

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
[March 24, 2022](#)

Mayor Mueller called the March 24, 2022, 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
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief
Brian Jones, Fire Chief
Irene Zuniga, Engineer
Laura Wilson, Parks, Recreation, and Library Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Irene Zuniga, Engineer
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager

Invocation – Michael Sanders, Village Meadows Church, led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Mayor Pro Tem Gray 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 March 24, 2022, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that the next regularly scheduled work session is on April 12, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and at that time the budget process will begin, and on April 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. also in the Council Chambers. He reported that last week he attended the Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting for SEACOM where the primary order of business was a six-month review for the new director, Mr. Klein, which was done in an Executive Session. One of the things that came out of that, which will be public, is to have Mr. Klein do an executive report like what staff does for Council. This report will also be included in Council's Executive Report so that Council may know more about what is going on at SEACOM. He also reported that the hiring process at SEACOM is doing better and SEACOM is better staffed, and there are more people in the pipeline. The National Guard idea seems to be working well.

Mayor Mueller asked about the length of time that the City will have the support of the National Guard. Mr. Potucek stated that they run through the end of the calendar year, and SEACOM is hoping to get an extension. He added that the Commanding General visited last week and was very impressed with the operation and what was going on with the troops.

Mr. Potucek stated that the other projects going on include the Annual Street Maintenance Project that was awarded KE&G; therefore, there will be some patching and sealing going on at various locations around town, which should be completed by June 15, 2022. The CDBG Cyr Center Parking Lot Project was also awarded to KE&G and is also scheduled to be completed by June 15, 2022. The Avenida Escuela Extension and Charleston Road Pavement Replacement Project was also awarded to KE&G and is also slated to be completed by June 15, 2022. KE&G has assured the City that they have enough workers to finish all projects by June. The Municipal Airport Redevelopment Project, the removal of Mount Dooley, is almost done and should be finished by next week according to Mr. Boone, and the West Fry Boulevard Improvements Project is almost finished. However, there is a final overlay and stripping that needs to be done because the weather needs me warmer to finish that. Lastly, he presented a slide of the Sierra Vista Municipal Airport sign. There is going to be a little more work to do, but it is up and should be completed by next week.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-014, 226 N 2nd Street Pre-Annexation Agreement

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-015, 218 N 1st Street Pre-Annexation Agreement

Council Member Johnson moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022, Resolution 2022-014, 226 N 2nd Street Pre-Annexation Agreement, and Resolution 2022-015, 218 N 1st Street Pre-Annexation Agreement, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

New Business

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-016, One 10-foot-wide Utility Easement for Arizona Water along the southwest edge of the new Emergency Medical Services Substation Site along Buffalo Soldier Trail

Council Member Umphrey moved that Resolution 2022-016, One 10-foot-wide Utility Easement for Arizona Water along the southwest edge of the new Emergency Medical Services Substation Site along Buffalo Soldier Trail, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Gray seconded the motion.

Ms. Zuniga stated that Arizona Water requested a ten-foot utility easement along Buffalo Soldier Trail adjacent to an existing easement to accommodate the new water tap and meter for the purpose of supplying water to the new Emergency Medical Services Sub Station currently under construction. The City will maintain prior rights and if improvements are needed to the site at some later time, Arizona Water would be required to move the line at their cost.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Gray, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voting in favor.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Umphrey wished Ms. Connie Johnson well, who resigned from the Sierra Vista Unified Governing School Board. She added that everyone is grateful for her service, and she wished the Sierra Vista Unified Governing School Board luck in finding someone to fill her seat. She also stated that she hopes to see people at the Men Who Cook event on Saturday, March 26, 2022 that supports the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra. She further stated that the City is extremely lucky to have the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra, especially one of this caliber. Lastly, she welcomed the people that are visiting for the Tour De Zone, and she hopes that they have fun and are safe.

Mayor Mueller also thanked Ms. Johnson for her long-time service with the School Board and he hopes that she is well.

