

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2022

Mayor Mueller called the October 27, 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 – present

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  
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director  
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director  
Nathan Williams, City Attorney  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager  
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst  
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Adam Curtis, PIO

Invocation – Council Member Rodriguez conducted the invocation.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Johnson moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 27, 2022, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that the next regularly scheduled work session is on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers that will feature the ongoing discussion on boards and commission. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., also in the Council Chambers. He reported that the work on the St. Vincent de Paul Parking Lot Project is expected to be completed on November 4, 2022; the RFP for the Strategic Leadership Planning Consultant that will facilitate the Council's next Strategic Plan in the February/March timeframe has gone out and the due date for those

responses is November 10, 2022; and the due date for the Audio-Visual upgrades at the Police Department for the EOC are due on November 9, 2022. Lastly, he reported that the sales tax was up nine percent year over year, and those were August receipts. He noted that there is always discussion on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System and the issues experienced over the years and the steps taken to get that under control, but there is also another retirement system, Arizona State Retirement System which has been run more conservatively and has had fewer problems. Nonetheless, the City still has a liability there, which last year was over \$19 million and due to investment performance, that moved down to the \$14 million plus range.

## Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action on the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-067, Accepting a Warranty Deed for needed public right-of-way along the western side of S. Carmichael Ave. – GL Mountain Vista, LLC

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-068, Recession of Resolution 2020-040, authorizing the Mayor of the City of Sierra Vista to declare a local emergency and to adopt, by declaration, policies regarding the wearing of face coverings

Council Member Landry moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022, Resolution 2022-067, accepting a warranty deed for recordation from GL Mountain Vista, LLC, and Resolution 2022-068, recession of Resolution 2020-040, authorizing the Mayor of the City of Sierra Vista to declare a local emergency and to adopt, by declaration, policies regarding the wearing of face coverings, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0 with Council Member Umphrey abstaining from voting specifically on Item 2.1 because she was absent from the October 13, 2022 meeting. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Public Hearing – There was no response.

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-069, New Series 10 Liquor License for Debra Russell on behalf of Sierra Vista Natural Foods Cooperative Inc. dba Sierra Vista Food Co-Op located at 96 S Carmichael Avenue, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2022-069, a new series 10 liquor license for Debra Russell on behalf of Sierra Vista Natural Foods Cooperative Inc. dba Sierra Vista Food Co-Op, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that this is an application for a new series 10, which is a beer and wine store license for the Food Co-op, located at 96 S Carmichael. The notice of the public hearing was posted on the building and to-date there have been no comments received from the public, pro or con. The Police Department performed their background check of the applicant and have no objection to this application moving forward. If approved, it will be returned to the Liquor Board for final approval.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

#### New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-070, Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cochise County Community College District for the sharing of Property, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel, services, and/or other Assets; and Construction and Shared use of a Driving Track

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2022-070, an intergovernmental agreement with Cochise County Community College District for the purpose of sharing property, facilities, equipment, personnel, services, and/or other assets, as well as the construction and shared use of a driving track, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Wilson stated that the intergovernmental agreement will permit the Cochise County Community College District to construct a large concrete pad to cover approximately five acres of underutilized City property. The property to be used for this action is located on a ten-acre parcel of land that is located east of Fire Station Three on North Giulio Cesare Avenue. Cochise College will use this property as a track to support public safety and other driver safety training and certification programs to include their CDL certification. This driver safety course will also support the College's first Responders Academy, which will be in Sierra Vista. When the property is not being utilized by the College, the City may also use the property for drivers training certification courses, activities, even overflow parking and other public uses. If approved reservations for the jointly used space will be managed through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Library. In exchange for the land improvements, Cochise College will receive the priority for usage at no cost followed by official City uses and then public uses. The City will agree to maintain the property once the construction phase is complete.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-071, Intergovernmental Agreement with Whetstone Fire District for Ambulance Billing Services

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2022-071, an Intergovernmental agreement with Whetstone Fire District for ambulance billing services, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Mr. Felix stated that in 2017, the City and the Whetstone Fire District entered into an intergovernmental agreement for the City to do their ambulance billing services. They are happy with the City's service, and it is more efficient for them to have the city do this since the City has trained personnel. A fee is assessed at about \$16 a run that generates about \$500 because they do not have a large amount of calls, which also makes it more efficient for them to subcontract with the City to do the billing for them. The fee is not the total of the run but that is what the City charges them. The intergovernmental agreement will be renewed for another five years.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 2022-072, Official Intent to be Reimbursed for Certain Capital Expenditures

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2022-072, declaring, for the purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Federal Treasury Regulations, the official intent to be reimbursed in connection with certain capital expenditures, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Mr. Felix stated that this is the annual reimbursement resolution. The IRS requires that the City officially state its intent to be reimbursed for capital expenses if the City does not have the capital financing within place thirty days after the purchase is made. The City has the option to not finance by waiting and bundling at the end of the year or wait until the equipment is in, which has been done, and more recently, with all the vehicle purchases for the last few years. This does not mean that the City will finance the items, it just states that the City intends to while going through the budget process. Two ambulances were added to the financing resolution because of some changes in the Schneider Project and the Animal Control situation. This provides the flexibility for the City to finance those as well or not. The City can use that cash out towards one of the other two projects, if needed.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 202-073, Support for Tohono O'odham Nation Grant Application and Award for Medical Chest Compression Device

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2022-073, accepting the grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation for a medical chest compression device, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Fire Chief Jones stated that Sierra Vista Fire Medical Service has submitted a grant application of \$17,000 for a medical chest compression device known as the LUCAS device. The grant award was received from the Tohono O'odham Nation. The funding of this project will increase survival rates of patients suffering from an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) emergency.

Mayor Mueller asked how Sierra Vista Fire Medical Service will ensure that there are enough items around the City. Fire Chief Jones stated that the Department has one LUCAS device on the way and with the two ambulances that have been ordered, LUCAS devices were put into the budget as well. Each of the first line ambulances will have LUCAS devices on them.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that the College has one that is used for training. Fire Chief Jones stated that the Department had a demo LUCAS device, but he is not sure if the College has one.

Council Member Johnson stated that Mr. Michael McKearney should be acknowledged for pursuing the grant. Fire Chief Jones stated that the Department will be recognizing Mr. McKearney during one of their all-hands meetings.

The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

#### Comments and Requests of Council

Council Member Messmer announced the following events taking place at the Fry Pioneer Cemetery: October 29, 2022, Dusk with the Dead where actors will be portraying people that are buried at the Fry Pioneer Cemetery, and on November 2, 2022, there will be a blessing at 4:30 for the Fry Pioneer Cemetery, which taken place over the last 30 years.

Council Member Johnson stated that he is a member of the Sierra Vista MPO Board and reported that during the October 26, 2022 meeting, the Board talked about safety performance projections. Some of the data that was shared with the Board was not good. Statewide fatalities increased 14.6 percent year over year and the rate being looked at is 1,436 fatalities for the coming year. Currently the State is at a terrible fatality count as of June 2022, up to 309 fatalities. He noted that every day he sees on social media where first responders are responding to accidents all over the City and it is very disturbing that a small town of 40,000 people has three or four serious accidents and some fatalities. There was a motorcycle accident at the intersection of Coronado and Fry Boulevard last week. He implored everyone to stay off their cell phones, pay attention, drive the speed limit, and look out for the other person because everyone seems to be in a hurry. In addition, there are those individuals who pickup illegals from the border to take them to the big cities.

Council Member Landry announced events occurring in town and cautioned people to watch out for the kids out trick or treating, who are not looking out because they are out to have fun. She noted that trick or treating and trunk or treating is for all ages; therefore, if older people out and about, they should be able to have some fun. Lastly, she asked people going out to party to not party too hard, and if they do, to make sure that they have plans to stay safe. In closing, she wished everyone a great weekend.

Council Member Rodriguez announced National Night Out has been rescheduled to November 1, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Veterans' Memorial Park. He noted that he was at Station 204 for their opening and noticed that there is a beautiful map that all fire stations have, but the Streets Department needs one too that is current. The maps should all be updated in the City's buildings. Fort Huachuca is going to be switching gates, what is old is new again as the main gate is going to move back to Fry Boulevard around the Buffalo Soldier Gate starting Wednesday, November 2, 2022, that will be open 24-7. This will allow better access to Fry Boulevard and the West End. Lastly, he stated that he likes Community Connect, which is free, and it needs to be done; but the City should be looking at other organizations that do the same thing that promote benefits for the community to make sure that they have a discount or know that it is free.

Council Member Benning announced that the County Animal Shelter is holding their annual celebration on December 1, 2022, at Event 161 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. He concurred with Council Member Johnson's comments on fatalities. He encouraged people to slow down and get there safe. In closing, he wished everyone a Happy Halloween and asked people to be mindful of the kids out on that night.

Council Member Umphrey announced that on Saturday, October 29, 2022, the Spooktacular Basha will take place from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at the Old Door Shop. Tickets may be purchased online at Eventbrite. She added that this event is near and dear to her heart because

it is going to benefit the Sierra Vista Unified Teacher and Students Scholarships in Sierra Vista. She added that it is great that that Fort Huachuca is changing to the old gate being the main gate because, the City now has Substation Number 4 that is now operating. This will help the mutual aid agreement for Fort Huachuca and community with response time.

Mayor Mueller reminded everyone that Council's next work session is at 3:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022, which is election day. He encouraged everyone to go early and vote at the polls and announced that the Council Meeting on November 10, 2022, will be at 4:00 p.m., which he greatly appreciates. In closing, he announced that on Friday, October 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the Sierra Vista Symphony will have an oboist as a soloist, the Chamber of Commerce on November 2, 2022, is sponsoring, Bring A Vet to Lunch at TMAC on Fort Huachuca at 11:30 a.m., and on November 5, 2022 is the Dining under the Stars put on by the University South Foundation on the grounds north of Cochise College to raise scholarship funds for local kids to attend the University.

#### Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the October 27, 2022, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:27 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