

March 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Charles P. Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Asst. City Manager

FROM: Jill Adams, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Revisions to the City Board and Commission Policy and Procedure Guidelines

BACKGROUND:

In April 2017, Council approved the initial City Board and Commission Policy and Procedure Guidelines (Guidelines) to provide the then Council Advisory Commissions a resource to assist them in their duties. The guidelines were most recently amended in June 2020 when the change from Council Advisory to Department Advisory for most commissions was approved by Council. At the March 9, 2023 Council Meeting, Council voted to re-establish the Commissions as Council Advisory Bodies. The attached proposed Guidelines reflect the changes made to the commissions. In addition, sections of the Guidelines have been updated to be more user friendly and better reflect the new structure and direction.

During the review, certain sections were drafted based on comments and discussions of Council throughout the process. The following questions are for Council discussion and clarification for the final document:

1. Membership Eligibility: Currently commission members would be required to live in the Sierra Vista Postal Boundaries. Any non-voting members would not be bound by these requirements and are still allowed to fully participate in discussions and activities.
2. Most Commissions currently have 5 voting members. Council has discussed resetting that number back to 7. (It was lowered to 5 in June 2020 with the deregulation). Currently, if all members active as of 12/31/22 requested appointment, the following Commissions would be able to make a quorum for a 5 or 7 member body: Planning & Zoning (5 members); Parks and Recreation (5 members); Arts & Humanities/Cultural Diversity/Library (10 members); Environmental Stewardship (4 members); and Neighborhoods (5 members). The following commissions would not have a quorum yet for a 7 member body: the Commission on Disability Issues (3 members); and Youth (3 members). The Transportation Commission (2 members) and Tourism Commission (1 member) would be unable to make quorum at either level. Staff are surveying current members for their interest in appointment, and advertising for applicants will be launched as soon as its known how many commissioners are needed.

3. Term Limits: The established term limits (3 two year terms) has not been changed. There has been discussion about this in the past; I am requesting clarification on the consensus for these limits.
4. Meeting Schedule: As Department advisory commissions, many of the commissions have been meeting on a quarterly basis. The draft requires quarterly meetings (at a minimum) but provides for work sessions or special meetings as needed if their work requires it.
5. Agendas: The creation of the agenda and meeting procedures will be shifted from staff to the Chair (staff will assist if necessary, distribute meeting materials, and post agendas).
6. Communications with Mayor and Council: In the past, Commissions presented to Council at work sessions during budget season. Is Council interested in bringing this back in 2024? The standing work session agenda item will also be restored so the Council Liaison is able to provide periodic updates on Commission activities.

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA

BOARD and COMMISSION

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES GUIDELINES

Adopted November 9, 2017
Amended June 25, 2020
Amended _____, 2023



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Sierra Vista has 16 official advisory bodies, which include 9 Council Advisory Commissions, 1 Non-Regulatory Commission, 4 boards, a municipal property corporation, and an industrial development authority. (A Full List of Advisory Bodies is Attached as Exhibit A). The City Council creates advisory bodies and appoints members to provide them with advice and recommendations related to specific subjects. The Non-Regulatory Commission was established at the direction of Council but advises the Economic Development Department rather than Council directly. Following research and discussion, City Council has elected to re-establish most Commissions as Council Advisory bodies after functioning in a non-regulatory capacity for the past three years. These guidelines provide guidance and information to better help the commissions meet the new direction being given by City Council.

These Practice and Procedure Guidelines are designed to assist the members of the City Boards and Commissions, and City Staff by providing:

- (1) top-down guidance to the Commissions on Council expectations
- (2) a source of documentation regarding best practices and procedures
- (3) improved transparency.

Revisions of these Practice and Procedures Guidelines will be made as necessary and will be reviewed by the Council every two years.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES and MEMBERSHIP

The primary role of the boards and commissions is to provide increased public input and citizen participation in the determination of City policies and procedures, and to advise the City Council on matters of importance to the City. More specifically, boards and commissions review and make recommendations to the City Council within their scope of responsibility as defined in the City Code and in the Arizona Revised Statutes. They perform as a citizens' advisory arm of the City Council with a focus on Council Strategic Goals and Objectives and the General Plan.. On specific matters referred by the City Council, the board or commission serves as an important reviewing body of the City.

City Commissions may advise City Council on policy but should not represent themselves as policy-making bodies.

Individual members of commissions may not speak on behalf of a commission without permission of the commission and should be careful that any actions are not perceived as speaking on behalf of the commission.

All Commissions are comprised of five members; Boards vary from five to seven members. The City Council appoints all voting members of the City Boards and Commissions by resolution of the City Council.

Members of the non-regulatory commissions are appointed by the City Manager pursuant to Administrative Directive CMG-CMG-2020-98.

For the majority of City Commissions, membership eligibility is determined by the location of an individual's residence within the Sierra Vista postal boundaries (Address lists the City as Sierra Vista and includes zip codes 85635, 85650, and 85613). Some commissions and boards (Planning and Zoning Commission, Industrial Development Authority, Personnel Advisory Board, and the Municipal Property

Corporation) require residency within the incorporated city limits. Use of a post office box address or business mailing address for membership application is not permitted.

Appointments are made by Council Resolution on the recommendation of the Council Liaison. Input from the Commission Members will be considered but is not required.

Commissioners are expected to attend all regular meetings. Commissions may recommend a commissioner be removed by Council if they repeatedly fail to attend meetings. The removal of a commissioner is not effective until passed by Council Resolution.

Commissions may also have Associate members. Associate members may be part of commissions by vote of the commission, without Council approval. These members do not have voting rights and do not count towards a quorum at meetings. A Commission may vote to approve as many associate members as it deems necessary. Associate members have no restriction on residency and may participate in all discussion and activities of the commission. Associate members may serve for a term of two years from the date of the approval of their application by the commission, must reapply for new terms, and have a term limitation similar to appointed commissions of three consecutive terms.

Each Board and Commission has a Council Member assigned by the Mayor to act as Liaison between the Board or Commission and the City Council. The role of the Council Member is to communicate to the Board or Commission relevant actions of the Council to their Board or Commission and communicate to City Council concerns and issues on behalf of the Board or Commission.

A City Staff member is assigned to each commission. It is the job of the staff liaison to facilitate the business of the commission, provide administrative support, and answer questions. Commissions may request assistance of Staff but cannot assign tasks to the Staff Liaisons.

MEETINGS and WORK SESSIONS

Regular Meetings

City Commissions meet at a regularly scheduled day, time, and location. Commissions meet at least once per quarter. Additional meetings may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Other Locations

The Commissions may elect to meet at other locations. Upon such decisions, the City Clerk shall give public notice of the date, time, and location of such meeting in accordance with all provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes.

Cancelled Meetings

1. When cancelling a regularly scheduled meeting, a notice will be posted at least 24 hours in advance, as required by the state statutes.
2. Meetings are cancelled when they fall on a legal holiday, there is a lack of a quorum, or there is no business to be considered.
3. The Chairman may choose an alternate date to make up the cancelled meeting if necessary.

Work Sessions, Special Meetings, and Committee Meetings

City Commissions occasionally schedule work sessions, special meetings, or establish committee meeting schedules when working on special projects. All meetings of the commission and their committees are subject to the requirements of the AZ open meeting laws.

Commissions can schedule work sessions for discussion and presentations only, and voting is not permitted and a quorum is not required.

Commissions can schedule special meetings if a regular meeting is rescheduled for any reason and contain actionable items for the Commission's consideration.

Notices of Meetings

1. Notices and agendas of meetings and work sessions are posted pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02. The City has designated the following locations as official posting locations for all City notices: City Hall, the Oscar Yrun Community Center, the Sierra Vista Public Library, the Sierra Vista Aquatic Center, and on the City website at <http://www.sierravistaaz.gov/>.
2. The City Clerk's Office prepares and circulates a monthly meeting calendar that includes board and commission meetings.

Quorum

Consistent with City Code § 30.18¹, "A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for transacting business." A Quorum is defined as 50% plus 1 of the authorized positions; for a 7 member commission, the quorum is 4.

Minutes

Each Board or Commission shall record all meetings, work sessions, and committee meetings. The recordings will be filed with the City Clerk's Office within 48 hours of the meeting for posting on the City website.

The recording will be designated the official record of the meeting. Written minutes, if prepared, will be approved by the Commission and will constitute the official record of the meeting.

AGENDAS –

As presiding officer, the Chair is responsible to the Commission for setting the agenda for all meetings and work sessions. Setting the agenda for subcommittee meetings are the responsibility of the chair of the subcommittee. Distribution of the agendas is coordinated by the Staff Liaison and forwarded to the City Clerk's office for posting.

Due to the specific nature of their duties, agendas for the various City Boards and the Municipal Property Corporation are prepared by the Staff Liaison and posted by the City Clerk's office.

Agendas shall be prepared and forwarded to the City Clerk's office a minimum of one week prior to the meeting date. Agendas and all back-up materials are provided to Commission members and liaisons electronically unless a paper copy is specifically requested.

¹ [City Code § 30.18](#)

Items are placed on an agenda under the following circumstances:

1. At the request of an individual or a non-quorum group of Commission members.
2. At the request of the City Council, Council Liaison, or Staff Liaison

Agendas may also contain items for liaison reports, special presentations and call to the public. It is the decision of the individual commission if these types of items are included on the agenda. If included, comments and presentations must be directly related to the business of the commission. Call to the public and comments on subjects not appearing on the agenda shall be treated as one-way communications. Members can request clarification on comments, but discussions are not allowed.

Conduct at Meetings

The parliamentary procedures outlined by Roberts' Rules of Order generally guide the conduct of regular and special meetings of City Boards and Commissions². It is the role of the Chair to conduct each meeting. It is his/her responsibility to maintain control of the meeting and insure the provisions of the Open Meeting Law are met.

Obtaining the floor: A member of the Board or Commission shall first address the Chair and gain recognition. Comments and questions should be directed through the chair and limited to the issue before the Commission.

Interruptions: Once recognized, a Commission member is considered to "have the floor" and another Commission member may not interrupt the speaker except to make a point of order or inquiry. In such a circumstance, the Commission member holding the floor shall cease speaking until the point of order or inquiry has been resolved.

Discussion: A Commission member should not speak more than once on a particular subject until every other member has had the opportunity to speak. The Chair will normally allow other Commission members to speak first, then give his or her views and summarize.

Calling for the question: The Chair normally "calls for the question" when he or she is satisfied that all Commissioners have had an opportunity speak regarding an agenda item requiring a vote. The "call for the question" is to disallow further debate and to put the agenda item issue to an immediate vote.

OPEN MEETING, PUBLIC RECORD, and CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAWS

Open Meeting Law: The open meeting law was enacted to insure transparency of the activities of elected and appointed officials. A link to the Arizona State Ombudsman's Open Meeting Law Handbook is included in these guidelines. All members of Sierra Vista City Council Advisory Boards and Commissions are subject to the provisions of the State of Arizona Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. § 38-431. The City Clerk's Office offers Open Meeting Law training upon request. Commissioners are required to attend these sessions.

Public Record Laws: A.R.S. § 39-121.01³ requires Board and Commission members to document and preserve records "reasonably necessary or appropriate to maintain an accurate knowledge of their official activities and of any of their activities and any of their activities which are supported by monies from this state

² [Roberts' Rules of Order](#)

³ [A.R.S. § 39-121.01](#)

or any political subdivision of this state." All documents created or maintained in the course and scope of the position as Board or Commission member constitute public records and are subject to disclosure, unless deemed confidential by statute or attorney opinion, upon request. This includes documents created and maintained on personal computers, tablets, phones, or traditional files not maintained by City employees on behalf of the Board and Commission members.

All public records have statutory and regulatory retention schedules. This includes all records created by the Board and Commission members. Board and Commission members are strongly advised not to retain documents evidencing conduct of City business in their possession or on their electronic devices. At the appropriate time, all records of the business of the Board or Commission should be transferred to the Staff Liaison and purged from private devices.

Conflict of Interest Laws

A.R.S. §38-501 through 38-511 establish the requirements of the Arizona [Conflict of Interest](#) Laws. Public Officers are required to declare a [Conflict of Interest](#) whenever that Officer or a member of their family has a substantial interest in any type of business of the City. If a [conflict of interest](#) exists, the Commission member is required to make the conflict public and refrain from participation in any vote or discussion. The form to record the conflict is available from the City Clerk. Completed forms will become part of the public record of the City and retained accordingly.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

During the budget cycle each spring, City Commissions prepare and provide an annual report and work plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The report provides an annual after action report for the current year and a preview of their proposed activities for the upcoming year.

Commission liaison updates are placed on City Council Work Session Agendas during the second regular City Council Work Session each month.

Commissions may submit recommendations and requests to City Council for their consideration by memorandum through their Council Liaison at any time.

COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

All City Council Advisory Commissions share the following Mission which are tied directly to the City's General Plan and the City Council's Strategic Plan:

- Make recommendations to Council on General Plan process
- Make recommendations to Council on strategic planning goals and initiatives
- Make recommendations to Council on major projects/initiatives related to commissions
- Conduct research on proposals relevant to the commission's focus area(s)
- Receive staff updates on progress regarding relevant General Plan and strategic plan goals

Commissions (and focus areas)

General Plan Element(s)

Transportation
Airport
Streets
Bicycling/Pedestrian
Transit

Connectivity
3 – Transportation & Circulation

Neighborhoods

Community Preservation &
Revitalization
13 – Redevelopment & Infill Development
12 – Housing & Neighborhoods

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Sustainability
9 – Conservation of Resources
8 – Water Resources
6 – Environmental Planning

Parks & Recreation

Public Facilities & Services
11 – Public Facilities, Services, & Buildings
4 – Open Space
10 – Parks & Recreation
14 – Safety

Arts, Humanities, & Cultural Diversity

Public Facilities & Services
16 – Arts, Humanities, & Cultural
Activities

Tourism

Commission on Disability Issues

Youth Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Support

General staff and administrative support to members of the Commissions is provided through the department each Board or Commission is assigned to. Support includes assistance with agendas, meeting materials, scheduling, and recording of meetings.

Budget

Boards and Commissions may be invited to participate in suggesting projects for consideration during the preparation of the City Budget

Vehicles

If a Board or Commissioner is travelling in their official capacity, they are encouraged, but not required, to use the City fleet vehicles for all City related travel. Vehicle reservations are made through their Staff Liaison.

When using a private vehicle on official City business, the City's insurance is not primary for coverage in case of an accident. However, if an accident occurs, contact should be made with the City Clerk's Office as soon as possible regardless of whether vehicle is City or personal.

Websites, Media Relations, Outreach

The Marketing and Communications Division (MarCom) maintains the City's website (<http://www.sierravistaaz.gov>) and social media sites. Pursuant to the City Administrative Directive⁴ (copy attached), City supported social media sites are maintained and updated by web stewards trained by MarCom. Requests for advertising can be made through the staff liaison.

Fundraising

Any fundraisers held by commissions, where items are sold or auctioned, must be first approved by the Chief Financial Officer. Funds raised in this manner are revenue, and in order to be used in the current fiscal year, must have funds budgeted against the revenue in the current year's budget.

Commissions may also seek donations of money or items. A donation occurs when the donor receives nothing in return for their gift beyond acknowledgment of the donation. Donations are processed by the City Finance Department and are reserved for programs or departments specified by the donor. A City donation form is used to document the receipt of these funds.

⁴ [City Administrative Directive](#)

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA CITY COUNCIL
PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES GUIDELINES

Adopted September 26, 2013
Amended May 28, 2015
Amended April 13, 2017
Amended November 18, 2021
Amended June 9, 2022

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

These Practice and Procedure Guidelines are designed to assist the City Council and City Staff by providing:

(1) top-down guidance to the City Manager on Council requirements and expectations

(2) a source of documentation regarding best practices and procedures used by Council and City Staff for administration and governance

(3) improved transparency.

Revisions of these Practice and Procedures Guidelines may be made as necessary and will be reviewed by the Council every two years.

CHAPTER 2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Council for the City of Sierra Vista is comprised of seven members, which include a Mayor and six Council Members, one of whom serves as the Mayor Pro Tem. The Mayor appoints the Mayor Pro Tem; the Mayor Pro Tem serves at the pleasure of the Mayor.

A. Duties of the Mayor

The Mayor is recognized as the elected head of the City government.

As set forth in City Code § 30.17¹ "The Mayor shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Council; provided that in the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem shall be the presiding officer and in the absence of both, a majority of the Council Members present shall elect a temporary presiding officer." "During the first regular meeting of the newly elected City Council, the Mayor shall appoint the Mayor Pro Tem from among the council for a two-year term. The appointment of Mayor Pro Tem will be approved by Council Resolution.

¹ [City Code § 30.17](#)

B. Council - Manager Form of Government

The City of Sierra Vista functions with a Mayor / Council - Manager form of government.

This form of government model combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed City Manager.

The elected City Council is the City's legislative and policy-making body. Power is centralized in the elected City Council. The City Council also focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations such as community growth, land use development, capital improvement and financing, and strategic planning.

City Manager

The City Manager is hired to serve the City Council and the community and brings to City the benefits of his or her education, training, and experience in administering municipal projects and programs. Council Members rely on the City Manager to provide complete and objective information about local operations, discuss the pros and cons of alternatives, and offer an assessment of the long-term consequences of their decisions. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council. The City Council performs an evaluation of the City Manager on an annual basis. The City Manager can be terminated by a majority vote of the Council consistent with local and state laws (A.R.S. 9-303)² or any employment agreements he or she have entered into with the City Council. The City Manager is bound by whatever action the City Council takes, and control is always in the hands of the elected representatives of the people. Details of the City Manager responsibilities are found in City Code § 31.07³.

² [A.R.S. 9-303](#)

³ [City Code § 31.07](#)

City Attorney

The City Council also directly appoints the City Attorney via an employment contract. The City Attorney is the legal advisor for the City Council and City Manager. The City Attorney also serves as the Parliamentarian for the City Council. The City Attorney does not represent individual members of Council, but the City Council as a whole.

The general legal responsibilities for the City Attorney are to: (1) provide legal assistance necessary for formulation and implementation of legislative policies and projects; (2) represent the City's interest, as determined by the City Council, in litigation, administrative hearings, negotiations and similar proceedings; (3) prepare ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and other legal documents to best reflect and implement the purposes for which they are prepared; and, (4) keep City Council and the City Manager apprised of court rulings, impending or ongoing litigation against the City or any City employee regarding their official duties, and legislation affecting the legal interests of the City.

On no less than an annual basis, during a special meeting called for the purpose of adjourning into executive session, the City Attorney shall update Council on pending or ongoing litigation involving the City. During this meeting, Council will also review the City Attorney contract in advance of the new fiscal year.

C. INTERACTION WITH

The City Manager serves as the equivalent of Chief Executive Officer of the City.

The City Manager is an employee of the City (appointed by the City Council) and has an employment agreement that specifies certain terms of employment including an annual evaluation by the City Council. Except for this position and the City Attorney, the City Manager hires all other Staff. City ordinance 31.08(A)⁴ specifies that the Mayor and Council Members shall deal with the administration of the City only through Manager, except for the purpose of inquiries.

⁴ [City ordinance 31.08\(A\)](#)

Instructions and direction are provided to the Manager via duly convened meetings of the Council.

City Council Members may make inquiries through City Staff, but such inquiries should be directed to Management Staff. Inquiries will be processed according to the following section.

D. Council Inquiries and Dissemination of Other Materials and Information

Council requests and inquiries are to be forwarded to, and handled through, the City Manager's Office for Staff response. These inquiries and requests may be made via e-mail, written request, or in person.

The City Manager disseminates the inquiries to the appropriate department(s) for response and then generates the formal response.

Council Members are notified via email when responses are placed in an electronic reading file system within the City's network. Council Members can access council inquiries, policies and procedures, reports, memos and more at the online Council Reading Room. To access documents, log in using your assigned username and password. Documents are added to the site as they become available, and Council will be notified via email when new documents are added. If you need login assistance or have questions about documents or content, please contact the City Manager's Staff. Each Council Member will have secure access to review these responses.

At the City Manager's discretion, if a request requires a substantive Staff effort to complete, the Manager may place the item on a Council work session for discussion and direction by the full elected body.

E. Fort Huachuca Protocol

The Mayor shall be the primary contact with the Commanding Generals of Fort Huachuca and IMCOM (Installation Management Command). The City Manager shall be the primary contact with the Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander. When meetings or information from the Fort are requested by individual Council Members, such requests will be made through the City Manager's office who will

coordinate through the Garrison Commander or other appropriate commanders. Invitations to official Fort Functions are covered in the following section.

F. Invitations and Representing the City at Official Functions

The Mayor and Council Members are regularly invited to various community and Fort Huachuca functions. Except for fundraising events of any kind, the City shall pay for the Council Member's registration or meal costs of such events. When it is customary for a Council Member to attend a formal event with a spouse or escort, the City shall also pay the registration or meal costs of the Council Member's spouse or guest. Examples include Fort Huachuca's Military Intelligence Ball or Holiday Ball. Otherwise, Council Members are expected to pay the cost of their spouse or guest at the time of registration.

Invitations are typically sent to City Hall and disseminated through the City Manager's administrative Staff via email invitations. Staff will coordinate RSVP's and respond to the inviting body as appropriate. Council Members should provide the courtesy of an accept or decline email. Staff will periodically follow-up with Council via e-mail to confirm attendance where appropriate.

CHAPTER 3 MEETINGS, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, WORK SESSIONS, RETREATS and MEET AND GREET

A. Regular Meetings

Pursuant to City Code § 30.15 - 16⁵, the Sierra Vista City Council holds two regular meetings, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista. The Sierra Vista City Council does not take any regularly scheduled breaks from the meeting schedule. However, if required, item D, below, identifies reasons for cancelling meetings. The regular meetings and work

⁵ [City Code § 30.15 - 16](#)

sessions are televised live on Cox Cable Channel 12 and via web streaming on the City's website. Web videos of Council Meetings are available through the City's website, www.sierravistaaz.gov.

B. Other Locations

The Council may elect to meet at other locations. Upon such election, the City Clerk shall give public notice of the date, time, and location of such meeting in accordance with all provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes.

C. Meeting Locations

1. Council meetings are held in Council Chambers in the City Hall, located at 1011 N. Coronado Dr., Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.
2. Council work sessions are typically held in the Council Chambers.
3. If the Council Chambers are deemed unsafe in which to hold a meeting, the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, or City Manager may designate an alternative meeting place until the Council Chambers are declared safe.

D. Cancelled Meetings

1. When cancelling a regularly scheduled Council meeting, a Notice of Cancelled Meeting will be posted at least 24 hours in advance, as required by the state statutes.
2. Meetings are cancelled when the meeting falls on a legal holiday, there is a lack of a quorum, there is no business to be considered by Council, or there are special circumstances (special circumstances would be when the majority of Council Members are attending the Arizona League of Cities and Towns annual conference).
3. The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, or City Manager may choose an alternate date to make up the cancelled meeting if necessary City business requires.

E. Executive Sessions

1. Executive Sessions are governed by A.R.S. § 38-431.03⁶. Upon majority vote, the council may meet in a closed executive session. Executive sessions are scheduled as needed, in conjunction with special meetings.
2. Notices and agendas are prepared and posted for a Special Council Meeting in order to adjourn to executive session.
3. The subject of the executive session, along with statutory reference justifying the session, must be noticed on the agenda. Use of executive session is limited to specific subjects as outlined in the [A.R.S. 38-431.03](#).

F. Work Sessions, Special Meetings and Retreats

1. The Sierra Vista City Council holds two regularly scheduled work sessions each month on the Tuesday immediately preceding the City Council meetings. Work sessions may be cancelled by the Mayor for lack of discussion items if appropriate.
2. By City Ordinance, a work session is limited to 1½ hours; however, upon agreement by a majority of Council Members present, a work session may be extended by up to one additional hour. If it is anticipated that a work session agenda will require more than the 1 1/2 hours due to length or complexity, the City Clerk may post two work sessions back-to-back to allow for a maximum of 3 hours instead.
3. Additional work sessions, special meetings or retreats are scheduled, as needed, at the request of Council or Staff. The City defines a special meeting as one in which official action of the City Council is required as part of its business. City ordinance 30.16 allows the Mayor to call a special meeting if requested by two members of the City Council; and a work session may be held upon request of any member of the City Council. Where possible, the City Council uses the regular work session for placement of

⁶ [A.R.S. § 38-431.03](#)

agenda items prior to scheduling an additional one, if time allowed within such work session will accommodate the discussion.

Public comment may be added to a specific work session item on a future agenda by request of and consensus of Council at a meeting where said topic has been discussed at least once, and where Council feels such comment would contribute to its deliberations prior to placement of an actionable item on a Council agenda. Such public comment will follow the protocol established at regular meetings. If an item is scheduled for formal action at a regular Council meeting, public comment on the item will be reserved for that meeting.

4. Retreats are generally scheduled for discussions that require more time than allowed at a normal work session. The Council typically holds retreats for purposes of discussing budget issues, strategic planning, or following the seating of a new Council.
5. Work sessions, special meetings and retreats are subject to the open meeting laws, are noticed and posted pursuant to A.R.S., are recorded, and summary minutes are prepared.
6. Work sessions and retreats are scheduled for discussion and presentations only and voting is not permitted at this type of meeting. Special meetings contain actionable items for the City Council's consideration.

G. Meet and Greet

Recognizing the value of public input, the Council has established a community outreach program, managed through the Public Affairs Office. All Council Members are encouraged to attend the periodic Meet and Greet events, which are held throughout the year at various locations.

H. Notices of Meetings

1. Notices and agendas of meetings and work sessions are posted pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02. The City has designated the following locations as official posting locations for all City notices: City Hall, the Oscar Yrun Community Center, the Sierra Vista

Public Library, the Sierra Vista Aquatic Center, and on the City website at <https://www.sierravistaaz.gov/>

2. The City Clerk's Office prepares and circulates a monthly meeting calendar that lists city council meetings, work sessions, retreats, board and commission meetings, and holiday closure dates.

I. Quorum

Consistent with City Code § 30.18⁷, "A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum for transacting business." In a body of seven members, four members constitute a quorum.

J. Electronic Participation

The City Council Chambers audio visual system now includes the capability to allow attendance via WebEx or ~~via~~ telephone. Council Members are encouraged to provide Staff as much advance notice as possible to set up the system.

Call to the Public: Members of the public who are unable to physically attend council meetings may participate either by submitting written comments in advance or by notifying the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting they want to participate electronically.

K. Minutes

1. The City Clerk's Office prepares ~~the~~ minutes for Council meetings ~~and~~; work sessions, and ~~records an audio record for~~ retreats. The Council must approve the Council ~~meeting~~ minutes, which will generally be on the next meeting's agenda for approval. ~~The Mayor approves the minutes of the work sessions and retreats.~~ The minutes represent a summary of discussions, presentations, motions, votes, and comments made during the meeting.

⁷ [City Code § 30.18](#)

2. Pursuant to the A.R.S. 38-431.01⁸, the City Clerk's office posts on the city's website a summary of actions taken at each meeting within 72 hours of the meeting. Approved minutes are posted on the website after the meeting at which Council votes to approve them.
4. The City Clerk's Office stores the recordings of the Council meetings for a minimum of one year after the approval of the minutes. Recordings that serve in place of written minutes are kept as a permanent record.
5. The City Clerk seals all audio recordings and summary minutes of Council Executive Sessions and retains them pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.

L. Conduct at Meetings

1. The conduct of regular and special meetings of the City Council will be generally guided by parliamentary procedures outlined by "Roberts' Rules of Order⁹."
2. Obtaining the Floor: A member of the City Council shall first address the Mayor and gain recognition. Comments and questions should be directed through the chair and limited to the issue before the Council.
3. Interruptions: Once recognized, a Council Member is considered to "have the floor" and another Council Member may not interrupt the speaker except to make a point of order or inquiry. In such a circumstance, the Council Member holding the floor shall cease speaking until the point of order or inquiry has been resolved.
4. Discussion: A Council Member should not speak more than once on a particular subject until every other Council Member has had the opportunity to speak. The Mayor will normally allow other

⁸ [A.R.S. 38-431.01](#)

⁹ [Roberts' Rules of Order](#)

Council Members to speak first, then give his or her views and summarize.

5. Tabling procedure: Tabling an agenda item immediately stops discussion and causes a vote to postpone a matter indefinitely or to a time and date in the future. A motion to “continue” an agenda item has the same effect but is generally used when a scheduling problem arises or when insufficient time is available to address the matter thoroughly.

6. Right of protest: A Council Member is not required to state reasons for a dissenting vote.

7. Calling for the question: The Mayor normally “calls for the question” when he is satisfied that all Council Members have had an opportunity speak regarding an agenda item requiring a vote. The “call for the question” is to disallow further debate and to put the agenda item issue to an immediate vote. A Council Member may move to “call for the question” on an item being considered. This motion requires a second, is not debatable, and must pass by a four-fifths vote. If the motion carries, the item is no longer debatable, and the City Council must vote on the item.

M. Open Meeting Law (OML)

All meetings of the Sierra Vista City Council, at which a quorum of members is present are subject to the provisions of the Arizona Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. § 38-431¹⁰. Except as specifically provided for by the A.R.S. § 38-431.01¹¹ for executive sessions, all meetings and work sessions where a quorum of council is present (or expected to be present) shall be open to the public.

Committees established by Council, regardless of the presence of a quorum of council, are also subject to the provisions of the Arizona OML.

¹⁰ [A.R.S. § 38-431](#)

¹¹ [A.R.S. § 38-431.01](#)

All newly elected Council Members shall be required to attend the OML training offered by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns at the Newly Elected Officials training. Updates, information and refresher videos relating to the OML will be posted on the City website.

CHAPTER 4 AGENDAS

As presiding officer, the Mayor is responsible to the Council for setting the agenda for all Council Meetings, Special Council Meetings, Work Sessions, and Retreats. The City Clerk's office generates, posts, and distributes the agendas.

Agendas for regular City Council Meetings include an invocation, pledge of allegiance to the American Flag, a report from the City Manager, a call to the public, and comments of the Council.

Agendas for regular work sessions include standing discussion items such as the upcoming Council Meeting and discussion of the Council Executive Report. Special topics are added to work session agendas by City Council Members or at the request of the City Manager. The City Council may determine other standing items to be added or deleted from regular work sessions at its discretion.

The Mayor and Council Members may request an item be placed on the agenda as set forth in Paragraph A.

A. Placement of Items on a Council Meeting / Work Session Agenda

Items are generally placed on an agenda under the following circumstances:

1. At the request of an individual or a non-quorum group of Council Members
2. At the request of Staff (subject to approval of the City Manager)
3. As a result of statutory requirements

B. The three primary types of agenda items

1. Consent Agenda. Items on the consent agenda, though listed separately, shall be considered collectively as a consensus agenda. An affirmative vote of the Council on the consent agenda will allow and be construed as an affirmative vote to take the recommend action on each item. Items placed on consent generally include minutes and resolutions that usually do not generate discussion or questions. Any item on the consent agenda may be removed upon request of any member of the council or the city manager. If removed, it will be set aside for separate discussion and remaining items will be voted on as a consensus agenda.
2. Public Hearing Items. Items placed on the Public Hearing agenda must be posted and/or advertised as public hearing items, usually to meet statutory requirements. The Mayor announces the opening and closing of the public hearings ~~and noted, as such, in the minutes.~~ Public hearing items are intended to provide additional opportunity for members of the public to comment before the Council.
3. New Business. All other items scheduled for consideration by the council. The exception to these types of items would be if an item were tabled during a meeting. Tabled items continue to remain on future agendas until removed by motion.

C. Agenda Preparation

1. The City Clerk's Office prepares the Council Meeting agendas and materials for distribution on the Friday prior to regular Council meetings. Meeting and work session packets are prepared, distributed, and posted by the City Clerk's Office no later than the close of business the Friday prior to the meetings. Agendas and all back-up materials are provided electronically to Council Members unless a paper copy is requested. A hard copy of the motion agenda will be provided to Council Members at the dais on the day of each meeting.

2. Staff prepares agenda items and sends them to the City Clerk's Office, who submits them to the city manager for approval. The deadline for inclusion in an agenda is 12:00 noon on the Thursdays, the week prior to the meeting.

CHAPTER 5 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

~~A. A.~~ The City of Sierra Vista has 159 regulatory advisory bodies and 1 non-regulatory departmental advisory body.

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Regulatory bodies:

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Commissions: Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Diversity; Commission on Disability Issues (CoDI); Environmental Stewardship; Neighborhoods; Tourism; Transportation; Youth

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Boards and Other Bodies: The Police Pension Board, Fire Pension Board, Employee Benefit Trust, Industrial Development Authority, Board of Adjustment, Municipal Property Corporation

Non-Regulatory Bodies:

The Economic Development Commission

~~(Commissions), which include 2 commissions, 4 boards, a municipal property corporation, an employee benefit trust, and an industrial development authority. Council creates the Commissions to act as advisory bodies to provide them with advice and recommendations related to a specific subject.~~

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1. Most regulatory boards and commissions meet on an as needed basis.

2. Council approves, by resolution, the appointments of the regulatory commission's voting members at the request of the Commission via the Council Liaison. Some of the commissions also have associate members; associate members are not

appointed by Council and do not vote but are eligible to participate in all other activities of the commission and residency requirements are not applicable. ~~A vacancy list of all open or expiring terms for all bodies is maintained by the City Clerk's Office and posted on the City Website. The process for selecting appointees for Board and Commission vacancies is the Council solicits open applications, which remain on file for a period of one year.~~ Members of the Commissions may screen, interview, and recommend applicants for appointment but it is not required.

~~4. The City also has several non-regulatory commissions including the Airport Commission, Arts and Humanities Commission, the Cultural Diversity Commission, the Commission on Disability Issues, the Environmental Affairs Commission, the Library Advisory Commission, the Tourism Commission, the West End Commission and the Youth Commission. These commissions and Administrative Advisory Committees including the Traffic Safety Committee, and Design Review Committee are established to advise City Staff and do not require Council Liaisons.~~

B. The guidelines for the administration of the City's boards and commissions were last amended by Resolution [2020-035](#)¹². ~~(copy attached).~~ These guidelines set forth the Council policy for creation, membership, terms, selection, and duties and responsibilities of each Regulatory commission.

1. Each advisory body has one Council Member acting as a liaison between the commission and the City Council.
2. The Mayor appoints Council Members to the liaison positions to these bodies. Appointments are generally made at the beginning of new council terms.
3. The role of a council liaison is to ensure the channels of communication remain open between the commissions and the Mayor and Council and City Management.

¹² [Resolution 2007-153](#)

4. Each advisory body is also assigned to a City Department and that department provides a Staff liaison and funding, if applicable. The council liaison works with the Staff liaison to ensure that each commission is receiving adequate support for their activities. With few exceptions, agendas, materials, and meeting minutes are prepared by the Staff liaison at the direction of the Commission Chairman. **Discussion of Support Needed**

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- C. Non-Regulatory commissions are guided by a City Manager Administrative Directive (Copy Attached).
- D. City Regulatory Boards and Commissions are subject to the provisions of the Arizona Open Meeting Law. Meetings are open to the public, notices and agendas are posted, and minutes are prepared for each regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present. Non-regulatory Commissions are not subject to the Open Meeting Law, but those commissions will endeavor to meet the spirit of the law by providing public notice, agendas, and access to their meetings when scheduled.

CHAPTER 6 OPEN MEETING AND PUBLIC RECORD LAWS

A. Open Meeting Laws

Members of the Sierra Vista City Council are subject to the provisions of the State of Arizona open meeting and public record laws. The open meeting law was enacted to ensure transparency of the activities of elected and appointed officials. A copy of the Arizona State Ombudsman's Open Meeting Law Handbook is included in these guidelines.

B. Public Record Laws

- 1. A.R.S. § 39-121.01¹³ requires Council Members to document and preserve records "reasonably necessary or appropriate to maintain an accurate knowledge of their official activities and of any of their activities and any of their activities which are

¹³ [A.R.S. § 39-121.01](#)

supported by monies from this state or any political subdivision of this state." All documents created or maintained in the course and scope of the position as Council Member constitute public records and are subject to disclosure, unless deemed confidential by statute or attorney opinion, upon request. This includes documents created and maintained on personal computers, tablets, phones, or traditional files not maintained by City employees on behalf of the Council Members.

2. All public records have statutory and regulatory retention schedules. This includes all records created by the Mayor, Council Members, and Board and Commission members. Council Members may choose to transfer their records to the City Clerk's Office for retention, but it is not mandatory. Council Members are strongly advised to utilize city-issued equipment for the conduct of all City business and retention of all generated documents.

3. Use of Personal Electronic Equipment:

Council Members of the City of Sierra Vista AZ may have the opportunity to use their personal electronic devices for work purposes with the concurrence of the IT CIO. Personal electronic devices include personally owned smartphones, tablets and/or laptops.

The use of personal devices may be limited based on compatibility of technology.

To ensure the security of City information, authorized individuals are required to have anti-virus and mobile device management (MDM) software installed on their personal mobile devices by the IT department. This MDM software will store all city-related information, including calendars, e-mails and other applications in one area that is password-protected and secure. The IT department must install this software prior to using the personal device for work purposes. Additionally, the MDM software will require the personal device to meet minimum operating system version requirements and hardware specifications to mitigate security risks to the network.

Employees may store city-related information only in this area. Employees may not use cloud-based apps or backup that allows city-related data to be transferred to unsecure parties. Due to security

issues, personal devices may not be synchronized with other devices in Council Member homes. Making any modifications to the device or modifying city applications beyond authorized and routine installation updates, is prohibited unless approved by IT. Unsecure Internet sites may not be surfed.

Council Members using their personal devices should not expect any privacy except that which is governed by law. The City of Sierra Vista has the right, at any time, to monitor and preserve any communications that use the city's networks in any way, including data, voice mail, telephone logs, Internet use and network traffic. This also includes any FOIA requests for information.

Management reserves the right to review or retain personal and city-related data on personal devices or to release the data to government agencies or third parties during an investigation or litigation. Furthermore, no employee may knowingly disable any network software or system identified as a monitoring tool.

Council Members are expected to protect personal devices used for work-related purposes from loss, damage, or theft. To secure sensitive city data, Council Members are required to have "remote-wipe" software installed on their personal devices by the IT department prior to using the devices for work purposes. This software allows the city-related data to be erased remotely in the event the device is lost, stolen, or compromised. Wiping city data may affect other applications and data.

The City of Sierra Vista will not be responsible for loss or damage of personal applications or data resulting from the use of city applications or the wiping of city information. Council Members should immediately notify IT in the event their personal device is lost, stolen or damaged, so that appropriate action can be taken to protect the city's network infrastructure.

B. [Conflict of Interest Laws](#)

1. A.R.S. [§38-501](#) through [38-511](#) establish the requirements of the Arizona Conflict of Interest Laws. Public Officers are required to declare a Conflict of Interest whenever that Officer or a member of their family has a substantial interest in any type of

business of the City. If a conflict of interest exists, the Council Member is required to make the conflict public and refrain from participation in any vote or negotiation. The form to record the conflict is available from the City Clerk. Completed forms will become part of the public record of the City and will be retained accordingly.

CHAPTER 7 COMMUNICATIONS WITH MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Routine Communications

The City Manager will regularly provide the City Council with information regarding City operations, projects and issues. In addition to placing items on the Council agendas for discussion, the following routine documents are provided as specified:

Council Executive Report – Each month, City departments submit information to the City Manager’s Office for inclusion in the Council Executive Report. This Report placed in the Council Reading Room and is discussed as a standing agenda item on the second regularly scheduled work session each month.

Strategic Plan Update – As part of the City Manager’s Staff meeting, the strategic objectives are reviewed regularly. A detailed report of the status of each objective is compiled every six months and is distributed to the Council in by the first week of February and the first week of August each year. In addition, Staff regularly reports the status of active Council Strategic Objectives in the Council Executive Report.

Press Releases and Media Advisories -- The City Council is on the distribution list for receipt of all press releases and media advisories that are distributed to media outlets. The Council is notified via email when press releases and media advisories are placed in the Council’s electronic reading room.

Council Agendas and related items – The Council receives electronic versions of documents pertaining to upcoming meetings

unless a hard copy is specifically requested. . This includes meeting calendars.

B. Reading File Information

Information of potential interest but not necessarily urgent or of interest to all Council Members is placed in the Council's electronic Reading File. Council Members can access council inquiries, policies and procedures, reports, memos and more at the online Council Reading Room. Documents are added to the site as they become available, and you will be notified via email when new documents are added. If you need login assistance or have questions about documents or content, please contact the City Manager's Staff. Each Council Member will have secure access to review these responses.

Regular items that appear in the Reading File include:

- Council inquiries/requests
- Press Releases and public service announcements
- Legislative Issues – including League of AZ Cities and Towns monthly newsletter
- National League of Cities information
- USPP reports and water-related information
- City sales tax monthly reports
- City travel and training reports
- City boards/commissions reports
- Conference and community event information
- News articles of interest
- Letters/notes of interest

Other items that may be out of the ordinary are included as requested.

C. Other Periodic Notifications

The City Manager will provide other information to the Council as may be necessary, to include the following:

Reports submitted to federal or state agencies – The City has certain requirements to submit regular reports typically documenting status or actions related to grants. These reports are either placed in the electronic Reading File, or they are distributed to the Council in their boxes, depending on the urgency or length. Previous examples included quarterly reports on the recycling implementation as a result of receiving funds for the implementation of curbside pick-up; and annual reports to the state documenting the data collected at the Environmental Operations Park in response to grant requirements.

Master Plans -- The City has certain requirements to develop and implement master plans for a variety of programs. Typically, these plans are discussed in Council Work Sessions, but final plans are often distributed via the Reading File or in person, depending on the length. Examples include Transit, Airport, and Park Master Plans.

Information Distribution – E-mails or copies of documents will be forwarded to the Council Members to make them aware of local events or programs of interest. Examples include Chamber and SACA invitations; regional public meetings (ADOT, Independent Redistricting Commission, etc.); invitations to City employee events and programs; etc.

Fort Huachuca Information or Invitations – The Council Members are regularly included in invitations to various Fort events and programs. Those are typically distributed in Council mailboxes, but sometimes done via e-mail. Other correspondence of a non-routine nature will be added to the Council reading file, including any formal notifications.

Legal Opinions – Periodically, the City Attorney will issue a memo to Council on a specific legal issue.

Legislative Information – Periodically, the Council may receive updates on the status of various bills, or summaries of other legislative information. Typically, this occurs during the spring legislative session.

Key Meeting Summaries – At the regular Tuesday work sessions of the City Council, the Mayor or City Manager will provide information

on key, non-routine meetings as appropriate. These may include but are not limited to meetings with: Fort Huachuca officials; federal agencies; other local governments; state officials; USPP committees; and community leaders.

Intergovernmental Documents – City Staff will place in the Council reading file documents from other governmental organizations of a non-routine nature.

Organization Documents – City Staff will also place in the Council reading file key documents from non-routine, internal issues. Examples of such documents include final internal investigation report of major incidents, such as theft; significant City Manager-approved policies, to include changes to the Emergency Operations Plan; recall or citizen initiative petitions; etc.

Legal Claims and Other Lawsuits - Periodically as required, the City Manager will schedule an executive session with the City Council to review all notices of claim, the City's response to such claims, and any other pending litigation as recommended by the City Manager and/or City Attorney.

Notices Received by the City Pursuant to the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN)¹⁴ - The WARN Act is a U.S. labor law that requires most employers with 100 or more employees to provide sixty calendar day advanced notice of closing of facilities or mass layoffs of employees (managers, supervisors, hourly wage, and salaried workers). The WARN Act requires that notice also be given to the "local chief elected official" of the city or town impacted by closings or layoffs.

Notification When Fort Huachuca's Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB) is Considering Placing a Sierra Vista Business Establishment or Other Location "Off Limits" to Military Personnel – Army Regulation (AR) 190-24¹⁵, Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board and Off-Installation Liaison and

¹⁴ [WARN](#)

¹⁵ [Army Regulation \(AR\) 190-24](#)

Operations, 27 July 2006, provides the Garrison Commander of Fort Huachuca the authority to establish off-limits areas to help maintain good order and discipline, health, safety, morale, and welfare of Soldiers. Off-limits actions are also intended to prevent Soldiers from being exposed to or victimized by crime conducive conditions. These decisions are made via the local AFDCB.

Other Items of Interest to Council Members - Upon request to the City Manager, Staff will provide additional information or respond to specific questions of Council Members. Such requests may be submitted verbally or in writing, or Council Members are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the City Manager to discuss topics in more detail.

D. Urgent Notifications

City Council may be called and/or e-mailed, depending on level of urgency, when it is important to inform members as to issues that may come up. A good rule of thumb is when such information may appear in the local paper the following day, in which case the City Manager, Assistant City Manager or another key member of Staff may make direct contact to explain certain situations. Examples include but are not limited to officer-involved shootings; significant local emergencies; deaths of employees or local leaders; major City theft or accident; and notification of awards received by the City.

CHAPTER 8 ADMINISTRATION

A. Administrative Support

1. General Staff and administrative support to members of the City Council is provided through the City Manager's Office. Administrative services include scheduling appointments, taking messages, and providing clerical support as needed.
2. The Executive Secretary to the City Manager is primarily tasked with providing support services to the City Manager and Mayor; the Secretary to the Assistant City Manager provides support to the Assistant City Manager and Council Members. Council

Members are encouraged to coordinate travel, appointments, or attendance at Council related functions with these Staff members.

3. Council Members may use City letterhead, postage and other official supplies when corresponding on official business. Staff will assist with finalizing letters, memos or other documents as appropriate. Where necessary, the Mayor will send all official letters representing policy, requests, or actions of the City. In addition, congratulatory, condolence, or other similar types of letters shall also be sent by the Mayor on behalf of the City.
4. In the budget, the Mayor and City Council have funds designated for their use. These expenditures include, but are not limited to, funds for Council Community Relations Activities, Professional Associations, Travel & Training, and Office & Specialized Supplies.

B. Travel

Council travel is subject to the requirements set forth in the Employee Travel Administrative Directive¹⁶ except that meal per diem will not be processed in advance of the travel.

~~When Council Members travel outside the State, travel will be approved by the Mayor. The Mayor's travel outside the state will be approved by the Mayor Pro Tem.~~

Council Members may opt to use their own POV or a city vehicle for travel.

~~Written~~ Trip reports are ~~required~~ ~~commended~~ for all Council travel. ~~Reports are required to be filed by Council Members when travel is out of state or when the total cost of travel exceeds \$1,000.~~ Reports should be completed by the traveler(s) within two weeks of completion of travel. Reports will be posted by the appropriate administrative assistant to the electronic reading file. It is recommended that a summary of any trip report is used by the traveler(s) to report results to the Council and public during a regular work session.

City-paid travel is for official City business only. In general, Council Members are authorized to attend conferences or meetings of state agencies, the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, the National League of Cities, SEAGO, and other official bodies with which the City works. The City Council makes every attempt to plan travel for the following fiscal year within the regular City budgeting process.

Quarterly, the City Manager will compile a summary of travel expenses by Council Member and place in the reading file.

C. Supplies

Staff is available to assist Council Members with selection and ordering of various supplies. Staff will order business cards, name badges and other supplies for new Council Members to be available

¹⁶ [Employee Travel Administrative Directive](#)

by the first official meeting of a new Council. Such supplies will meet design and format specifications as established by the City.

The City provides shirts and jackets embroidered with the City seal / logo and "Mayor" or "Council Member" to the City Council annually, or as needed. Staff will provide a catalog of choices with which to order, but Council Members may select alternate styles if appropriate and generally commensurate with cost.

D. Identification and Access Card

Council Members will be provided with a photo identification card that will also serve as an access card to City Hall. Cards are issued at the Public Works Department, and the assigned administrative Staff will make arrangements for Council Members to get their initial card. Loss or theft of cards shall be immediately reported to the City Clerk.

E. Vehicles

Council Members are encouraged, but not required, to use the City fleet vehicles for all City related travel. Vehicle reservations are made through the City Manager's Office.

If a Council Member chooses to use their own vehicle for City related travel, they can request mileage reimbursement through their assigned Staff member, which will be processed in accordance with City policy¹⁷. When using a private vehicle on official City business, the City's insurance is not primary for coverage in case of an accident. However, Council Members should contact the Office of the City Clerk as soon as possible if involved in an accident, regardless of whether vehicle is City or personal.

F. P-Cards

The City issues credit cards (P-Cards) to Council Members for use during their official duties and travel. The Staff of the City Manager's office will coordinate the paperwork to obtain cards for Council Members. Receipts must be turned in monthly to assigned support Staff, who will prepare the monthly statement for reconciliation by the

¹⁷ [Vehicles](#)

Finance Division. P-Cards are used only for allowed City expenses, and other uses will require reimbursement to the City. Multiple uses for non-City expenses may result in card being deactivated by the City Manager at the direction of the Mayor. Loss or theft of these cards shall be reported immediately to the City Clerk.

H. Council Reading Room and Mailboxes

The Council Reading Room is located next to the Mayor's Office in the Finance area at City Hall. The reading room is available for use by Council Members. There are also individual mailboxes for each Council Member. While most of the information and correspondence addressed to Council Members is emailed or placed in the electronic reading room, when possible, meeting agenda packets and all mail addressed to Council Members will be placed in these boxes. Mail will be left unopened unless otherwise specified by an individual Council Member. Each mailbox is individually locked, and Council Members shall be issued a key to their box. The City Manager's office retains a key to all boxes in order to place larger documents inside.

I. Computers, Phones, Email and Other City Equipment

City Council Members can request, and are encouraged to use, City issued laptops, tablets, and smart phones. The City creates email addresses for each Council Member in the City email system or on City issued equipment. Council Members can access their email accounts through the internet or with a City issued smart phone. While Council is not required to use City issued electronics, the preservation of Council Documents is more efficient when maintained within the City system. By using City issued computers, phones, and email, all city related information and documents is stored separately from personal information that may be placed on a private computer.

Set-up of smart phones and computers shall be in accordance with City administrative procedures¹⁸, and will be coordinated through the Information Technology Division. Smart phones may be used for personal use, as the value of the phone and its monthly charge is added as taxable income for all employees in accordance with

¹⁸ [City Administrative Procedures](#)

federal IRS regulations. Those Council Members with a City-issued mobile phone will be provided with a copy of City administrative directive governing use. Council Members will adhere to this directive.

Council Members shall turn in any City-issued equipment by the last day of the elected term, if leaving office, and shall be provided with a receipt.

CHAPTER 9 WEBSITES AND MEDIA RELATIONS

A. Website and Social Media Sites

1. Marketing & Communications maintains the City's website (<https://www.sierravistaaz.gov/>) and social media sites . The use of the website and social media enables the City to inform our citizens quicker and more economically.

The City will place a photo and bio of each Council Member of the City's website. Council Members may submit a bio to the City Manager's administrative Staff and update as needed. The City will arrange for a photographer to take a photo of the full Council, and each Council Member at the start of a new Council term.

2. Pursuant to the City Administrative Directive¹⁹ (copy attached), City supported social media sites are maintained and updated by web stewards trained by Marketing & Communications.
3. Council Members should consult Marketing & Communications if they have questions regarding content on the sites. City Council Members may maintain their own personal social media sites; City Staff does not maintain personal social media sites for Council Members. The information on Council Members' personal social media sites may be subject to the AZ Public Records Laws.

¹⁹ [City Administrative Directive](#)

C. Council Social Media Policy

While social media, with its use of popular abbreviations and shorthand, does not adhere to standard conventions of correspondence, the content and tenor of online conversations, discussions, and information posts and comments should model the same professional behavior displayed during Council meetings and community meetings.

Social media are not to be used by Council Members as mechanisms for conducting official city business other than to informally communicate with the public. Examples of business that may not be conducted through social media include making policy decisions, official public noticing, and discussing confidential City matters that have not been approved for release to the public. Council Members' social media site(s) should contain links directing users back to the City's official website for in-depth information, forms, documents, or online services necessary to conduct official city business.

Content maintained in a social media format, whether on a city-owned account or personal account, that is related to City business, including communication between an individual Elected Official and constituents or the general public, and a site's listing of "friends" or "followers," may be considered a public record subject to disclosure and retention under the state Public Records Laws.

Communication between Council Members via social media, as with telephone, text, and email, may potentially constitute a "meeting" under the AZ Open Meeting Law. For this reason, Councilmembers are prohibited from participating in social media discussions/threads regarding City business that involve a quorum of Council Members and are strongly discouraged from "friending" or "following" other Council Members or reacting to other Councilmember's posts.

It is also recommended Council Members include the following Disclaimer for posts:
The views expressed represent the views of the author and may not reflect the views of the Sierra Vista City Council.

D. Press Releases and Media Advisories

Marketing & Communications prepares and issues all press releases and media advisories, with the exception of those issued by the Police Department. Press Releases and Media Advisories are reserved for official City business and shall be generated and issued only by that office. Council Members who feel that a release on a specific subject is warranted are encouraged to discuss the topic first with the City Manager. Press releases promulgated by a Council Member will be reviewed by that Council Member prior to release, however, final format and content is subject to City standards and policies.

C. Media Relations

When an elected official is required to represent the City in a specific communications effort, the Mayor will serve as the official spokesperson for the City Council and the City of Sierra Vista as coordinated through Marketing & Communications. If the Mayor is unavailable, the Mayor Pro Tem may serve or designate another Council Member to represent the City. The elected spokesperson will be provided with briefing materials by the City Manager, Assistant City Manager or Marketing & Communications Staff prior to communicating with the media.

The Mayor and Council Members, when dealing with the media individually, need to be clear on the difference between settled Council policy and personal views on issues. The Mayor and Council Members will take care to ensure that phrases such as "...the City position is" or "...the City believes" will be limited to topics that have been approved as settled policy by a majority vote of the City Council.

CHAPTER 10 EMERGENCIES

A. Operation of the City During an Emergency

In the event of an emergency, the City Manager has the authority to activate the City's Emergency Operations Center and appoint an Incident Commander. In such an instance, the response to the

emergency shall follow all procedures of the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

The Mayor and City Council will be notified at the earliest possible time of such an emergency, depending on the nature of the emergency. The Council will further be advised if, during the emergency, the Mayor makes an emergency declaration or is considering governing by proclamation. Under the City's emergency operations plan²⁰, the Council will be kept periodically informed of the status of the emergency through the City Manager or his designee, all in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. The City Manager will designate one or two Staff members who will serve as the primary contact if such assistance is needed in order to free the Manager's time to assist in management of the emergency. It is the policy of the City Council that Council Members will not enter the Emergency Operations Center during an emergency without coordination with the City Manager or his or her designated representative. This restriction recognizes the need for the Incident Commander to not be distracted by the need for "VIP briefings."

Provided there is no effect on the use of electronic communications equipment as a result of the emergency, City Council Members are encouraged to send e-mails requesting information during such an event.

²⁰ [City's Emergency Operations Plan](#)