Council Member Landry also welcomed everyone that is in town for the Tour De Zona and stated that she looks forward to future ones. She noted that there will be a lot of people cycling in the area, which will be very exciting, and she hopes that everyone has a great time and stays safe. She announced that on Saturday, March 26, 2022 there will be a Spring Bizarre and car show at the mall. This event starts at 9:00 a.m. There is also a shred-a-thon going on that will start at 10:00 a.m. at the mall.

Council Member Johnson stated that he had mentioned before during a City Council Meeting his concerns about safety on the City's streets due to the load drivers picking up in illegal immigrants from the border. He added that he is glad to see that the City is involved with the Safe Streets Task Force Program, which is a joint venture between the Sheriff Department, Border Patrol, City of Sierra Vista, County Attorney, DPS, Homeland Security Investigations. He added that the Program seems to be interdicting some of the knuckleheads that are trying this and hopefully it will continue and keep the City's streets safe.

Council Member Benning also welcomed everyone that is in town for the Tour De Zona and announced that Veterans' Memorial Park is open for riders and their RVs, tents, etc. that are rolling in on Friday, March 25, 2022. He added that although it may look like the park has been overtaken, it is all planned, and people should not worry. On Saturday, March 26, 2022, the riders will be going out between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m., the beer garden and food trucks will be at Veterans' Memorial Park as well as Tom Walbank, and other bands playing at the band shell up until 10:00 p.m. On Sunday, March 27, 2022, the beer garden, and food trucks will be gone followed by the departure of all the riders along with their RVs, tents, etc. because the campground will be closing around 4:00 p.m. This should be a good event as there will be a lot of people in Sierra Vista, almost 700 participants (a little under 20 percent from Sierra Vista).

In response to Mayor Mueller, Ms. Wilson stated that the parking situation will be like the Oktoberfest where the area next to Veterans' Memorial Park will be available, i.e., the old Apache Middle School area, across the street at the banks, Walmart, and Lowe's, and Ace's Hardware, which have all been notified. She added that next year, the extension of Avenida Escuela will help immensely because there will be a walkway strait across.

Mayor Mueller voiced his concern in that this is a big event and folks need to know where to park and noted that the banks will probably not want people parking in their parking lots if it is during their business hours.

Council Member Rodriguez stated to the public that Council does read their emails. There has been a common email regarding the trash and sewer bills in the City. There was an upgrade to the City's system, which just unfortunately ended up being a downgrade. He noted that people can still phone in or come into City Hall to pay their bill if for whatever reason the system is not working. Staff are working hard to fix that as they are dealing with the problem themselves. He further stated that the City has beautiful parks and he requested that everyone look after their dogs as this is a problem that he has seen a lot. Every time he goes out to the park, he talks to people that are out there and suggested that perhaps the City could install more doggy bags. It will be more work for the City's employees to keep the bags stocked. In closing, he welcomed the new Circle K that is opening down south of Highway 92, and announced the Fire Fighter's Banquet on Saturday, March 26, 2022, honoring some great people.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray had nothing to report.

Mayor Mueller stated that Wednesday, March 23, 2022, was National Puppy Day and announced that there are friends available for adoption at the Brua Animal Control Center. He further stated that his concern with any event is always safety. The City has 700 plus folks coming to the City and riding bicycles at different times, and hopefully when they are in a big group it will be early in the morning when there is not a lot of traffic, and it will spread out through the day as they go through their routes. There are orange bicycle sings around town and notice that there is something going on between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., which means that this is the area where the riders will be. If people normally travel these areas, they will probably see bicyclists. He asked please to please be friendly, cautious, and to watch out for themselves, pedestrians, and bicyclists, to have a safe event. The Police and Parks Department has worked very diligently to make sure that there is a safe and fun event during the weekend. Lastly, he announced that on March 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at Veterans' Memorial Park, there will be a ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans, and on April 2, 2022, at Cal Ranch there will be a Cars for Kids event that supports the Boys and Girls Club.

Council Member Rodriguez announced that the Farmer's Market will be back next week. They suspended their activity during the week for the Tour De Zona.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the March 24, 2022 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:20 p.m.