

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Summary  
February 23, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the February 23, 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  
Irene Zuniga, P.E., CIP, and Development Manager  
Laura Wilson, Parks, Recreation, and Library Director  
Jeff Pregler, Planner  
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer  
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager  
Adam Curtis, PIO  
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager  
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst  
Nathan J. William, City Attorney  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Mike Cline, Management Analyst

Invocation –Pastor Becky Preiss led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Youth Commission 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 February 23, 2023, be approved. Council Member Johnson 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

The 2023 Defense Community Champions Award from the Association of Defense Communities was presented to Frederick W. Mueller, Mayor of Sierra Vista from 2011 to 2022.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Brandy B-E. Dare and Jodi M. Gaston for their exceptional artistic contributions to Landwehr Plaza that enhances the beautification efforts in the Historic West End.

Certificates of Appreciation from the Buffalo Troopers Motorcycle Club Sierra Vista Chapter were presented to Ashley Flissar, Olivia Dedham, Matthew Fair, Madison Viewig, Keira Whittemore, Wyatt Whittemore, Kathryn Whittemore, Jordan Lewedag, Ryley Absalon, Blaze Sayre, Natalie Graziano, Elazar Hernandez, Ezra Hernandez, Jaxson Coplen, Liam Coplen, and Cameron Coplen for their assistance with the Youth Commission Roadside Clean-up on January 7, 2023.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced the special work session for March 1, 2023, to hold the Strategic Planning Session at 9:00 a.m. at Fire Station III, the regularly scheduled work session on March 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on March 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. also in the Council Chambers. He reported that the Governor vetoed the residential rental tax bill which is something the League of Cities and the City of Sierra Vista participated in. If that veto had not occurred, the City would have lost \$530,000 in General Fund revenue in the coming year. However, there are a couple of others that staff is tracking that may be more impactful that involves the sales tax on food that has not yet gone through the entire legislature. If this bill were to go through, the City would lose over \$3 million in General Fund revenue, a negative impact on the budget process coming up. There is also another bill looking at reductions in the state income tax, which were just reduced this year; but the impacts to state shared income tax revenue not yet known. He also reported that the City's transit route changes will occur on Monday, February 27, 2023, combining the blue and yellow routes and do what will be a pink route operating from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Transit will also be implementing an on-demand service, running from 7:15 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. that will not be served with the combined route as the City continues to search for drivers that can obtain their commercial driver's license. The City is hiring people to have the ability to train them, but the training process for both the CDL and for the ADA requirements that the Federal Transit Administration require. The RFP for Transit Drivers Services has been drafted and was sent to FTA for review prior to posting and that the Wastewater Masterplan was awarded to Hazen and Sawyer; but staff is negotiating the scope of work (contract pending) and planning because there will be a need for an increase in capacity at the Environmental Operations Park. This is the start of that process, to find out exactly what the needs will be and what the best course of action will be with probably looking at implementation around 2027 because it is a lengthy process. The projects in progress are the Good Neighbor Alliance Project that was awarded to A5 Design and Construction with a kickoff meeting pending, and the site prep for the prefab bathrooms at Arbenz and Veterans Park, which KE&G will begin work on February 27, 2023 with estimated completion in May.

## Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Approval of the City Council Work Session Minutes of February 7, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Approval of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-007, Acceptance of public improvements for PDS at Holiday, Phase 5B subdivision plat

Council Member Rodriguez moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the City Council Work Session Minutes of February 7, 2023, Special City Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023, and Resolution 2023-007, acceptance of public improvements for PDS at Holiday, Phase 5B subdivision plat, 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.

#### Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-008, Development Code Amendments to Administration and Enforcement- Article 151.03; Unattended Donation Boxes- Section 151.02.004, Section 151.06.012, and Section 151.22.006; Site Plan Review Processes- Article 151.18; Lot Coverage and Setbacks- Section 151.22.009, Section 151.22.010, and Section 151.22.011, and Declaring a 30-day Comment Period

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-008, Development Code amendments to Administration and Enforcement- Article 151.03; Unattended Donation Boxes- Section 151.02.004, Section 151.06.012, and Section 151.22.006; Site Plan Review Processes- Article 151.18; Lot Coverage and Setbacks- Section 151.22.009, Section 151.22.010, and Section 151.22.011, and declaring a 30-day Comment Period, be approved. Council Member Johnson 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.

