

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
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, Parks, Recreation and Special Events Manager
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Chanel Kirkpatrick, Public Works External Service Manager
John Healey, Sports and Aquatics Supervisor
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager
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 thanked Council for the opportunity to help because the bulk of the funds that they get are for low- and moderate-income families in the community. He provided a power point presentation that depicted the breakdown of their \$37,500 request and explained that United Way continues to assist with rent and utilities, the bulk of what they are asked for by people in need. He noted that none of the money for rent and utilities assistance goes directly into the recipients' hands. A check is written, and it goes directly to the landlord or to the utility service.

For the food assistance, United Way tries to do it at key times depending on when the CDBG funds are provided. For instance, the beginning of summer when everybody is getting ready to go on summer break from school because a lot of the kids do not have anything to eat, and if it was not for school, they would not have breakfast nor lunch. Sometimes if it is during the holidays, United Way makes sure that they have plentiful Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. United Way still has CDBG money that was set aside for spring break to make sure that the kids can continue to eat during that time. They also provide for other nonprofits, i.e., Peaches Pantry and Saint Vincent de Paul.

United Way has a box for books for the Summer Reading Program for the entire County. They provide books for first graders because that is one of the key places between 1st and 2nd grade to get those reading scores and start getting people thinking more about reading and education. They want to continue the program and include the 3rd graders at Carmichael School.

For the homeless hotel vouchers, United Way works with Good Neighbor Alliance. Dr. Reed noted that the homeless community is growing in the area. He explained that when Good Neighbor Alliance does not have enough room at heir facility, they provide hotel vouchers to get them off the street.

United Way also provide employment assistance to people who need help with resumes, showing them how to dress, and how to interview. In closing, Dr. Reed stated that although the United Way of Sierra Vista is for the whole County, he is the entire employment staff; therefore, he is requesting administrative costs. He works with Mr. McLachlan and provides monthly reports of everything that is going on at United Way.

Council Member Landry thanked Dr. Reed for being present and breaking down his request. She voiced her appreciation at all the information that he provided about the different categories.

Council Member Johnson stated that what really stuck out in looking at his application was breakdown of the people that were helped. There were 345 families receiving rental assistance which included 261 children, 214 families received utility assistance and right on down the road. He voiced his appreciation at the documentation because it shows the impact that United Way has in using these CDBG funds to the best and highest use.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he appreciates the part about the job assistance, resume writing, etc. He shared that the Youth Commission has discussions about doing interviews, the big gap when it comes to people going to interviews now than in the previous years where it is kind of like a given what you need to know, what you need to wear, etc. He asked Dr. Reed if United Way needs clothes, ties, etc. Dr. Reed stated that Untied Way could always use more; however, the Salvation Army and Fort Huachuca provide donations, and United Way sometimes works with Dillard's.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey thanked Dr. Reed for all the work that he has done with the previous CDBG monies that he helped to distribute and worked with the City's community partners. She suggested that United Way partner with Better Work because it would be right in line when people graduate that program/complete the hours.

Mayor McCaa thanked Dr. Reed and stated that United Way does an amazing job as far as collaboration with all nonprofit entities in Sierra Vista.

Ms. Thrush with Lory's Place, Cochise Family Advocacy Center, thanked Council for the opportunity to come and speak to them about their application. She stated that Lory's Place provides services to victims of violent crimes, which range from rape, assault, sexual assault, child abuse, the whole gamut, human trafficking as well as services for victims who were witness to homicides and suicides. She further stated that she is aware that her application packet was thin and apologized for that.

She shared that recently there was an article in the Herald Review that stated that there were in 2021, 26 rapes/sexual assaults reported in Sierra Vista, and in 2022 it was the same. Therefore, she went back through Lory's records and found that for 2022, Lory'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 the above. Lory's place even had clients that were witnesses to homicide of a family member. The numbers are staggering and when there is a difference from what is being reported and what is happening, it is a huge difference. Lory's Place works very hard to try to take care of that victim, providing them the services that they need, but also talking to them about the healing process, which involves reporting and telling their story. However, victims are afraid to report it to law enforcement and they do not know about Lory's Place. Lory's Place has been working very hard for the last two years to get the word out there and join in a lot of different events where they can tell people who they are and what they do.

Ms. Thrush stated that their request for CDBG Funds is to help them with the marketing costs, to get the word out there, and to help with the operational costs that they currently have. Things are very tight due to inflation, and Lory's Place is coming to a very difficult situation in the next few years because most of their funding comes from the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA). However, their budget is going to be reduced by 50 to 55 percent over the next years, starting in Fiscal Year 2024. Therefore, Lory's Place must seek many other ways in which they can continue to provide the services that they provide. Lory's Place is the only facility of its sort in Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee County, but a good percentage of that is in Sierra Vista, which is why Lory's Place is applying for CDBG funds to help them with the situation.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked Ms. Thrush for her presentation and stated that he was at Lory's Place during the Chamber's Business at Twilight, and he always thought that Lory's Place was a secretive place that nobody knew about where it was at for reasons, but on the other side of that, Lory's Place needs to be put out to people that need it. It is a hard balance to either keep it tucked away but letting the people that are in need know where it is at. He applauded Ms. Thrush on the marketing side of that and commented on the workspace that Lory's Place because they do not have a big old desk area, it is a little corner that they just workout of. The whole operation works like that, and he really appreciate that they focus more on the victims as they have the biggest rooms at Lory's Place, the playroom, the exam room, the video room, etc. is for the victim and that can be seen at Lory's Place.

Ms. Thrush stated that Lory's Place's mantra/motto is that their number one priority is the victim and what they need. Lory's Place does not house people there, they only provide services to them and coordinate directly with Good Neighbor Alliance and the Forgach House and other places. They also work with a couple of the hotels. She explained that when Lory's Place was designed, the founder of it and her family designed the main entry as a lobby area with a window that is bulletproof glass, where somebody will talk to people coming in to find out what they need. Then they are let in through a door that puts them in a hallway. The second door does not open until that first door closes; therefore, they have control of who can get inside the building just in case someone comes there looking for someone that they have abused. It is totally secure, and this way they can leave them locked in there until law enforcement can respond.

Council Member Landry thanked Ms. Thrush for being present and sharing with Council an important service that they provide in Sierra Vista. She noted that when something happens it is very scary and people do not know what to do, they do not want to report it because there is a lot of fear, and it is wonderful to have a safe place and to know that there are people out there that can help.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey also thanked Ms. Thrush and stated that they are offering an important and unique service to the County, and she is aware that they partnered with the Police Department and the Cochise County Sheriff's Department. However, she would like to see a more detailed application.

Mr. Moore with Southern Arizona Legal Aid, a nonprofit law firm, stated that he appreciates having the opportunity to be Council. He explained that he is the managing attorney at Southern Arizona Legal Aid in Bisbee, but he thinks that it is long overdue that they presented themselves in Sierra Vista. Their organization started back in 1951 and in 1976, they started providing services in Cochise County. All their services are offered to low-income families and their services are free, pro bono. They do housing, family law, consumer protection,

immigration, and they even have a presence on the reservations. They serve nine counties and 11 reservations.

Mr. Moore stated that a lot of people look at them for help, and he gives great homage to the Police Department, the Fire Department, the nurses, and the doctors. They are called first responders, but people do not realize 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 and they got a five-day notice, and they must go to court. Southern Arizona Legal Aid is an extension of United Way because when United Way gets that money and there is somebody that is about to be evicted, and the landlord does not care, Southern Arizona Legal Aid is the attorneys that runs into court and asks the judge to stop the eviction because they now have money coming from United Way. Southern Arizona Legal Aid works with VOCA out in their Tucson office. Southern Arizona Legal Aid has about 60 of employees at their Tucson office. They have noticed that most of the cases throughout cover Greenlee Graham and Cochise County, and most of the cases in Cochise County are from Sierra Vista and Douglas. They serviced 130 clients last year.

Southern Arizona Legal Aid is requesting \$5,734 to educate the public because the public hears about them, but they do not see them. They want to be in the Forgach House, the College, the Good Neighbor Alliance, and host a legal roundtable so that the nonprofits can come together with judges and attorneys to talk about the needs, and where to prioritize services. Southern Arizona Legal Aid We wants to do outreach because they are the extension of these organizations. They do not see they in court talking to the judge leveling the playing field for these families. In closing, he stated that he thinks that they can be a great partner for the City and bring even more resources.

Council Member Landry thanked Mr. Moore for being present and putting in an application.

Council Member Johnson stated that it is a very modest request, and he was surprised when he saw the paperwork and went through it. One of his questions was about the number of clients that they serve, which was answered - over 130 clients in the area. He added that it is important, as an attorney himself, interfacing with not only the Police Department but various nonprofits, and he applauded Mr. Moore's efforts.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked Mr. Moore for being present and noted that when one hears about free legal, it is not a good thing; but in this case, it is obvious that he is an advocate and people do reach out to him and need his help. He noted that he has seen Southern Arizona Legal Aid set up at Community Connect over at the Ethel Berger Center and he hopes that he will have some metrics about the clients. He thanked him for serving the vets at the Warrior Health Center and noted that the fundraising that they do does not go toward outreach.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that she is grateful that Southern Arizona Legal Aid is still pursuing to set up shop in Sierra Vista because they do service a lot of folks. She shared an experience that she had about 10 years ago, where a neighbor of hers had lost her job and needed help, and only spoke Spanish. She started calling around and found legal aid, where they had someone who spoke Spanish that worked it out directly with her and helped her. She did not know about Southern Arizona Legal Aid and now realizes that there is need for this outreach.

Council Member Benning stated that people know that he is big on nonprofits and does a lot with nonprofits and shared that he is currently the Vice President of the United Way; therefore,

when Council votes, he will recuse himself. He also shared that at Lory's Place he was there in the beginning, helped build the playroom, finance, and pay for the playground. He also agrees with Mr. More in that without Southern Arizona Legal Aid and organizations like that, other organizations could not continue to work. He stated that all three of the nonprofits said something that he loves to hear, that he pushes as well as everyone on Council and the Mayor - collaboration. He further stated that unfortunately, the Council has \$37,500 to give away, which means if it is all given to one person, two people are going to go home saying, you know what, should have, could have, let me try better next time. Instead, Council could give Southern Arizona Legal Aid a little bit more than \$5,734, and give \$6,000, split the difference amongst the other two, \$15,750. This way everybody goes home a winner and keeps doing good things in Sierra Vista. He noted that Council has done this before and has even had the City come up with some money, i.e., paying for a parking lot.

Mayor McCaa thanked the organizations and noted that he will have to recuse himself because his wife, Ramona is the President of the United Way. He stated that he looks forward to servicing all, but it is a hard vote. Council will discuss this and decide in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Potucek stated that Mr. McLachlan will inform the Council as to the next steps in the process, and the staff will certainly make themselves available to the applicants to see if they can find an amicable recommendation that meets with the Council's desires. Mr. McLachlan stated that this is a public hearing and asked if there was any input from the public. Council Member Johnson stated that there was no response from the public.

Mr. McLachlan stated that historically the City has funded one nonprofit application. There are three compelling requests, and staff will do the paperwork that is required, if the Council desires to go with all three. Staff is recommending to Council to decide how to allocate the \$37,500. One proposal is to grant \$6,000 and split the balance between the United Way and Cochise Family Advocacy Center. Staff would not be opposed to that, but there needs to be discussion.

Council Member Johnson asked about the total funds available. Mr. McLachlan stated that for public services, \$37,500.

Council Member Johnson asked if the rest would go into fire hydrants projects. Mr. McLachlan stated that he is correct to include administration. He further stated that the input that staff receives will be factored into the draft Annual Action Plan that will come back to Council at their first meeting in April. There will be a second public hearing and then staff will put that out for a 30-day public comment period. Final action on the annual Action Plan will be at Council's first meeting in May and submitted to HUD. HUD then has a 45-day review period and if there are no issues, then the City can expect the grant agreement late summer, early fall, usually late September, early October.

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.

Ms. Yarbrough stated that assessing the roles of commissions was part of City Council's current Strategic Leadership Plan; therefore, this item and the next two items are the result of that evaluation and multiple work sessions of discussion on how to better address the commissions and their roles. The first step in this chain of actions is to dissolve the departmental advisory commissions. Council will then establish several commissions with a more focused mission, and then finally reestablish several current department advisory commissions as Council Advisory Commissions. This resolution is going to dissolve the following Department Advisory Commissions: Airport Commission, Arts and Humanities Commission, Commission on Disability Issues, Commission on Cultural Diversity, Environmental Affairs Commission, Library Advisory Commission, Tourism Commission, West End Commission, and Youth Commission, which all currently advise the departments and are appointed by the City Manager. The Economic Development Commission was removed from this item, and it will remain as a Departmental Advisory Commission.

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.

Ms. Yarbrough stated that this resolution will create new commissions, and each of these new commissions will include various focus areas including the current commissions: Airport Commission, West End Commission, Environmental Affairs Commission, Arts and Humanities Commission, Cultural Diversity Commission, and the Library Commissions, which will be folded into those new commissions and will all focus on or be connected to various General Plan elements. Their missions will be updated to make more recommendations to Council based on the General Plan Strategic Planning goals and initiatives, major projects and initiatives related to those commissions, to conduct research on proposals relevant to their focus areas, and to receive staff updates on progress regarding relevant General Plan and Strategic Plan goals.

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 asked about the difference between item 5 and item 6. Ms. Yarbrough stated that item 5 establishes the commissions that have not previously existed, and they all have new names. Item 6 is different because the Commission on Disability Issues, Tourism and Youth Commission all currently exist as Departmental Advisory Commissions and previously existed as Council Advisory Commissions of the same name; therefore, Council is reestablishing them.

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.

Ms. Yarbrough stated that the Commission on Disability Issues, Tourism Commission and Youth Commission all currently exist as Departmental Advisory Commissions and previously existed as Council Advisory Commissions of the same name. Therefore, this resolution reestablishes them as Council Advisory Commissions of the same name.

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.

Ms. Flissar stated that this agenda item will authorize staff to apply for an Environmental Water Resources Projects Grant through the Bureau of Reclamation and noted that this item is for the application only. Funding is not guaranteed, and the grant process is expected to be highly competitive. If the application is successful, an additional action would likely be required to accept the grant. The City of Sierra Vista is applying for this grant on behalf of the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network, and the City was selected as the lead agency due to the grant requirements. The grant requires Tier 1 applicants to have water or power delivery authority and the City has water delivery authority. The grant also requires the applicant to be registered as a potential recipient on federal websites and due to the City's application history, and success with other grants, staff already has the required registration. The Riverstone Project is one of several recharge projects implemented or planned by the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network. When full buildout is achieved, the projects will help to sustain the riparian environment along the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area or SPRNCA. The Riverstone Project was recently able to obtain design funding through the Sentinel Landscapes Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Challenge Program (REPI Challenge), and the current grant application would be for construction funding. The grant total project costs cannot exceed \$6 million with the required match from partner agencies of 25 to 50 percent. Based on the application criteria, staff believes the project will qualify for the lower 25 percent match. In addition, the REPI Challenge award of \$925,000 and in-kind contributions can be used towards the match.

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](https://www.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.

Clea McCaa II, Mayor

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk