



Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
[April 8, 2021](#)

Mayor Mueller called the April 8, 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
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey - present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Jeff Pregler, Planner
Laura Wilson, Leisure and Library Services Director
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney

Invocation – Reverend Chuck Carlson, Sierra Vista Community Church, conducted the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – Council Member Landry 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 8, 2021 be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Awards and Presentations

A Proclamation declaring April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month was presented to Corporal Boltinghouse.

A Proclamation declaring April 2021 as Fair Housing Month was presented to Mr. McLachlan.

City Manager's Report: City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council Work Session is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, and two items of interest will be a discussion on the draft Strategic Plan and

the second budget work session primarily dealing with personnel costs. The next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. also in Council Chambers. He reported that at long last North Garden Avenue/Fry Boulevard Improvements Phase I Project had its invitation to bid on April 2, 2021 with a pre-bid meeting on April 14, 2021. Bids are due on April 30, 2021 and staff will be anxious to see how those turn out. The Apron and Taxiway J Rehabilitation Project was awarded to the lowest bidder, J. Banicki Construction Inc. that is awaiting FAA approval. In terms of funding there is good news from FAA. The Street Maintenance/Pavement Patching, Crack and Sand Seal kick-off meeting was held on April 7, 2021, and construction is expected to be completed by June 15, 2021. The CDBG Soldier Creek Park and James Landwehr Plaza Improvements construction has begun and is expected to be completed by April 15, 2021, former Tax Day. The Police Department Locker Room Remodel is anticipated to start on April 2021 as Grail Construction has submitted their design documents to the Building Department. Lastly, he reported that during the morning, he attended the SEACOM Board meeting, where the primary discussion involved the budget, and there should be a stable if not lesser budget for the next fiscal year in terms of the City's share.

Mayor Mueller stated that the CDBG project is last year's and asked about the projects that were discussed two meetings ago. Mr. McLachlan stated that the draft Annual Action Plan will be presented to Council on April 22, 2021 and following that presentation, there will be a 30-day public comment period with the final draft to be presented on May 27, 2021. Mr. Potucek stated that staff has been working on this and he believes that there is a solution to accommodate all that was discussed by Council at the last meeting.

New Business

Item 2 Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2021

Council Member Johnson moved that the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2021, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Item 3 Resolution 2021-020, Application for a Permanent Extension of Premises/Patio Permit for Michael H Appleton on behalf of A and T Taproom dba Bone Dry Taphouse

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2021-020, application for a permanent Extension of Premises/Patio Permit for Michael H Appleton on behalf of A and T Taproom dba Bone Dry Taphouse, be approved. Council Member Pacheco seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Item 4 Ordinance 2021-003, Adoption of Development Code Text Amendment, Reasonable Modifications, Sections 151.02.004, Definitions, and 151.06.011, Reasonable Modification

Mayor Pro Tem Gray moved that Ordinance 2021-003, Development Code Text Amendment, Reasonable Modifications, Sections 151.02.004, Definitions, and 151.06.011, Reasonable Modification, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Item 5 Ordinance 2021-004, Adoption of Development Code Text Amendment, Public Hearing Process, Articles 151.26, Conditional Use Permits and Article 151.31, Amendments

Mayor Pro Tem Gray moved that Ordinance 2021-004, Development Code Text Amendment, Public Hearing Process, Articles 151.26, Conditional Use Permits and Article 151.31, Amendments, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Item 6 Resolution 2021-021, Dedication of Veterans Sports Complex Football Field to Keith Hampton

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2021-021, dedication of Veterans Sports Complex Football Field to Keith Hampton, 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 Pacheco, voting in favor. Council Member Umphrey not present.

Item 7 Resolution 2021-022, Restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2021-022, restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing in Sierra Vista, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Pacheco, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Landry asked people who drink out of a can, to save the cans for the Animal Shelter because they take those and recycle them as well the tabs, separated from the can. She announced the Sierra Vista Open scheduled for May 14 through 16, 2021 that is run by the Huachucans. She added that there are a few spots for the individual net play, Saturday, and Sunday. The proceeds go back into the community to help the local youth and sports. Lastly, she stated that for those people that do not want to play, they have raffles that they can participate in.

Mayor Mueller stated that other charitable organizations participate in the raffle and they get a portion of the sales so that they can do their good work too, a win-win for the community.

Council Member Pacheco stated that Tuesday, April 6, 2021 was Arizona Gives Day and encouraged people to donate to a local nonprofit in town, worth supporting and charitable donations. She added that for ideas for nonprofits, Arizona Gives has a list of nonprofits. She thanked Corporal Boltinghouse for his presentation on an important topic. She thanked the Police Department on their continued efforts in sharing resources with the community on sexual assault awareness and domestic violence awareness. She shared that she attended a couple of years ago a presentation by Lory Burdick, Take Back the Night event, usually held during this month at Cochise College. The event could not be held last year not this year due to COVID, but the focus is on sharing sexual assaults resources with their student population and with vulnerable populations on their campus. During the presentation, it was stated that if one wants to make a difference in either domestic violence or sexual assault awareness, something one

can do is to start by believing. If someone has been approached and has had a story shared with them because they trusted and chose you as their confidant, which is hard, the first thing is to start by believing them before questioning. This is something that Ms. Burdick said that she was trying to work on with the Police Department.

Council Member Johnson announced that Chief Thrasher and the Police Department have been reaccredited with the CALEA accreditation, the highest standards in law enforcement. He shared that he has been volunteering with the Police Department for seven years in the evidence room and he is very proud of the men and women that are serving the public and keeping everyone safe.

Council Member Umphrey announced that the Spaghetti Dinner at the Landmark Café is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2021. The Friends of the Sierra Vista Animal Shelter are raising money for the Animal Shelter and tickets for \$10 are still available on their Facebook page. She shared that April 10, 2021 is her husband's birthday, who happens to be on their board so they will celebrate at the Landmark Café. Lastly, she wished him a happy birthday.

Council Member Benning stated that with restrictions lifting, and places opening back up, there is a lot more travel. He noted that on his way back from work, there was a fatal accident and so he wants the people of Sierra Vista to be careful, vigilant and take the time to know where it is they are going, pack what they need, and to be safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray recognized Melanie Edwards Barton, Sierra Vista Chamber Director, and announced that the Chamber had their annual meeting on Facebook. Their presentation noted that they are starting to do events, i.e., Good Morning Sierra Vista, their annual meetings, MAC lunches, etc., which is great as they always share important information with the community. In closing, she shared a story about a conversation going on about police departments in general, lack of training that sometimes creates lack of good behavior, and how community policing is not always seen in the community. During this discussion, there was a citizen present, who was not a believer of the Police Department until she attended a presentation to Council by Police Chief Thrasher on the training and all the community policing that is done. This citizen turned out to be the biggest advocate for the Police Department. In the past she had participated in negative conversations, but during this conversation, she told everyone that she thought the same things, but after hearing Police Chief Thrasher and seeing the police officers out at the vigils/marches etc., she is a believer in the Police Department on how well they do.

Mayor Mueller congratulated Police Chief Thrasher on the third CALEA achievement that reflects well on his leadership as well as his men and women. He stated that he hopes that everyone had a happy Easter and Passover, especially in coming out of COVID. He reminded everyone that there are CDC guidelines on masking, spacing, hygiene, etc. because those guidelines need to be followed. He encouraged everyone to get their immunizations that are available, one shot or two shots, so that the community can get the herd immunity. Lastly, he stated that for those in Arizona that must pay taxes on their income, the extension has been made to May 17, 2021 to file and is the same as the federal government.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the April 8, 2021 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:38 p.m.