



Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
[March 25, 2021](#)

Mayor Mueller called the March 25, 2021 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 – present
Council Member William Benning – present
Council Member Gregory Johnson - present
Council Member Angelica Landry – present
Council Member Sarah Pacheco – present (5:07 p.m.)
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey - present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney

Invocation – Council Member Johnson led everyone present in prayer.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Gray moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of March 25, 2021 be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, and Umphrey voting in favor.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council Work Session is scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, and the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. also in Council Chambers. He reported that KE&G in the amount of \$817,777.96 was awarded the Street Maintenance and Pavement Patching, Crack and Sand Seal Project. Construction has begun on the CDBG Soldier Creek Park and James Landwehr Plaza Improvements that is expected to be completed by April 15, 2021. Grail Construction has submitted their design documents to the Building Department for the Police Department Locker Room Remodel. Construction has an anticipated start date of April 2021. Construction for the State Parks Grant for the St. Andrews Parking Lot is wrapping up and should be completed within the next two weeks. The parking lot is open to the public and the next grant application for up to \$150,000 will be submitted by the end of this month. Lastly, he stated that with the Governor lifting

COVID restrictions, City facilities will be opening on March 29, 2021. There are a few restrictions pertaining to Transit and the Cove due to staffing shortages and federal requirements from the Federal Transportation Administration. The exceptions will be posted on the City's website in a press release regarding the opening of City facilities in a safe manner. He thanked the community for their forbearance during this time, noted that the community has performed well as well as the employees and noted that most of the employees that have wanted to be vaccinated, have done so.

Public Hearing:

[Item 2](#) Resolution 2021-018, an owner/location transfer of a Series 6 Limited Liability-type Liquor License for Jeffrey Dishoun Mack on behalf of Chill Factor Hookah Lounge LLC, 833 E Fry Boulevard #D, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2021-018, an owner/location transfer of a Series 6 Limited Liability-type Liquor License for Jeffrey Dishoun Mack on behalf of Chill Factor Hookah Lounge LLC, 833 E Fry Boulevard #D, Sierra Vista, Arizona, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that this application is for a Series 6, bar liquor license, for the Jeffrey Mack. The notice of the public hearing was posted on the facility over the required 20-day period, and no comments have been received from the public pro or con. The Police Department did the required background check and have no objection to this moving forward. If approved by Council, it will be forwarded back to the State Department of Liquor for final action.

In response to Mayor Mueller, Mr. Mack had no additional information to share.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, and Umphrey voting in favor.

New Business:

[Item 3](#) Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021

Council Member Benning moved that the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Johnson had nothing to report.

Council Member Umphrey had nothing to report.

Council Member Landry stated that at the beginning of the week, Council had their strategic planning, which was a great opportunity in getting to know everybody in the City. She announced that the Salvation Army does food distributions throughout the month, first and second Tuesdays at the main Salvation Army Center. The first Tuesday of the month it is in

Hereford and the third Friday is in Huachuca City and volunteers are welcomed. The Salvation Army also has a virtual kid's culinary program opened to 17 years old and younger, supplies are provided. She also announced the Spaghetti Dinner on April 10, 2021 at the Landmark Café to support the Animal Shelter for \$10 a ticket.

Mayor Mueller thanked Council Member Landry for her announcement and stated that as a board member of the Salvation Army, he can vouch that it is a lot of fun to participate in their food distribution program. It takes place early in the morning, it goes fast, and it is well organized.

Council Member Benning thanked Council Member Johnson for his blessings, voiced his appreciation and stated that he believes that the strategic planning ran well, and noted that the collaboration between staff and Council was focused. He further stated that he went out to Soldier Creek Park and shared that it is looking good. The east side is being worked on with bricks, etc. In closing, he congratulated Mr. Mack and thanked him for investing in Sierra Vista.

Council Member Pacheco stated that even though the mask mandate is down, she encourages people to be precautious and if not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccinations are now open to everyone age 16 and older. She shared that she has two 17-year-olds, and they were able to schedule at a State-run site in Pima County because they cannot get vaccinated in Cochise County yet because the Moderna, Johnson and Johnson vaccines are not available for people under the age of 18. Lastly, she stated that the University of Arizona will be open to anyone starting at 11:00 a.m. to provide the vaccine as there are 12,000 available.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray stated that the Spaghetti Dinner on April 10, 2021 is being called the Spayghetti Dinner, announced that Kathy Buonocore and Jane Strain, two long term volunteers of the Friends of the Sierra Vista Animal Shelter, are leaving the Friends Order because they have been doing it for a long time. She thanked them for their service and noted that it is a great loss. She stated that she is looking forward to seeing the final project after the strategic planning session. She added that she believes that it is a robust, aggressive plan that is going to stretch the City and make everyone work to achieve the goals that Council has designed. Lastly, she stated that she has belief that staff can accomplish it.

Mayor Mueller thanked staff for their participation during the strategic planning, a yearly critical technique to move the community forward. He voiced his appreciation at Council and staff for sharing their ideas and not being afraid to speak up and stating what they believe because it led to good discussion that leads to a better plan. He announced that Sunday, March 21, 2021 is Palm Sunday and asked people to be careful on their celebrations. He noted that Passover also starts during that week and encouraged people to compliment and support their Jewish friends in their religious activities. Easter is also forthcoming, a great time of year if the snow and wind die down so that it can be nothing but flowers and beauty for the next 10 days.

Mayor Mueller shared an email that he received by a community member that does not reside in Sierra Vista who received a solicitation from a group that is running a petition to get the Governor to ban sanctuary cities. In the solicitation, they imply that Sierra Vista was considering becoming a sanctuary city, and that donations were needed for the cause to prevent it. He noted that during the strategic planning, the term "sanctuary city" did not come up; therefore, he advised people that when they see something out of the ordinary or strange, to take a minute and talk to someone who knows what is going on before writing a check or something else that may be regretted. He added that he is not stating that this is not a valid issue that these people are working on, but there are folks that will bend the truth, which is usually some type of scam.

Mayor Mueller stated that this morning he had just signed an order to suspend the emergency declaration on masks with a press release ready; however, the Governor had a news conference at 9:00 a.m., which meant that the emergency declaration and press release would have to be rewritten. The emergency declaration, now a rescission was read into the record that cleared up the Governor's Order, last paragraph that applies to the mask orders for cities (on file with the City Clerk). Lastly, he stated that people still need to make sure that they get vaccinated, to build up herd immunity. Vaccines are available and will continue to be available for the next several months. He thanked people for their indulgence during the last several months.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the March 25, 2021 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:20 p.m.

Mayor Frederick W. Mueller

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

ATTEST:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk

RESCISSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION
(Dated 26 June 2020)

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic conditions throughout the State of Arizona, Cochise County and the Greater Sierra Vista area have shown significant improvement since the Emergency Declaration regarding the use of face coverings within the City of Sierra Vista issued by the Mayor of Sierra Vista on June 26, 2020 (the "Emergency Declaration"); and

WHEREAS, the positive actions of the good Citizens and Businesses in the Sierra Vista area, to take care of their families, friends, and neighbors by following the Emergency Declaration, have resulted in significantly reducing the number of local COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Sierra Vista community have clearly demonstrated their understanding of the CDC and State Health Department Guidelines by the proper wearing of face coverings in public and continuing to follow proper social distancing guidelines; and

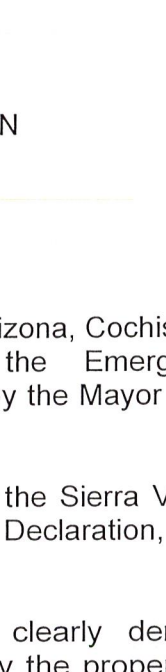
NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared that the Emergency Declaration issued on June 26, 2020 is rescinded, effective March 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RECOMMENDED:

The following guidelines are recommended to all persons located within the City of Sierra Vista:

- A. While in the City of Sierra Vista, every person is strongly encouraged to follow CDC and State of Arizona COVID-19 Guidelines when in public.
- B. While in the City of Sierra Vista, every person is strongly encouraged to follow the social distancing and requirements regarding the wearing of face coverings issued by respective Commercial Establishments, Government Facilities, Schools, Institutions of Higher Learning, Child Care Centers, Not for Profit Organizations and Houses of Worship.

DATED this 25th day of March 2021


Frederick W. Mueller, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jill Adams, City Clerk