#### New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-009, Donation of Dispatch Consoles to the City of Cananea, Sonora

Council Member Messmer move that Resolution 2023-009, donation of dispatch consoles to the City of Cananea, Sonora, 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.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-010, Stonegarden reallocation grant for overtime/ERE and mileage

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-010, Stonegarden reallocation grant for overtime/ERE and mileage, 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.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and possible Action of Ordinance 2023-001, Amendments to Chapter 94, Sections 94.01, 94.04, Park Grounds/Park Properties, and Chapter 90, Section 90.06, Impoundment

Council Member Benning moved that Ordinance 2023-001, amendments to Chapter 94, Sections 94.01, 94.04, Park Grounds/Park Properties, and Chapter 90, Section 90.06, Impoundment, 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.

Item 7 Discussion and possible Action of Resolution 2023-011, six-month Suspension of Transit Fares

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-011, six-month Suspension of Transit Fares, 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.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Landry thanked the people who attended the Council Meeting, the Youth Commissioners, and announced that the Art Association had a silent auction to help raise money, and they have an art gallery, hold classes for all age groups, along with items available for purchase. She announced that they have a class on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Lastly, she encouraged people to go out on the pathways and do some hiking as well as signing up for the sixth annual Sky Island Summit Challenge during the Memorial Day weekend.

Council Member Rodriguez stressed the importance of reading the bills that Mr. Potucek reported on, especially the rental tax because it sounds like a good thing up front, in saving your renter's money, but when you read into it, it is not the case and it does not account for a lot of things because there is a lot of leeway there for landlords to still collect that money. He announced that there is a Youth Art Festival at Cochise College on Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with 27 booths and activities for making stuff, learning how to hula dance, performances from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m., announced that spring break is forthcoming, and Jay's Kitchen want to hold a teen night on Saturday, March 18, 2023, and a little help from the community would be appreciated.

Council Member Benning congratulated Mayor Mueller, well deserved, well earned, and voiced his appreciation for his leadership, tutelage, and friendship. He congratulated the artists for their artwork on building that needed paint on them, thanked Council Member Rodriguez for stepping up with the Youth Commission, noted that the commissioners are doing amazing things, and he cannot wait to work with them with the Parks and Recreation Commission. He congratulated the young kids for stepping up to help with the roadside cleaning. He announced that on March 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce will be the first Meet and Greet with the City Council. He noted that the Council had its first nonprofit, the Warrior Healing Center, present to them that touched everyone; therefore, he encouraged people to become a guardian for them, donate \$22 a month. Lastly, he announced that there is a music festival forthcoming to Cochise County on March 17 through March 19, 2023 with Joe Nichols, Kentucky, Brown Clay Walker, Doug Stone and more.

Council Member Messmer had nothing to report.

Council Member Johnson mirrored Council Member Benning's comment regarding Council Member Rodriguez's reinvigoration of the Youth Commission, the presentation of certificates of appreciation to many who picked up trash, and the collecting of coats and blankets for those in need. He reported on the Economic Development Commission, third meeting and a very

productive meeting, where it was decided to meet regardless of how Council will structure commissions going forward, reported on the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization, of which he is a Board Member and Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey is the chair, where they received updates regarding funding and projects, specifically Highway 90. In closing, he wished his bride of 31 years a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey wished Suzanne a happy birthday, announced that the moonshot information will kick off on March 15, 2023 at the Chamber at 5:30 p.m. with a shark tank. The winner could have \$10,000 in seed money for some new idea for investment. She reported that at the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting, which she will chair for at least one more year after, the South-Central District Report provided an update for Highway 90, but there still needs to be a survey and study done. The estimated construction start date is October/November 2023. The construction is going to start at Moson to Campus, and from Campus to the Border Patrol checkpoint, and because some of those areas have so many commuters, they are considering doing night work for portions of that.

Mayor McCaa stated that he was honored to be the speaker at the NETCOM African American Program where they talked about leadership and success. He voiced his appreciation for the City of Sierra Vista's leaders, fire and police chiefs, city manager, and city attorney that Council could not do without.

Council Member Rodriguez reported that there was a patron that went into cardiac arrest at the Angry German and an off-duty firefighter, Casey Anders, who was there having lunch jumped into action along with some bystanders to assist. He noted that it is good that the City has a community that is full of first responders that while off-duty assist and recapped on the Sierra Vista and Medical Services Annual Awards.

Mayor McCaa thanked Council Member Rodriguez for doing an outstanding job with the Youth Commission and noted that his wife is helping because she wants to be involved. He added that he is collaborating with the Cochise College Student Social Organization so that they can bring more youth in and have a more robust youth program.

#### Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the February 21, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor McCaa thanked Council Member Rodriguez for his work on the Youth Commission.