



Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
June 11, 2020

Mayor Mueller called the June 11, 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
David Felix, Finance Manager
Nathan Williams, City Attorney
Jill Adams, City Clerk

Council Member Benning stated that Frank Escobar, Jr was a great friend, who died a year ago. His mother ran the Chamber and did a lot of things for the community and her husband served as a Council Members. He asked for a moment of silence for the Escobar family.

Invocation – Pastor Greg Rowles, God is Good Church, conducted the invocation.

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 June 11, 2020 be approved as written. seconded the motion.

Mayor Mueller requested to remove item five from the agenda because the Clerk will need time to ensure that there is one document that has a section for each, nonregulatory and regulatory commissions. Currently the way that the document is written may cause confusion.

Council Member Benning moved that item five be removed from the Agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of June 11, 2020 and be approved as amended. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a 6/0 vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Umphrey, Pacheco, Wolfe, and Calhoun.

The motion to accept the amended agenda passed by a 6/0 vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Umphrey, Pacheco, Wolfe, and Calhoun.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the budget work sessions will begin on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. If necessary, work sessions are scheduled for June 17 and 18, 2020, also at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He reported that the May sales tax revenue have been considerable giving the budget situation. The HURF revenues for May were \$239,000, lowest monthly amount since November 2016. It is \$93,000 less than the July through April monthly average of \$232,000, which clearly indicates that people have not been driving in the State and hopefully that number will start picking up. The overall April transaction privilege taxes are down \$50,000 or 2.9 percent from last April, like the loss experienced in March. The hotel, restaurant and bar taxes were the ones that took the biggest hits, but the actual retail sales tax revenues were up.

Mr. Boone and Mr. Cline received 24 business applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. There were 14 applicants that did not qualify or follow through with the application process. Nine qualified as micro enterprises requesting \$66,050 and four that qualified as special economic development grants for \$40,000. Total requests out of the \$120,000 that Council set aside for the program were \$106,050, leaving about \$13,500. There were three business owners withdraw during the process and one did not complete the application process after being self-certified. There is an issue in that seven of the applicants have already received PPP funds from the federal government and a determination needs to be made as to whether it is appropriate for them to receive the CDBG funds. Also, the first \$9,000 check was cut to United Way for the social service portion of the program.

There are now 165 confirmed cases in Cochise County, 82 recoveries, five deaths and 78 active cases, with many of these cases occurring in the Douglas area, the area where more testing has been currently focused on. An uptick is being seen in the numbers. Governor Ducey held another press conference regarding things occurring statewide, mostly focusing on the hospital issues that have been in the news. Governor Ducey stated that there is adequate capacity in the hospitals at this point in time around the state, but he is concerned about the uptick in cases and did not give an indication as to moving into Phase II of the reopening process. The State is still under Phase I and the City will be as well and start with its gradual reopening process on Monday, June 15, 2020 with the following facilities:

- Transit building with fares being collected
- City Hall lobby
- Ethel Berger
- Cove for lap swimming

The Oscar Yrun Community Center will not reopen due to a project going on in its lobby, which will reopen as soon as the project is done. The City will be reopening on a gradual basis given the situation both statewide and Cochise County. Lastly, the City will be releasing on its web site and Facebook page a podcast on Friday, June 12, 2020 featuring Police Chief Thrasher, who will be talking about policing in Sierra Vista.

In response to Council Member Benning, Mr. Potucek stated that retail sales were up \$125,000 that included online sales, a 12 percent increase over last April. The actual online sales tax revenues were up \$76,000.

Council Member Benning asked if the bathrooms are open at the park. Mr. Potucek stated that only one restroom is open.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray asked Mr. Potucek if he is confident about keeping flat the numbers in the budget going forward. Mr. Potucek stated that he is confident.

Council Member Umphrey asked where the remaining \$13,500 of the CDBG funds get applied. Mr. Potucek stated that there are a couple of choices that staff will be looking at to recommend to Council. The program will have to reopen for the \$13,000 if Council wants to extend the program to the businesses and re-advertise. The \$13,000 is a small amount for that program, but Council could reprogram that to the social service side. Mayor Mueller noted that this would be a Council decision.

Mayor Mueller stated that the City has not yet received the CDBG Cares funds for the business portion of the loan, but there was a breakthrough in talking directly to the federal government versus the State and HUD. There was a computer issue that has been resolved and the City should be receiving the funding soon. Mr. Potucek stated that he has asked staff to start sending the money out to the businesses on Friday, June 12, 2020, which will be fronted out of the City's funds. He added that he feels confident in that the City will be reimbursed.

Public Hearing – Mayor Mueller noted that this is only a public hearing process, and that no action is required by Council. There was no response.

Item 2 Land Use Assumptions and Infrastructure Improvement Plan for the updated Development Fees

New Business

Item 3 Resolution 2020-029, Designation of David Felix as Authorized Agent for Arizona Department of Emergency and Medical Affairs (DEMA) Reimbursements

Council Member Wolfe I moved that Resolution 2020-029, designation of David Felix as the authorized agent for the Arizona Department of Emergency and Medical Affairs reimbursements, be approved. seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6/0 vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Umphrey, Pacheco, Wolfe, and Calhoun.

Item 4 Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2020

Council Member Calhoun moved that the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2020, be approved. seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6/0 vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Umphrey, Pacheco, Wolfe, and Calhoun.

Item 5 Resolution 2020-030, Amendment of City Board and Commission Guidelines – removed from the agenda.

Item 6 Resolution 2020-031, Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District to operate the Southeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (SEALETA)

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2020-031, an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District to operate the Southeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training

Academy, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6/0 vote of Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Umphrey, Pacheco, Wolfe, and Calhoun.

Call to the Public

Dr. Joseph Patterson stated that he loves the community and thanked Police Chief Thrasher and officers.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Benning thanked Dr. Patterson and stated that he also loves the community. He stated that he has been saddened, disappointed, and upset with the community, not in public or where he goes, but with social media because the hate is crazy. This needs to stop, people need to think about what they want to say, leaving a bad impression on the community that must be together as one. It goes more than hearing each other. People must listen to each other and remember who they are. The community is diverse, and everyone must respect each other.

Council Member Umphrey stated that it is an honor and privilege to serve the community, especially in facing local, state, and national challenges that require collaboration and informed leadership due to COVID or widespread and continuous reports of police brutality, the recent deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. She further stated that she believes that Sierra Vista has the best police force that was reaffirmed by recent events in Sierra Vista, online and in the streets with the recent march, Black Lives Matter. She thanked the community, local businesses, the NAACP, Mayor, Council and Police Chief Thrasher and noted that she looks forward to discussion on the City's police procedures (statement on file with the City Clerk).

Council Member Pacheco stated that she participated in the protest that took place from the Sierra Vista Mall to the Police Station last week, which made her proud of the City, its' police force, businesses and the community. During the march there was no unrest nor violence and people peacefully sat on the lawn in front of City Hall, which was very powerful. Lastly, she thanked Police Chief Thrasher and stated that when a PR move is made, even if it is not in the City, it is good professional practice to use those examples of misconduct of any kind and conduct review and prevent those things from happening and making changes. Lastly, she stated that she has also read the ugliness online and is also disappointed because there was a lot of beautiful things happening too.

Council Member Wolfe stated that currently there is an absence of compassion and empathy in the country that has manifested itself in Minneapolis, Louisville, Indianapolis, and other large cities. She added that she has yet to see the Governor respond with any meaningful dialogue about the injustice and horrific murder of George Floyd; however she has seen a lot from the local community, Mayor Mueller and Council Members, the local NAACP Chapter and the local Police Department. She commended Police Chief Thrasher in continuing to provide information to Council regarding police training, de-escalation, and his willingness to have conversations about how the community can be made even better. (statement on file with the City Clerk).

Council Member Calhoun thanked Spencer Couturier and Ciera Clay for organizing successful marches and events for Black Lives Matter, she thanked all the people who supported the marches and took the opportunity to express their outrage at the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others. She stated that although Sierra Vista is removed physically

from the sites of those murders, Sierra Vista is not removed emotionally, and are sensitive to the need to support change to a nationwide system that allows and condones these heinous murders. She encouraged people to begin meaningful conversations with each other and to make an effort to understand the nationwide call to action to help change the way black men and women are viewed in America (statement on file with the City Clerk).

Mayor Pro Tem Gray thanked Dr. Patterson for his comments and noted that she agrees in that there is no better place to live than in Sierra Vista, Arizona. She also echoed many of the statements made by Council Members and stated that during the marches, many people commented to her that they were surprised at the peacefulness and her response was that she expected no less from the community. Everything that happened was exactly what she expected out of the great City of Sierra Vista. She also thanked Police Chief Thrasher and Commander Boutte for their involvement and leadership. Lastly, she offered her condolences to the Kennedy family and thanked Mr. Kennedy for his service to the community.

Mayor Mueller voiced his appreciation at Council's eloquent works and heartfelt concerns. He added that he looks forward to working with Council to make the community better. He further added that piece by piece and together, they will get the City, County, State and Country, but it is going to take time and there has to be determination in their efforts to do that. Lastly, he encouraged people to thank their father on Father's Day because it is a little late for some.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the June 11, 2020 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:54 p.m.