

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the February 9, 2023, 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 Clea McCaa II – present  
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Umphrey – 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

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager  
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager  
Adam Thrasher, Police Chief  
Brian Jones, Fire Chief  
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director  
Laura Wilson, Parks, Recreation, and Library Director  
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director  
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager  
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer  
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Adam Curtis, PIO  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Nathan J. William, City Attorney  
Jill Adams, City Clerk

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

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 February 9, 2023 be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voting in favor.

Awards and Presentations

A Proclamation declaring the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was presented to Sergeant Jordan Boltinghouse and members of his team.

Sergeant Jordan Boltinghouse with the Sierra Vista Police Department introduced himself as one of the Co-chairs of the Cochise County Sierra Vista Regional Domestic Violence Fatality

Review Team as well as one of the team leads for the Cochise County Family and Community Coalition (CCFC). He stated that their goal at the CCFCC is to bring better awareness during the month of February to the community for teen dating violence. Teen violence does not only affect the youth, but it affects everyone, parents, coaches, teachers, and it is important to recognize that every one can not only try to help the youth stay out of these violent relationships but take a stand against them as well. He noted that the statistics can be alarming and stated that another goal in reaching out to the community was through the proclamation. Lastly, he thanked the Mayor, his office, the City Council, Police Chief Thrasher, who allowed CCFCC to set up an information display table in the lobby of the Police Department.

Lana Tompkins-Stutzman shared that she grew up in Sierra Vista because her father was transplanted by the military. She has also professionally worked in the community as a juvenile probation officer, and currently as Fort Huachuca's installation victim advocate. She thanked Cochise County, Sierra Vista, and its law enforcement because they have been very supportive in educating and helping the youth in the community, which is what makes Cochise County warm to her heart and that is why she always comes back home. Lastly, she asked everyone to keep their eyes and ears open, especially during Super Bowl Weekend, to reach out and help those who need help or are hurting to make sure that they have the resources.

Julio Melgoza, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate for Chiricahua Community Health Center stated that he has been going around the schools and spreading the awareness to teach students about how bad things can get if they were to commit domestic violence in their relationship, and it has had a great impact when they see the crimes that can be linked to domestic violence.

Rosie Mendoza Chapa, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Supervisor for Chiricahua Community Health Center, stated that they have been around since 2008 and they have a program for domestic violence. She noted that it was in 2009 when teen dating and domestic violence was recognized, which is what they want to teach the students, help the victims, and have students learn about the charges of domestic violence.

Rebecca Rogers, President of Parents, Friends, and Family for the support of Lesbian Gays (PFLAG), a national organization, stated that given the current political climate, there is a bigger target on ever on the LGBT community, particularly teens. Every teen is starting out in their dating life, reaching out to have a relationship, and to have a good relationship, they must be vulnerable, and they are more vulnerable than ever. Lastly, she thanked the Council and the Mayor for agreeing to the proclamation and asked them to think every time that they work on or are contemplating any policy, that they ask themselves, if it is inclusive and equality bill.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that on Monday, February 20, 2023 the City offices will be closed in observance of President's Day, which will result in an alternative refuse schedule, Monday pickups will be on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday and then Thursday and Friday as normal. The next regularly scheduled work session is on February 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is on February 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. also in the Council Chambers. He reported that the site prep for the prefab restrooms has been awarded to KE&G, and staff is awaiting the final contract, but the project is estimated to be completed by June 2023; the audio-visual upgrades in the City Manager's Conference Room are complete; but the Police Department's upgrades by Action Technology Services are more extensive because this will enhance capabilities in the Emergency Operations Center, a big plus for the City, which is anticipated to be completed by June 2023; the Animal Control Center Improvement and Expansion Project that Design

Engineering Services and CMAR are expected to complete the design by April-June 2023 timeframe with construction to commence July 2023; the Garden Avenue Improvements Design from Fry to BST is anticipated to be completed by April 2023. He further reported on the JPA SEACOM Meeting, where staffing has been a topic of discussion for several months and announced that there are currently five people in the training process at SEACOM, and there are also people currently going through the Academy.

Mr. Potucek also announced that the City was awarded a Federal Transit Administration Grant in the amount of \$2,400,000 which was envisioned in the last year's budget and approved by the Council. The project will include new curb, gutter and sidewalk on the West side of 5th Street between Denman and Fry Boulevard; new curb and gutter on the sidewalk on both sides of Bel Aire Drive between Fry and Wilcox; new curb gutter and sidewalk on the east side of Judd Street between Timothy Lane and Busby; new sidewalk and solar street lights on the east side of Taylor between Nelson and Cyr Center; new curb, gutter and sidewalk on portions of the north side of Bartow between Carmichael and 7th Street; new curb gutter, and sidewalk, solar street lights, and an asphalt patch for parking on the east side of Fab between Fry Boulevard and Veterans Drive; and solar bollards, solar street lights on the shared-use path to Cyr Center Park from Kayetan to Cyr Center Park. Therefore, several great improvements included in that grant that the City should see start soon. Lastly, he reported that the December sales tax remains consistent at just over nine percent increase year over year, which are strong numbers that includes the holiday season; however, staff anticipates that number to drift down as the fiscal year ends in June.

## Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Approval of the City Council Work Session Minutes of January 10, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-003, Inspections Services Agreement with the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH), Manufactured Housing and Building Division (MHBD)

Council Member Landry moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the City Council Work Session Minutes of January 10, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023, Resolution 2023-003, Inspections Services Agreement with the Arizona Department of Housing Manufactured Housing and Building Division, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voting in favor.

## Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-004, Adoption of Chapter 34, Revenue Collection, Title III, Administration City of Sierra Vista Code of Ordinances, Sections 34.00 Definitions, and 34.01, Collections, and Declaring a 30-day Public Record

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2023-004, adoption of Chapter 34, Revenue Collection, Title III, Administration City of Sierra Vista Code of Ordinances, Sections 34.00 Definitions, and 34.01, Collections, and Declaring a 30-day Public Record, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Mr. Felix stated that the City currently has a process for trying to collect service and delinquent sewer sanitation accounts that include Department of Revenue Income Tax withholding, leaning property, collecting cans, refusing service; but despite all efforts, there are some people that will not pay. As a last resort, staff will send them off to collections; however, unfortunately in the past because of State Law, the City was unable to have the collection fees added onto the amounts sent to the collection agency. Recently, the State Law changed, which now allows the collection of these fees from the customer that have skipped out on their bill. To do this, the City of Sierra Vista must change its Code of Ordinances to bring it in line with what the law says. Therefore, this resolution will allow the City of Sierra Vista to charge the customer for the delinquent collection fees that the City must go through to try and get their money. This way the people currently paying their bills are not helping pay for trying to collect these accounts. He further stated that this resolution opens a 30-day comment period, and at the end of the 30-day comment period, the item will come back before Council as an ordinance.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that the City was covering those fees, but now they are going to be pushed onto the user themselves in addition to the fees that they already owe. Mr. Felix stated that he is correct.

Council Member Johnson asked if it would be helpful if the definitions were put into the ordinance of when an account is past due. Mr. Felix stated that State Law defines it, and he worked with the City Attorney to draft the language; but it depends on the bill as well because some accounts state, 30 days. The City does bimonthly sewer sanitation and that is 60 days delinquent. Therefore, putting a specific time will not work due to the varying collection times.

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

New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-005, Adoption of Cochise County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2023-005, adoption of the Cochise County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

Ms. Flissar stated that the item will adopt the Cochise County Multi- Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan on behalf of the City of Sierra Vista. The Plan is required by FEMA to be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for hazard related grant programs. The current effort required about a year to complete and involved input from both the County and all incorporated cities and towns in Cochise County. The agencies worked on identifying hazards for their areas and then assessing both the severity of the hazard and potential mitigation strategies. The results were then compiled from across the County. The final Plan is a very robust 288 pages and is available on the Cochise County Emergency Management website

Council Member Rodriguez encouraged people to look at the Plan because there are a lot of agencies that are involved and some of these have not been updated since the 1980s.

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

[Item 5](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-006, Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima Community College for a Joint Program to train Paramedic Students

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-006, an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima Community College for a Joint Program to train Paramedic Students, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

Fire Chief Jones stated that Sierra Vista Fire Medical Services and Pima Community College would like to join into an agreement that allows Sierra Vista Fire Medical Services employees who wish to attend paramedic training through Pima Community College. This agreement will also allow for Pima Community College paramedic students to complete their field training alongside approved Sierra Vista Fire Medical Services paramedics.

Council Member Johnson asked why this is necessary. Fire Chief Jones stated that Sierra Vista Fire Medical Services has employees who live in the Tucson area and for them to attend class in Tucson is more convenient for them. This is good for retention, and it also allows for them to do their paramedic ride time in Sierra Vista.

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

#### Call to the Public

Dan Valle and Loui Aviles stated that Southeast Arizona Hispanic Chamber has partnered up with Gunny's BBQ to put together a Hispanic International Heritage Festival. This festival took place last year at the VFW; but they have decided to bring it out in the open at Veterans' Memorial Park. This would be an international event as they have invited the City of Cananea to participate as a Sister City with continuous entertainment, music, and food by Gunny's BBQ.

#### Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Messmer had nothing to report.

Council Member Johnson had nothing to report.

Council Member Landry announced the Salvation Army's Purse Auction and afternoon tea on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. They have new and gently used purses for auction to raise money for their programs. Also, on Saturday, February 11, 2023, is the 15th Anniversary Open House of the Nancy J. Brewer Animal Care Center starting at noon until 4:00 p.m. They will have adoption specials, refreshments, and a dog kissing booth.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked CCFCC for their support, noted that the statistics are saddening, thanked the advocates for the literature and spreading the word, and going to the schools to educate, and thanked PFLAG for reminding Council about inclusiveness and equality. He gave a shout out to the Better Work Program that has been going very well, and thanked Mayor McCaa and everyone who participated in cleaning up the other day on Fry Boulevard, stated that the Library has been doing some awesome things to their escape rooms, thanked Council Member Messmer who was part of one of the escape rooms for special needs, and Ms. Elizabeth Wrojek for running the programs, and noted that there have been some school field trips out at the museum. Lastly, he reported that the Youth Commission had a very

successful coat and blanket drive to support the Good Neighbor Alliance and the Salvation Army, a successful cleanup with the next one on March 25, 2023. The Commission has a lot of good ideas for Sierra Vista that they are currently working on, i.e., a mobile drive-in movie theater at the location where the original movie theater used to be, a youth car show on the West End, and a youth job fair. Lastly, he announced that the Buena Varsity Boys Soccer Team is playing at 6:00 p.m. at Buena High School, and if they win, they go on to State.

Council Member Benning thanked Reverend Chuck Carlson, and asked Council Member Rodriguez about the drop off location to donate coats and blankets to which Council Member Rodriguez indicated that they have enough coats and blankets. However, the next project requires T-shirts for a project for Cochise College's art festival in February.

Council Member Benning stated that there was Council discussion during the work session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 about having once a month, a nonprofit come in to talk the Council and the viewers online and in person about their organization, announced that starting March 1, 2023, Sierra Vista Transit is going to start a pilot program to go fare free, and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. In closing, he shouted, "Go Kansas City."

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey had nothing to report.

Mayor McCaa thanked Mr. McLachlan for allowing Better Work to come out and pick up trash, thanked Ms. Vannoy, Code Enforcement Officer, and noted that the program is going in a good direction and will continue. Lastly, he stated that he looks forward to participating again.

Mr. McLachlan stated that 23,180 pounds of trash were removed in four hours with seven workers on State Trust Land.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the February 9, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:36 p.m.

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Mayor Clea McCaa II

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

ATTEST:

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Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

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Jill Adams, City Clerk