

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minute summary of the regular meeting of the City Council of Sierra Vista held on the 13TH day of January 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10TH day of February 2022

SEAL



Maria G. Marsh
Deputy City Clerk



Jill Adams
City Clerk

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022

Mayor Mueller called the January 13, 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
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief
Brad Dever, Deputy Fire Chief
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Laura Wilson, Parks, Recreation and Library Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Irene Zuniga, Capital Improvements and Development Manager
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst
David Felix, Chief Finance Officer
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Jill Adams, City Clerk

Invocation – Pastor Chuck Carlson, Sierra Vista Community Church, led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council Member Benning 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 January 13, 2022, 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.

Awards and Presentations

Mayor Mueller read a Proclamation declaring January 17, 2022, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and presented it to Reverend McCaw and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Reverend McCaw voiced his appreciation for the proclamation and stated that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will not have a parade this year in Sierra Vista because Martin Luther King, III will be in the state; therefore, they are going to be in Phoenix to participate in a march with him on Saturday, January 15, 2022 and Monday, January 17, 2022. However, Sierra Vista citizens can provide a day of service on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. by joining the NAACP youth along with PPEP TEC High School students with their cleanup of Martin Luther King Boulevard next to the park

Presentation: Retirement of Series 2017 Bonds - Mr. Potucek stated it is not very often that Council gets to do something like this, but it is a matter of historical significance for the community. He explained that earlier in the month, Mr. Felix, Chief Financial Officer, submitted the last payment on debt service of bonds that were issued in 2008, originally \$38 million worth that were retired. Several things were accomplished with those bonds on behalf of the community, i.e., the police station expansion, Fire Station Number III and all the drainage improvements surrounding that, the City's tower Number III engine, the Nancy J Brua Animal Control Facility, the Parks Maintenance Facility behind the Pedro Castro Center, Cyr Center Park, and the refinancing of the Cove and the Pedro Castro Maintenance Center, and it was through the auspices of the good taxpayers of Sierra Vista, that they have now been paid for about a year and a half early. This will free up over \$1,000,000 a year that has been going towards that debt service that will certainly help the City with projects, i.e., the Parks Plan, the payments that must be made towards the Public Safety Retirement System as well as the City's street maintenance, an ever-increasing expense to the City. Lastly, he stated that a lot of good is going to come out of this in the future and it is nice to have more budget flexibility because of this.

Mayor Mueller stated that paying off this much money early is a great impact to a City whose average budget for the last five years has been a little over \$80 million. This is a significant amount of money, and there is going to be money available every year going forward with a continued impact. It is due the efficient financial management of primarily the City's Management Team, Mr. Potucek, Ms. Yarbrough, and Mr. Felix and his team. These are funds that were spent on necessary items that added to the quality of life, took care of animals, and several other physical needs, i.e., buildings that were needed for a long time. This makes the community better and bodes well for the future. In closing, he stated that he is going to take copies of the documents, because the original documents have been filed properly, and tear them up. He noted that at one point the City had \$44 million in debt, and now the City is down to just a couple, which was over a period where the City was going through a recession. He congratulated the citizens of Sierra Vista, City's Management Team, and the current Council and prior Council Members.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next Council work session will be held on February 8, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, and the City Council Meeting will be on February 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. also in Council Chambers. The meetings currently scheduled for the end of January are postponed until that time. He reminded everyone that City offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Junior Holiday on Monday, January 17, 2022, which will result in refuse service for Monday and Tuesday to be switched to Tuesday and Wednesday. He also reported that he attended the SEACOM JPA Board Meeting where they voted to increase the salary levels of dispatchers. SEACOM has been running very short on dispatchers and the market survey found that SEACOM is about six percent below its competitors around the State for dispatch services; therefore, the Board went ahead and voted that the increase take effect immediately for those people because currently SEACOM is about 50 percent staffing, and hopefully this will be something that can help with recruitment. He

reported on the November sales tax receipts that came in over nine percent above last year's budget. The City is running about 10 percent over last year's budget, a significant increase. He also reported that the Bid for the Avenida Escuela Extension and Charleston Road Pavement Replacement was posted on January 7, 2022 and bids are due approximately six weeks after, around the middle of February. The Design Engineering Services for Animal Control Center Improvement and Expansion Project received two qualifications, and those are being evaluated. KE&G started work approximately November 8, 2021 with an estimated completion date of February 2022 for the Municipal Airport Redevelopment Project (dirt pile being removed).

Council Member Umphrey asked about the City's airport sign. Mr. Potucek stated that installation is scheduled to begin within the next couple of weeks.

Council Member Umphrey asked about the percentage increase for SEACOM dispatchers. Mr. Potucek stated that currently they are looking at six percent to bring them to the market level of the City's competitor communities around the State. He is also looking at a similar raise for the other City employees in next year's budget. He added that he has asked staff to start evaluating and analyzing those budget impacts so that they can have those recommendations to Council during the mid-year budget review in February.

Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2021

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-001, Reappointment of John Moreno to the Parks and Recreation Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2023

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-002, Utility Easement for Sulphur Springs Electric at the new Emergency Medical Services Station within Tompkins Park

Council Member Umphrey moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021, Special City Council Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2021, Resolution 2022-001, reappointment of John Moreno to the Parks and Recreation Commission, said term to expire December 31, 2023, and Resolution 2022-002, Utility Easement for Sulphur Springs Electric at the new Emergency Medical Services Station within Tompkins Park, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez 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.

Council Member Benning thanked Mr. Moreno, who has great ideas and brings a lot to the table, for stepping up to the plate and continuing to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mayor Mueller announced that the City has several commissions that have vacancies and encouraged the audience to get involved in city government by going onto the City's website and applying to serve on a commission.

New Business

Item 3 Discussion and Possible Action of Ordinance 2022-001, Amendments to Chapter 30 of the City Code of Ordinances

Council Member Landry moved that Ordinance 2022-001, amendments to Chapter 30 of the City Code of Ordinances, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that as discussed during the work session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, the proposed item is the final step in the process that started during the Council Meeting on November 18, 2021 to update the section of the City Code that specifically relates to Mayor and Council, Chapter 30 of the City Code. The changes that are referenced in this document are exactly what was presented and approved by Council in November. These amendments bring the language up to current date and practice regarding meetings, smoking at meetings, other minor or major changes i.e., wording to the effect of the appointment of the Mayor Pro tem. Going forward the appointment will be done by resolution because it was not previously specified. Another amendment was to the language relating to Council's review of their salaries, which will be mandatory every four years, with the next review scheduled during the fall of 2025. If the proposed ordinance is approved, it will go into effect in 30-days and will be codified with the other ordinances passed during the last year sometime in the spring.

Mayor Mueller noted that this something that Council must do periodically, and it must be precise language, and understandable to the public, and more challengingly it must be understandable to everybody who is on Council. He thanked Ms. Adams for her good work.

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

Item 4 Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-003, Arizona State Parks and Trails Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Acceptance and Support

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2022-003, acceptance, and support of the Arizona State Parks and Trails Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Zuniga stated that last fall, Council approved a Master Plan to invest \$40 million at City parks over the next 10 years. The City submitted a grant application to the Arizona State Parks Land and Water Conservation Grant Program, requesting \$1.5 million to invest at Veterans Memorial Park and Sports Complex. The City's request for the grant was approved and the City will be installing a 150,000-gallon storage tank for water and irrigation, a booster station inside the steel building, well site piping, fencing, a new well motor and pump, electrical service upgrades, installation of a new irrigation main line to feed the sports field complex located at the old Rothery Centre, as well as artificial turf installed along with water cannons at the football field, and the reorientation of the softball fields that will include site grading and sand-based installation. The estimated cost of the project is \$3 million and the grant award of \$1.5 million will require a City match of \$1.5 million along with a six percent surcharge, which is \$90,000 of that money. The total City match would be \$1.5 million, which is already covered in the budget. The agenda item will formally accept the grant from Arizona State Parks.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he is thankful that the City was involved in grants like this, and that the City has employees that are passionate about making the City better and submitting these grants. He added that this grant worked out very well for the City, which will save some money and give some nice improvements that are much needed. Lastly, he stated

that the is looking forward to seeing the football field being used again because it is rare for a city to have a municipal football field of their own.

Mayor Mueller thanked staff and stated that these improvements will also have an impact on attracting sports tourism, which helps the City's bottom line and helps to pay for that \$1.5 million share. It is a win/win as far as he is concerned.

Council Member Benning echoed everything said by Council Member Rodriguez and Mayor Mueller. He added that a couple months ago the Council passed the Parks Master Plan which was amazing and noted that the City is already approving something that is going to check a mark off that that Master Plan, and it goes towards that quality of life that the Council is trying to provide for the citizens of Sierra Vista.

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 had no comments.

Council Member Landry wished everybody a Happy New Year and a wonderful 2022 and stated that there are going to be a lot of great things that are going to happen. She announced that registration is open for the Sky Island Summit Challenge held over Memorial Day weekend, and people can do one to three summits at Carr Peak, Miller Peak and Scott Trail. Afterwards there is going to be a festival in the park for extra fun. In closing, she stated that at the beginning of the year, she thinks that it is always great to take time for self-reflection, mental health and going forward. She encouraged people to reach out to friends and family if they need to share anything and to be there for each other. Lastly, she stated that if people need a friend, they should check out the animal shelter because they have good boys and girls that would love to be a part of a family.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked everybody that is in the City working on everything currently happening, i.e., the West End improvements. He encouraged people to go to the West End and frequent the businesses there and check it out because it looks a lot different than last year. He noted that Fire Station Number Four is being put up on the corner of 7th Street and Buffalo Soldier Trail, which is through another federal grant that has a timeline; therefore, it must be completed by April. Lastly, he asked people to not only enjoy their holiday weekend, but to remember the significance of the Holiday and to use this day to do some active service.

Council Member Benning thanked John Moreno for stepping up to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission and shared that he recently attended a pottery class by Mollie Shelton at the Oscar Yrun Community Center. He encouraged people to check out the Pottery Program, where the City provides the clay, and all one must pay is \$10. Ms. Shelton is also going to teach embroidery next month. He thanked Pastor Chuck for his blessing and noted that he stated in his blessing that this is the first meeting of the new year, a new beginning. He noted that this is the City's new beginning, and he is excited about 2022 with what is going on in the West End, Veterans Memorial Park, the things that nonprofits, and businesses are doing. Lastly, he mentioned that Mr. Boone stated that words have meaning when looking around the City and describing it. Therefore, he asked people not to always look for the negative, and to start looking

at the positive of all that is going on. In closing, he stated that Martin Luther King had a dream, a vision and he always put his foot forward and did things, and when he looks around Sierra Vista and all the good that the community does as a whole, it reminds him of one of Martin Luther King's quotes, "I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way", which reminds him of Sierra Vista because everyone on Council, staff, the audience, might not be the best or the greatest, but everything that is done, they can be great at. Sierra Vista is diverse, everyone coming from different worlds, but coming together to get things done.

Council Member Johnson had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Gray echoed what everyone else said before her, and stated that she looks around the City, the West End, the grants, i.e., the one that Council approved during the meeting, the EMS substation, getting the airport site ready for a business to come in, retiring the debt, which was a massive fixing that they did, and she can truly say that she has never been more proud to be a part of Sierra Vista and a part of the decisions that were made to make all that happen. She thanked Council and the previous Councils, and staff.

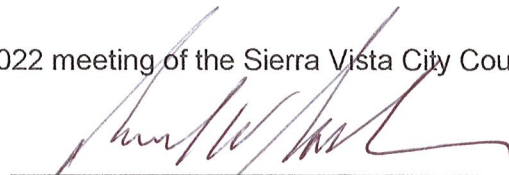
Mayor Mueller echoed Mayor Pro Tem's comments and stated that it sounds like Council is patting themselves on the back, but there is still work to be done. He further stated that in February or early March, Council will be reviewing its two-year Strategic Plan and potentially making changes or adjustments, and in 2024, the Council during the election timeframe is required to bring to the public their next General Plan. This is the plan that Council will use that is now required by the State that focuses on where they want the City to go in the next 10 years. There is a public process associated with this and Council's Strategic Plan, which is done every two years that feeds into that. These two plans are one of the reasons that there has been progress regarding the City's critical needs. He recommended to Council Members that they continue to do this on a regular basis. He also recommended to the citizens that when they see a notice for a public meeting on the General Plan that they think about what they would like to see in the City and that they attend the meetings so that they can participate and have a say so that their vision is included in the in the future of the City. In closing, he reminded people to be safe, especially if they are traveling during the three-day weekend.

Council Member Benning announced the McFadden Park dedication will take place on January 22, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at 100 S Carmichael.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that due to COVID there have been Council meetings where it was sparse out in the gallery.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the January 13, 2022 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:35 p.m.




Frederick W. Mueller, Mayor

Attest:



Jill Adams, City Clerk

Minutes prepared by:



Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk