

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
March 9, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the March 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
Laura Killberg, Leisure Services Manager
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager
John Healey, Sports and Aquatics Supervisor
Adam Curtis, PIO
Nathan J. William, City Attorney
Jill Adams, City Clerk

Invocation – Pastor Justin McPeak, Thunder Mountain Church, led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance - Girl Scout troops, Brownie 419, Junior 104, and Cadette Senior 1224, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards and Presentations

A Proclamation declaring March 12 through 18, 2023 as the 111th year of Girl Scouts in the United States was presented to Girl Scout troops, Brownie 419, Junior 104, and Cadette Senior 1224.

Item 1 Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Messmer moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of March 9, 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.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced the regularly scheduled work session on March 21, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, which is important because staff is kicking off the City's Fiscal Year 2024 budget, revenue projections and debt service requirements. There

will be future meetings that will cover other various aspects of the budget as well. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. also in the Council Chambers. He reported that the RFP for transit driver services hiring was sent to the Federal Transit Administration for review; although, the situation seems to be improving a little in that area. However, there is a lag in terms of training. The site prep for the prefab bathrooms at Arbenz and Veterans Parks was scheduled to start on February 27, 2023; therefore, that project is underway and estimated completion time is the end of May. Following right behind that then will be the prefab restrooms that will be built on those sites with an estimated completion of June 2023, which was in the budget. The quote that came in for the new restroom for the Fleet Services Center totaled \$65,000 over budget; therefore, staff is trying to obtain two other quotes to see if the cost can be lower. Lastly, the City received the sales tax report for January that shows that the overall report was up. The actuals over budget are 6.7 percent year to date. In comparison with Fiscal year 2022, that month was up 8.89 percent, almost three percent over last year. However, the bad news is when looking a little deeper into the numbers, the general sales tax numbers for basic goods, food, etc. was only up 2.84 percent, which is the bulk of the City's sales tax revenue. Staff will watch this going forward and will probably be ratcheting down the sales tax projections for next year's budget. In closing, he noted the importance of the food tax to the City's revenue base, which is still making its way through the Legislature. Therefore, the City has been asked to sign in opposition to that.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Minutes of February 21, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-012, Appointment of Stephen Peterson to the Industrial Development Authority

Council Member Johnson moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023, the Work Session Minutes of February 21, 2023, the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023, and Resolution 2023-012, appointment of Stephen Peterson to the Industrial Development Authority, 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](#) Consideration of funding requests for Program Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan

Mr. McLachlan stated that the City is at the beginning of the process in deciding how to use next year's Community Development Block Grant funds, over a quarter \$1,000,000. The input that will be received during the hearing will be factored into the Annual Action Plan presented at a second public hearing at Council's first meeting in April 2023. Staff is proposing one capital

project and the Community Development Department has received three applications for public services from three nonprofit agencies.

Mr. McLachlan stated that there is a 15 percent cap on public services, which equates to about \$37,500 that can be allocated for that use. All the applications satisfy the HUD's national objective of benefiting low to moderate income persons over the past four program years, the bulk of the funds; but then allocated towards public infrastructure and facility projects, followed by public services, housing rehabilitation and small business assistance. During the pandemic less than one percent was allocated towards administration on the City's projects; however, staff is recommending that \$162,575 be used to install fire hydrants at the Montebello Subdivision, which was annexed into the City in 2010, one of the City's CDBG target areas where 72 percent of the population are in the low to moderate income bracket.

According to the City's Fire Marshall, 10 to 14 fire hydrants are urgently needed and will significantly reduce the risk of fire loss within the area, and it should also help to lower property insurance premiums. Staff is also requesting that \$50,000 be set aside for planning and updating the City's Consolidated Five-Year Plan, and other regulatory compliance measures.

United Way is seeking \$37,500 for emergency subsistent payments and other programs to help people in need. The Cochise Family Advocacy Center has also submitted a request and has provided a revised budget of \$35,724.00 for the provisions of trauma focused services to victims of violent crimes. The Southern Arizona Legal Aid Organization is requesting funds for outreach and education.

Dr. Reed with United Way stated that the bulk of the funds that they receive are for low- and moderate-income families in the community. United Way is asking for is \$37,500 to assist with rental and utilities assistance, food, employment, and books. He then presented a power point that explained each program.

Ms. Thrush with Cochise Family Advocacy Center stated that Lori's Place provides services to victims of violent crimes, which range from rape, assault, sexual assault, child abuse, the whole gamut, human trafficking, and they also provide services for victims who were witness to homicides and witness to suicides. We provide services to them as well. She shared that in 2022, Lori's Place had 159 victims that were provided services that ranged from six years old to age 62. Of those, some were sexual abuse, neglect, or all. Lori's Place is requesting CDBG funds to help with the marketing costs, to get the word out, and to help with the operational costs. Amount of funding request - \$37,500.

Mr. Moore with Southern Arizona Legal Aid, a nonprofit law firm, stated that their office is in Bisbee, and they want to be present in Sierra Vista. They serve nine counties and 11 reservations. He noted that nonprofit organizations are first responders too because they get the call when somebody is in a domestic violence situation, or somebody is being evicted. He further noted that in Cochise County, Sierra Vista tops the chart in terms of the clients that they see. They serviced 130 clients last year in Sierra Vista, with the next highest level of service in Douglas. They are asking for \$5,734 to be used for outreach and education to the public.

New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-013, Dissolving Non-Regulatory Departmental Advisory Commissions

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2023-013, dissolving the Airport Commission, Arts and Humanities Commission, Commission on Disability Issues, Environmental Affairs Commission, Tourism Commission, Library Advisory Commission, Youth Commission, and the West End Commission as Department-led Non-Regulatory Commissions, 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 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-014, Establishing New Council Advisory Commissions

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2023-014, establishing the Transportation Commission, Neighborhoods Commission, Environmental Stewardship Commission, and Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Diversity Commission, and Tourism 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 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-015, Re-establishing Council Advisory Commissions

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2023-015, re-establishing the Commission on Disability Issues, Youth Commission, and Tourism Commission as City Council Advisory Bodies of the same names, be approved. Council Member Messmer 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 2023-016, Authorizing Application for an Environmental Water Resources Project Grant from the Bureau of Reclamation

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-016, authorizing the application for an Environmental Water Resources Project Grant from the Bureau of Reclamation, 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.

Call to the Public

Mr. Wallace stated that the Economic Garden just blew him away because he had never heard about it and proceeded to define it as an entrepreneurial approach to economic development that seeks to grow the local economy from within its premises, that local entrepreneurs create the companies that bring new wealth and economic growth to a region in the form of jobs, increased revenues, and a vibrant local business sector. Lastly, he praised United Way, Mr. Moore, Lori's Place, and the police force, and noted that there is a push that that is trying to push the police force into a bad light. It is a push to make them not have a local presence, but to do what those from up high want them to do.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Messmer thanked Mr. Wallace for his comments, the nonprofits for their presentations, and reported that at the Joint Services Meeting there was discussion about the

Better Bucks Work Program, which had four of its workers were moved into full time employment. She also announced the Cultural Diversity Commission Meeting and noted that they have a couple of events scheduled.

Council Member Johnson thanked the Girl Scouts, a great organization, shared that he was a Boy Scout, and noted that March 8, 2023 was International Women's Day. In closing he stated that it was great having the Girl Scouts lead Pledge to the flag and wanting to serve their communities.

Council Member Landry thanked Mr. Wallace for his comments, announced the San Pedro Kiwanis' Shamrock Fun Run or Walk scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. (information is available at kiwanisshamrock5k.eventbrite.com). She encouraged people to participate as it is a great event that they put on for the support of scholarships and school programs that help the youth in the community. Lastly, she shared that the weekend is special to her because Mr. Landry and she are celebrating their 11th anniversary. She wished him a Happy Anniversary and noted that it is great to be married to her best friend, somebody who is a great partner. In closing she shared that she came to Sierra Vista years ago from a domestic violence situation; therefore, Sierra Vista is a special place to her, where she found a great life with amazing people in the community, amazing friends, an amazing support system, and where she found the love of her life as well.

Council Member Rodriguez congratulated Council Member Landry and her husband, an old battle buddy of his, congratulated all the City's employees that got their pins for 35, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service. He noted that a lot of places do not see that anymore; therefore, he appreciates all the people that have hung out in the City for that long and do amazing things. He gave a shout out to the winners of the Yes Fair, put on by SSVEC, congratulated Manuel Castillo from Veritas who had Battle of the Octanes and won, congratulated Buena High School, the middle school and Fort Huachuca, who had people that won as well. Lastly, he thanked their parents, instructors, or teachers for pushing them as well as the local supporters that funded the event and provided the prize money.

Council Member Benning stated that he attended the grand opening for the Economic Garden, a great facility, thanked Mr. Wallace for his comments, acknowledge Mr. Symington, who is on the IDA, congratulated the City's employees, and thanked the three organizations that came to talk to Council for their passion, which is forefront in everything they do and say.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that the Employee Awards Luncheon was fun, where she noticed that as the years of service went up, the more excited the people were coming up on stage. She added that Mayor McCaa made a funny comment about it almost being like the Price is Right. She voiced her appreciation for all the hard work that the employees have put in over those years, a combined 474 years among the 55 employees being recognized. She announced that the following is spring break, and she hopes everyone has a good time, fun time because the schools are going to be taking a break. She announced that the Cove will hold a spring break tsunami bash night from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023, Saint Patrick's Day.

Mayor McCaa thanked Better Work, an outstanding program, that was out with Mr. McLachlin picking up trash to clean the community, thanked the Girl Scouts for their commitment, voiced his excitement at the reestablishment of the commissions because he looks forward to visiting each Commission to see their progress, and applauded the Youth Commission that is doing remarkable things. In closing, he also applauded the employees, his first awards presentation,

and agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey in that it was like the Price is Right atmosphere. He also thanked Texas Roadhouse who did a great job on the food that they provided.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the March 9, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 6:13 p.m.