

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

Mayor Mueller called the July 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 Mark Rodriguez- present
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey - present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Chris Hiser, Commander, Police Department
Laura Wilson, Parks, Recreation and Library Director
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Mike Cline, SEACOM Director
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Jill Adams, City Clerk

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

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Benning moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of July 8, 2021, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the City Council Work Session on July 20, 2021, and Council Meeting on July 22, 2021, have been cancelled because he and Ms. Yarbrough will be out of town and there does not appear to be any items for those meetings, but there is a Special Meeting scheduled for July 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers that will entail the vote on the final budget. He reported that the North Garden Avenue/Fry Boulevard Improvements Phase I Rebid had its initial bids coming in high, so it was determined to go back out to bid, which turned out successfully. The new bids came in within budget from KE&G and that project will begin on July 19, 2021, with estimated completion before Christmas. Staff is in the process of informing all the businesspeople along Fry Boulevard and will continue to work with them throughout the construction. The Airport's sign that has been discussed was awarded to High Desert Sign, and the fabrication process takes about eight weeks; therefore, estimated

completion of the project is by the end of August. The Apron and Taxiway J Rehabilitation Project that was awarded to J. Banicki Construction Inc. is expected to begin most of the construction in late July or early August, after the fire season. The EMS Substation Design-Build is a project that is being watched closely because of the cost and grant associated with it. Staff is estimating those prices to come in on August 6, 2021, and construction is estimated to begin the later part of August with completion by the end of February. Lastly, he reported on the SEACOM JPA Board Meeting where it was agreed upon engaging in a strategic planning process much like the Council does, and set some goals for Mr. Cline to include staffing and recruitment, policies, ideas which are always going to be an issue with hiring at SEACOM, an update of the intergovernmental agreement, bylaws, funding formula for subscribers and putting together a longer term financial plan that will find SEACOM operating on its own.

New Business

[Item 2](#) Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2021

Council Member Rodriguez moved that the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 24, 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, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

[Item 3](#) Resolution 2021-049, Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with Cochise County for Court Co-location and Operations through June 30, 2022

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2021-049, amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Cochise County for Court co-location and operations through June 30, 2022, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Benning, Landry, Johnson, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

[Item 4](#) Resolution 2021-050, Judicial Services Contract with Kenneth J. Curfman, Justice of the Peace, Precinct V

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2021-050, Judicial Services Contract with Kenneth J. Curfman, Justice of the Peace, Precinct V, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4/3. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray and Council Members Landry, and Umphrey voting in favor. Council Members Benning, Johnson, and Rodriguez casting the dissenting votes.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Johnson had nothing to report.

Council Member Benning thanked his sister and niece for visiting him, council members, because even though they do not always agree, they know that they must do the right thing for the city, and it is hard. He added that he met some great firemen during the weekend and noted that one of the big pushes being done is increasing their pay because all the security services, fire, EMS, and police officers are about \$10,000 to \$15,000 below the going rate. He further added that he would like to see money pushed towards this than to other things. Lastly, he thanked everyone for the birthday wishes and for allowing him to be on the dais representing them.

Council Member Rodriguez had nothing to report.

Council Member Landry wished a happy birthday to Council Member Benning and announced that on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. is the Christmas in July Bazar at the Ethel Berger Center where there will be various options for people to check out. From 10:00 a.m. until noon will be the 24th annual Back to School Fair at the Sierra Vista Mall. It provides information about educational opportunities for learners and a variety of family services. There is Pre-K to 12 schools, colleges, and universities as well as information on after school programs, and hot dogs and refreshments.

Council Member Umphrey wished Council Member Benning a happy birthday and welcomed his family who is visiting, thanked Council Members for the frank/spirited discussion during the work session, and she respects everyone's comments and appreciate how well thought and effort was put into the decision made. Lastly, she thanked the Rotary and all sponsors for the fireworks, which were amazing on July 4, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray wished Council Member Benning a happy birthday and congratulated Mr. Cline on his new position and stated that the July 4 events were amazing. Lastly, she announced that Good Morning Sierra Vista will be on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. at Cochise College where they will have a panel/real estate focused. Ms. Edwards Barton with the Chamber of Commerce stated that there will be a panel discussion that is going to include a local broker, local restaurant owner as well as a local hardware store owner and a nonprofit to talk about how they entered COVID, challenges and how they succeeded and what they are looking forward to in the future.

Call to the public – there was no response.

Mayor Mueller thanked staff regarding the preparation of the items, it represents a lot of work and they answered tough questions by Council and did that in a professional manner, which he appreciates. He also thanked everyone in the community for a safe July 4, 2021 in a very dry situation. He thanked the Sierra Vista Rotary Club, Fort Huachuca, Kiwanis, city staff, and many others for making July 4, 2021 special. He announced that the next meeting will be a at 4:30 p.m. on July 20, 2021 for approval of the budget. He noted that the date and time is different for those members of the public that may want to attend and comment. In closing, he welcomed Council Member Benning's visitors from Virginia.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the July 8, 2021, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:47 p.m.