

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022

Mayor Mueller called the November 10, 2022, City Council Regular Meeting to order at 4:00 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
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager
Nathan Williams, City Attorney
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst

Invocation – Council Member Benning conducted the invocation.

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

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Landry moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 10, 2022, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Council Member Johnson moved to amend the agenda to table Item 4 to include other intergovernmental agreements for CDL training. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

In response to Mayor Mueller, Mr. Potucek stated that Council can choose to remove the item or table it until the next meeting. However, he is not sure if staff will have all the intergovernmental agreements for the next meeting.

Council Member Umphrey stated that she was hoping to have the item tabled because she has questions that have come up since the work session.

Mayor Mueller asked if this decision would impact Patagonia. Mr. Potucek stated that he does not believe so.

The motion to amend the agenda to table Item 4 unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor Mueller, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, Rodriguez, and Umphrey voted in favor.

Council Member Umphrey moved to accept the amended agenda. 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 City offices will be closed on Friday, November 11, 2022, in observance of Veterans' Day as well as Thanksgiving Day and the day after. Therefore, trash services will move to Thursday, November 10, 2022 and then move to Monday/Wednesday for the following week. He added that there is no other Council Meeting because of Thanksgiving; therefore, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on the second Thursday in December at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There will be a reception honoring Mayor Mueller's service prior to the meeting.

Mayor Mueller noted that the canvassing must be done. Ms. Adams stated that it is tentatively set for a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. if the City has the results from the Cochise County Election Services Division.

Mr. Potucek further reported that a final meeting was held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 for the St. Vincent de Paul Parking Lot (CDBG) Project and that project should be substantially complete; pricing was received for the Good Neighbor Alliance Project, which staff is reviewing; the pre-fab restrooms have been ordered for the Sports Complex, and the sales tax for September are up 9.91 percent year over year, and the City is 8.8 percent ahead this fiscal year, well ahead of the sales tax projections. Lastly, he reported on the JPA Board Meeting, where main topic of discussion was staffing. There are a few people in the process, and it is hoped to have a couple of offers out during the day. SEACOM is also working with Cochise College to stand up a dispatch academy.

Mayor Mueller commented that the St. Vincent de Paul Parking Lot (CDBG) Project is great and on the day that they were open, they were giving out food. He further commented that when the City does projects, staff should think of a complete project because when he went out to look at the parking lot, he found that although, it was done excellently, on Bartow from the corner down to the drive, there is sidewalk followed by more sidewalk that is adjacent to the St. Vincent de Paul Parking Lot (CDBG) Project, but there is no gutter curb. He noted that Mr. McLachlan stated that the sidewalk is scheduled to be done sometime next year when staff looks at Bartow. Lastly, he noted that there are other issues i.e., the parking lot at Cyr Center, North Avenue, a dirt road that goes into a drainage area, followed by a new walking path along with the parking lot; however, there is no curb.

Mr. Potucek stated that the City had limited CDBG funds to spread out during for the year and the City will have to pick it up out of the City's budget.

Council Member Umphrey stated that she is happy that the project moved forward and asked about the bids that were received for the Good Neighbor Alliance Project. Mr. Potucek stated that staff is evaluating the bids.

New Business

[Item 2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022

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

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-074, Authorization to Accept Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs Funding (Agreement #M22-0039)

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2022-074, Funding Agreement #M22-0039 with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, be approved. Council Member Umphrey seconded the motion.

Police Chief Thrasher stated that the resolution is for authorization to accept funding from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in the amount of \$350,000 to upgrade the Department's VHF Radio System. This is money from border-related security funds. The VHF Radio System is currently the Police Department's backup radio system and the Fry Fire Department's primary radio system. The ability to upgrade this will provide critical redundancy in case of a critical incident so that there can be communication with the Sheriff Department and Fry Fire during critical incidents.

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

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2022-075, Intergovernmental Agreement with Patagonia Union High School to provide Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training and Exam Licensure - Tabled

Call to the Public

John Gravelle voiced his concerns with traffic light issues and reported on some accidents on Fry Boulevard, the neighborhood by McDonalds, where there is a left-hand turn lane, yield on green, a dangerous option, and the impacts because of the accidents. These accidents impact the City as well, not just the people themselves. He suggested making the turn lanes designated and monitored.

Mayor Mueller explained that the City does look at intersections and the number of accidents and establish warrants, which are used to upgrade the intersections.

Mr. and Mrs. Poynter presented to Council their idea for the Garden Canyon Linear Park and Roadrunner Park (on file with the City Clerk's Office). The drawing represents a community hub broken up into seven distinct zones and accompanying documentation.

Comments and Requests of Council

Council Member Benning announced that on December 1, 2022, the Cochise County Animal Shelter year-end review/celebration will take place from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Event 161; December 17, 2022, is the Salvation Army Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. for the Red Kettle Kickoff, and at 7:30 p.m. on November 10, 2022 is the Canyon Vista's Veterans Wall of Fame

Announcement. He congratulated Mayor Mueller for being nominated, accepted, and being included on the Wall of Fame. Lastly, he stated that everything went well on election day, thanked everyone who put their hat in the ring from School Board to Senator, and congratulated those that may be re-elected.

Council Member Umphrey thanked all veterans for their bravery, sacrifice, and service, especially the ones on the dais with her. She announced the Veterans' Day parade and the ceremony following at Veterans' Memorial Park. She congratulated Mayor Mueller for being inducted to the Veterans' Wall, thanked the people in Sierra Vista for re-electing her. In closing, she congratulated Council Member Rodriguez for being elected and Council Member Benning on his re-election.

Council Member Landry thanked the people that came to the Call to the Public because she appreciates them sharing their concerns, thoughts, and vision. She encouraged everyone to come out to the Veterans' Day Parade and the ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park. She cautioned everyone celebrating the Veterans' Day weekend and asked that they be careful and have a plan and get home safe. She further stated that with the holidays coming up, holidays are not a festive time for everyone because some people may be experiencing a holiday alone, etc.; therefore, she encourages people to reach out to neighbors, friends, and invite them to celebrate to make sure that they are cared for. Lastly, she stated that people looking to give during the holiday season, the animal shelter always welcomes anything that can be given, i.e., monetary donations, walking dogs.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked everyone that worked the polls, the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church's parking lot security that trafficked people, the Shiloh Baptist Church's people in vests that were taking in the dropped off ballots, and the St. Andrews' crew that had a gentleman giving out chairs for the elderly and disabled. He wished his twins a Happy 15th Birthday, his mother a Happy Birthday on November 20, 2022, and Nancy, his fiancé, on November 29, 2022.

Council Member Messmer thanked all Veterans and wished them a great celebration. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Johnson wished the United States Marine Corp a Happy 247th Birthday and noted that on November 10, 1775, it was the only branch of the U.S. military that was started in a bar. He thanked all Veterans and noted that November 11, 2022, is a very festive day to all those who have served. In closing, he encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans' Day events and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Mueller thanked everyone that voted and making sure that the democracy remains strong, announced that the Veterans' Parade starts at 9:00 a.m. on November 11, 2022, which runs down Fry Boulevard to Veterans' Memorial Park. He added that there will be a 21-cannon salute as part of the festivities as well as some speeches. He reminded everyone of the Special Council Meeting on November 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. to canvass the election. In closing, he wished everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving, and encouraged everyone to remember that while travelling during the holidays, to watch what they drink, not drive too long, take the time to be safe on the road, and to spend and enjoy time with family.

Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the November 10, 2022, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 4:34 p.m.

Mayor Frederick W. Mueller

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

ATTEST:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk