

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2022

Mayor Mueller called the October 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  
Council Member William Benning – present  
Council Member Gregory Johnson - present  
Council Member Angelica Landry – present  
Council Member Marta Messmer – present  
Council Member Mark Rodriguez – present  
Council Member Carolyn Umphrey – absent

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager  
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager  
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief  
Brian Jones, Fire Chief  
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Library and Parks Director  
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager  
Blake Fisher, Planner  
Adam Curtis, PIO  
Nathan Williams, City Attorney  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager

Invocation – Randy Youngblood, Thunder Mountain Church, conducted the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards and Presentations

A proclamation declaring October as Fire Prevention Month was presented to Fire Chief Jones.

Fire Chief Jones stated that the theme for this year is, “Fire won’t wait, plan your escape,” and asked people to go home and plan their escape. He added that 100 years ago Woodrow Wilson established Fire Prevention Week. The City is celebrating 100 years and commemorating the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, where hundreds of people died, and thousands of structures were damaged. Fire prevention and Fire Prevention Week is a week and a month, but it is all year for the Fire Department and the Department wants adults and children to understand that fire safety is very important, and they practice that every day.

A proclamation declaring October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month was presented to Police Chief Thrasher.

Police Chief Thrasher stated that this month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The outside of the Police Department’s building has been lighted up in purple to bring awareness to domestic violence. There are also information tables inside the Department’s building. This is a

is an issue that the Police Department deals with, but the victims deal with this every day, every minute of their life and many of them just suffer in silence. Therefore, getting out the awareness, the information that they need to get help is vitally important.

A proclamation declaring October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month was presented to Jennifer Fero of Grieving the Child.

Ms. Fero stated that this is something that many families suffer from as one in three families have lost a child through a miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm labor, or early infant death. October 15th is the National Remembrance Day; therefore, a walk will take place at Veterans' Memorial Park to remember. She added that the whole month Grieving the Child will be in Sierra Vista to support families that have suffered the loss.

Mayor Mueller introduced Ms. Rachel Houston with the Commission on Disability Issues. He explained that the Commission picks an entity that has had an impact with the disabled community and this year's winner is the Texas Roadhouse. However, the awardee is not present; therefore, the award will be delivered to the Texas Roadhouse. In closing, he thanked the Commission, Texas Roadhouse, and personnel who support many things in the community.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that the next regularly scheduled work session is on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, highlighting a presentation on the Better Bucks and Community Connect Programs that were brought up during the last work session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., also in the Council Chambers. He reported that the RFP for the Strategic Leadership Planning Consultant will be released on Oct 14, 2022, with a due date of November 10, 2022. In progress are the St. Vincent de Paul Parking Lot (CDBG) Project as a pre-construction meeting with KE&G was conducted last week with an expected completion date of November 4, 2022; the Good Neighbor Alliance's kitchen project will be constructed by A5 Design & Construction, and the Garden Avenue Improvements Design (Fry to BST) is also under way and is anticipated to be completed in April 2023. Lastly, he reported that he attended the SEACOM JPA Board Meeting where staffing is a continual item of discussion, but the City is trying to put a focus on that and there are a lot of ads out there. SEACOM is also working with the City of Douglas on a mutual aid agreement for backup, which should be able to help each other. He added that the City of Douglas is already helping with Spanish speaking individuals, which is a big help because SEACOM no longer has the interpretation equipment that was used before. In closing, he announced the Station Four Dedication set for Friday, October 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

#### [Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Landry moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 13, 2022, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Landry voted in favor.

#### Public Hearings

[Item 2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-065, Owner Transfer Series 7 New Liquor License Application for Lynn Renee Harju on behalf of Gogi BBQ House LLC, 1173 E. Fry Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2022-065, an owner transfer, Series 7, new liquor license application for Lynn Renee Harju on behalf of Gogi BBQ House LLC, located at 1173 E. Fry Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that this is a transfer of a Series Seven liquor license, a beer and wine bar liquor license, for the Gogi Barbecue House. The notice of the public hearing was posted on the facility over the required twenty days, and to-date, no comments have been received from the public pro or con. The Police Department has done their background check of the applicant and have no objection to the application moving forward.

Ms. Adams noted that Ms. Harju is present to answer any questions. If the application is approved, it will be forwarded to the Liquor Department for final action.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Landry voted in favor.

Mayor Mueller thanked Ms. Harju for being present.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked Ms. Harju as well and stated that it is good to see the Gogi Barbecue House going into the building that used to be the Golden Phoenix as he looks forward to eating there and having the business doing very well.

Council Member Benning congratulated Ms. Harju and thanked her for moving into the West End. Lastly, he stated that he is glad that the Gogi Barbecue House is being opened, his favorite type of Korean food.

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-066, Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2022-066, Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mr. Fisher stated that the Program Year 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) describes the activities undertaken during the program year beginning on July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, using federal funds granted to the City of Sierra Vista by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Activities and accomplishments described in the report primarily benefit low-income residents of Sierra Vista and neighborhoods with high concentrations of low-to-moderate income residents. CDBG regulations require that the public be given a fifteen-day period to review the CAPER and provide comments prior to the approval of City Council. A public notice announcing the availability of the CAPER was published in the Sierra Vista Herald on September 25, 2022, along with copies of the paper for public review at City Hall and on the City's website. The comment period began on September 26, 2022 and closed on October 12, 2022. No public comments have been received to-date.

Mr. Fisher provided a brief overview of disbursements and funds spent over the program year:

- Economic Development
  - o St. Vincent De Paul with \$171.62 for environmental review.

- Emergency Home Repair Program with \$491.23 for housing for public notice fees
- Public facilities improvements
  - Good Neighbor Alliance for an environmental review for \$171.62.
- Parks, Recreational Facilities, largest part of the CAPER in terms of the funding
  - Majority of the \$466,065.54 went for Cyr Center Park improvements with a \$25,000 approximately going to the Soldier Creek Park improvements.
- Public Services
  - There is about \$59,837.72 went to COVID-19 relief and assistance funding
- Administration, \$1,142.81

Council Member Benning asked how the City gets the word out in terms of the rehab funds. Mr. Fisher stated that the largest number of recipients for the program that have reached out to the Community Development Department have been learning about it through word of mouth and the VISTAS Program by Adam Curtis in the Public Information Office. The Department encourages people to get the word out as there is still plenty of funding available. There is currently one application that is complete, one project completed, and about five applications in processing.

Council Member Benning voiced his appreciation for the CAPER and noted that a lot of people do not understand when they look at a budget, but the CAPER lets everyone know exactly what the City is spending and where the grant money is going.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he has been to two of the houses, one was an HVAC and the other electrical. He then asked if the projects are similar. Mr. Fisher stated that he is correct.

In response to Council Member Rodriguez, Mr. Fisher stated that the total funding for the Emergency Home Repair Program was \$50,000, and applicants are allotted \$10,000 per project. Most of the applications received are well under the \$10,000 threshold.

The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Landry voted in favor.

#### New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022

Council Member Rodriguez moved that the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Landry voted in favor.

#### Call to the Public

Ms. Felicia Sawyer spoke about the problem with transportation with Sierra Vista Transit, cab services, now charging \$9 for a one way because of the high gas prices, for older and handicapped people in Sierra Vista. She also noted that the bushes along the sidewalks for people to walk on are not being trimmed and people must go around them, or they get hit in the face.

## Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Landry thanked Ms. Sawyer for her comments, thanked the Police Department for lighting the Department's building to bring awareness to domestic abuse, which is something that anybody could be experiencing that is not known. This happens and people should not have to suffer in silence, and it is scary, but it is brave to speak out. There are a lot of resources for people that are suffering. Lastly, she stated that this is a loving community, and she is proud to live in Sierra Vista where people are willing to help.

Council Member Johnson congratulated his fellow veterans that served in the United States Navy, and wished them a Happy 247<sup>th</sup> birthday, who are lovingly known as the uber drivers for the United States Marine Corps.

Council Member Benning stated that he is glad that Fire Prevention Month was acknowledged, announced the dedication of the new EMS Substation, which is already paying off dividends in the short time that it has been open, set for Friday, October 14, 2022 at 10:00, announced that Council Member Rodriguez still goes out and installs and checks fire alarms/smoke detectors, thanked Ms. Sawyer for her comments, and lastly, encouraged people to watch the football game between the Washington Commanders that are going to beat up on Council Member Johnson's Chicago Bears.

Council Member Rodriguez voiced his appreciation at Council Member Benning's comments and stated that anyone wishing to have their smoke detectors checked may call Fire Station Three at 520-417-4400, and in the future, there may be something online. He stated that he received good feedback from Prickly's Café, which recently opened, stating that Ms. Cameron helped them a lot, who was key in having them be able to open on time for their ribbon cutting ceremony. He also stated that he would like to have information from the City's exit interviews to make sure that the data is being tracked as to where people are going, and on what the City can work on regarding recruiting. He announced that A.V. Anderson Park Disc Golf on Seventh Street recently had someone drive a truck through that messed up three of the baskets; however, a local donor, Johnathan Leffelman, who is on a disk club, and the Parks and Recreation Crew, mainly Sergio, Kirk, John, and Dennis were out there putting in the new baskets and making sure that everything was up to standard. He thanked Ms. Wilson and her staff for making this happen and getting that park up and running again. He also announced that Fort Huachuca is doing a business incubator on October 24, 2022, through October 26, 2022, geared towards the spouses of military members that have a home business or a small business, announced the Walk for Infant Loss Awareness on October 15, 2022 at Veterans' Park, and lastly thanked Ms. Sawyer who spoke at the Call to the Public.

Council Member Messmer stated that there is a Community Ofrenda whereby people can bring in pictures and copies of photos of loved ones to the Fry Pioneer Cemetery, which will be laminated at the museum and put up. She further stated that the museum has reopened, the Historic West End, Then and Now.

Mayor Mueller stated that he hopes to see everyone on Friday, October 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at Fire Station Four located at the south end of Seventh Street, announced the Relay for Life on October 22, 2022, at Veterans' Memorial Park with festivities starting at 3:30 p.m., and announced the Sierra Vista Police Department Bearcat Pull on October 23, 2022, to help support the Special Olympics. Lastly, he stated that numerous citizens have brought the issue of a firefighter group endorsing candidates for City offices to his attention. They are generally

upset and confused; but he hopes to clarify the issue with the following statement: No City department is officially endorsing or will endorse a candidate for City offices. An organization has endorsed some candidates and placed signs as is their right. This group is not a part of or recognized by the City of Sierra Vista. The City will remain officially neutral, as is appropriate, in any election as stated in accordance with City Code and the Laws of the State of Arizona.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the October 13, 2022, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:36 p.m.

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Mayor Frederick W. Mueller

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

ATTEST:

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Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

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Jill Adams, City Clerk