tem Gray moved that Resolution 2020-024, acceptance of the Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for CARES Act funding, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Flissar briefed the item.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Calhoun, Pacheco, Umphrey and Wolfe.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Umphrey gave kudos to Mr. Boone and Mr. Cline for their presentation on the business grant.

Council Member Calhoun had nothing to report.

Council Member Pacheco reported on the drive through COVID testing and gave kudos to Parks and Leisure for setting up the event in five days. She congratulated the high school graduates and wished happy birthday to her twin daughters.

Council Member Wolf had nothing to report.

Council Member Benning stated that he is proud of the senior graduates and wished a special congratulations to Class President, McKenna Hick, who is going to do great things at ASU.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray had nothing to report.

Mayor Mueller noted that he saw a Berean Academy car dolled up, which he thought was great, another reason to be thankful for the community in adverse times when they adapt and overcome. Coming up are the high school, Cochise College and the University graduations, mile stones in people's lives, and while it is regrettable that they cannot celebrate in the way that they would all like to celebrate, he wants to congratulate those folks that are enduring the situation and doing the best that they can and being recognized for their achievement. The achievement made is not lessened by the situation. There are a few buildings opening in the City and things that have happened with the Governor's announcement last week.

Mayor Mueller quoted one of his heroes, "We need to all realize this is not the beginning of the end of the crisis, it is the end of the beginning." There is still no vaccine for the virus and people need to still take the prudent steps to protect themselves, friends, loved ones, families through the next several months, even though numbers may go down. Until there is an actual vaccine and the most vulnerable vaccinated, that is the beginning of the end for the Coronavirus. The City is still in this game and the game will be played. Lastly, he asked people to continue to demonstrate the great patience that they have had with the situation, with each other and the caring attitude that they have had for the community. This shows the quality of folks in the community and that is another reason why the City will come out of this probably better than most communities in Arizona. He thanked the citizens for their efforts, concerns and caring for their fellow citizens.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the May 14, 2020 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:30 p.m.