

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
May 4, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the May 4, 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 Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Director
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Kennie Downing, Procurement Manager
Judy Hector, Marketing and Communications Manager
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Jill Adams, City Clerk

Invocation – Council Member Messmer led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Landry moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of May 4, 2023, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Presentations and Awards

Ms. Alexandra Kosmider introduced the following 2023 Water Wise Youth's Poster Contest Awardees:

Kayleigh Middleton, Veritas Christian Community School, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Carns, 1st Place;
Paislee McNeely, Veritas Christian Community School, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Carns, 2nd Place;
Amia Empie-Martinez, Village Meadows Elementary School, Mrs. Rojas, 1st Place, Grand Prize;
Naomi Fager, Pueblo Del Sol Elementary School, 4th Grade, Mrs. Lewis, 2nd Place;
William Hebenstreit, Town and Country Elementary School, 4th Grade, Mrs. Smith, Honorable Mention;
Lola Allen, Town and Country Elementary School, 5th Grade, Mrs. Sulger, 1st Place;

Rihanna Davenport, Town and Country Elementary School, 5th Grade, Mrs. Sulger, 2nd Place; Sterling Karten, Center for Academic Success, 5th Grade, Mrs. Pereda, Honorable Mention; Ruby Lowe, Huachuca Mountain Elementary, 6th to 8th Grade, Ms. LaPaglia, 1st Place; Aislin Sobolesky, Center for Academic Success, 6th to 8th Grade, Ms. Kylee, 2nd Place; and Leanne Bui, Huachuca Mountain Elementary, 6th to 8th Grade, Ms. Kuriger, Honorable Mention,

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation declaring the Month of April as Water Awareness Month to Alexandra Kosmider, Instructional Specialist, Senior, Water Wise Youth, Cochise County Office, the University of Arizona. Ms. Kosmider voiced her appreciation and talked about the Water Wise Community Program.

The Mayor, Council, and Fire Chief Jones presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Patrick Jones for his support and dedication to the City of Sierra Vista Fire Department and surrounding communities.

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month to NAMI Board Members.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek announced that the next work session is on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to discuss the balanced budget, SEACOM budget; reminded everyone that the regular Council meeting for May 11, 2023 will be cancelled, and on May 23, 2023, 3:00 p.m. will be another City Council work session focusing on the budget. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as well. He reported that a pre-bid meeting and site visit was held April 27, 2023 for the Garden Canyon Linear Park Phase II ADA Paths at St. Andrews, with bids being due May 17, 2023; the sewer line and manhole repair bids are due on May 5, 2023; and staff has interviewed two firms, McGann & Associates and Wheat Design for the Roadrunner Park Design and expect to make an announcement of the award within the week. The annual street maintenance was awarded to KE&G, which is estimated for completion by June 30, 2023, that will result in \$1.2 million in repairs to the roads in the neighborhood off 7th north of Golf Links and Avenida Cochise east of BST. KE&G has begun work on the site prep for prefab bathrooms, which have been ordered, at Arbenz and Veterans Park, and the project is estimated to be completed at the end of June 2023. He reported that the SEACOM budget work session with the Board of Supervisors went well and the numbers which Council will see next week are close to the City's contributions for this current fiscal year. He also reported that he chaired the Refuse Rate Review Board and Tourism meetings and is pleased to report that the tipping fees will be kept at the same level that they are currently at. The tourism budget will be the same as the last fiscal year as well.

Mr. Potucek reported the funds on the opioid settlement are starting to be distributed and there is several stipulations on how to use them. The County is currently in receipt of those funds, over a half million dollars. The City's portion of it is \$87,000 and the County is going to start out by asking the communities for input on what they think the needs are first and then will decide as to how to move forward, which will require a Council vote. Lastly, he reported that the City received notification from a Border Patrol agent in charge regarding potential ramifications or impacts that may be seen because of Title 42 expiring on May 11, 2023. Therefore, staff is working very closely with congressional staff, Governor's office and County Emergency Management and trying to prepare for those potential impacts if they do occur. Staff is hoping to head them off first, but if not, the City needs to be prepared with a backup plan.

Council Member Johnson asked if there has been any thought about having the National Guard come out to the City. Mr Potucek stated that not yet because staff just found out about this, but the suggestion is not a bad idea.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that she is aware that staff will be looking into the possibility of more Stone Garden funding because that is going to be an appropriation based off the call that from Senator Sinema.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey asked for the list of streets, once it is available, to be sent to Marcon to update the website because the current one is outdated.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Minutes of March 21, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Minutes of April 4, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the City Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-021, Appointment of Ana Smith to the Tourism Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-022, Appointments of Michelle McCollum, Pamela Anderson, Julia McCaa, Tait Wilcox, and Rosie Mackey to the Neighborhoods Commission, said terms to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-023, Appointment of Alfred Spurgeon to the Transportation Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-024, Appointments of Bruce Phillips, Patrick Murphy, and Steve Spearman to the Environmental Stewardship Commission, said terms to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-025, Appointment of Aubrey Travis, Sophia Rosa, Ryann Brooks, and Ryley Absalon to the Youth Commission, said terms to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.9](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-026, Appointment of Lori Schectman, Liza Quinones, Sherron Driver, and Verna Williams to the Commission on Disability Issues, said terms to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.10](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-027, Appointment of Rebecca Dailous, Carolyn Cruz, Radford Hyde, Gwen Calhoun, Karly Scarbrough and Judy Wand to the Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Diversity Commission, said terms to expire April 30, 2025

Council Member Landry moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Work Session Minutes of March 21, 2023 and April 4, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023, Resolution 2023-021, appointment of Ana Smith to the Tourism Commission, Resolution 2023-022, appointments of Michelle McCollum, Pamela Anderson, Julia McCaa, Tait Wilcox, and Rosie Mackey to the Neighborhoods Commission, Resolution 2023-023, appointment of Alfred

Spurgeon to the Transportation Commission, Resolution 2023-024, appointments of Bruce Phillips, Patrick Murphy, and Steve Spearman to the Environmental Stewardship Commission, Resolution 2023-025, appointment of Aubrey Travis, Sophia Rosa, Ryann Brooks, and Ryley Absalon to the Youth Commission, Resolution 2023-026, appointment of Lori Schectman, Liza Quinones, Sherron Driver, and Verna Williams to the Commission on Disability Issues, Resolution 2023-027, appointment of Rebecca Dailous, Carolyn Cruz, Radford Hyde, Gwen Calhoun, Karly Scarbrough and Judy Wand to the Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Diversity Commission, said terms to expire April 30, 2025, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Council Member Benning thanked everyone that stepped up to serve the community and noted that it is a great decision that Council made on making them commissions again instead of what they were.

Council Member Rodriguez echoed Council Member Benning's sentiment and encouraged the people who showed up to go on YouTube and share with their friends the moment where their names were mentioned. He voiced his excitement at seeing the Youth Commissioners being present, a Commission that is near and dear to him. He thanked them for assisting the meeting, added that he looks forward to all the products that they are going to do, and apologized for the pause in their activities, but there were legalities involved - had to get the commissioners appointed. However, they are going to be back in full steam as soon as the Mayor hits the gavel. Lastly, he thanked all the commissioners who attended the meeting, for serving on a commission, and the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey echoed Council Member Benning and Rodriguez's statement. The Council is grateful for the willingness to serve. She then asked the commissioners to stay after the meeting so that they can be sworn in by the City Clerk.

Mayor McCaa thanked everyone for putting in the work, thanked his mother, Ms. McCaa, and added that he is looking forward to seeing great things out of commissions, especially the Youth Commission with Council Member Rodriguez at the helm.

Public Hearings

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-028, new license, Series 12 Liquor License for Fernando Mora Perez on behalf of the Takomaki Restaurant, 1481 E Fry Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2023-028, new license, Series 12 Liquor License for Fernando Mora Perez on behalf of the Takomaki Restaurant, 1481 E Fry Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 4](#) Consideration of DRAFT PY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Annual Action Plan

Mr. McLachlan stated that the Annual Action Plan is essentially the City's funding application to HUD for Community Development Block Grant funding. It follows a federally prescribed format,

responds to a series of questions that the City must address. There is some boiler plate information that gets carried over year to year and updated so some of it may look familiar. The most important part of the Plan is the proposed use of next year's funding. The City is expected to receive just over a quarter \$1,000,000. The allocations in the Plan reflect the direction of the Council following the applicants' presentations in March. The bulk of the funds will be spent on installing 10 to 12 strategically placed fire hydrants in the Montebello Subdivision. This is one of the areas that was identified for CDBG investment due to its low to moderate income status. The maximum amount available for program services is being divided up amongst the three nonprofits that made application, United Way of Sierra Vista, Cochise County, and the Cochise Family Advocacy Center, that are each proposed to receive \$15,750. The amount of \$6,000 will be going to Southern Arizona Legal Aid for services, benefiting low to moderate income clientele. The draft Plan also sets aside \$50,000 for the update of the City's Five-Year CDBG Consolidated Plan, which is due next year, as well as other regulatory compliance measures. In terms of next steps, staff will be providing any additional feedback received during the public comment period that closes on May 14, 2023. During the Council's May 25, 2023 meeting, staff will be requesting final approval of the Plan. Staff will then submit it to HUD, 45 days to review and approve. The City expects the grant agreement late summer, early fall.

In response to Council Member Rodriguez, Mr. McLachlan stated that the Montebello Neighborhood is southwest of the Charleston Road, Julio Cesar intersection. It was annexed about 13 years ago and has 250 lots with no hydrants. The City will be curing that deficiency through this grant.

New Business

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-029, Amendment to the City Board and Commission Guidelines

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2023-029, amendment to the City Board and Commission Guidelines, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-030, Amendment to the City Council Policy and Procedure Guidelines

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-030, amendment to the City Council Policy and Procedure Guidelines, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-031, Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-031, an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Sierra Vista, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Community College District, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-032, Acceptance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding-Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (Agreement #220425-01)

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-032, acceptance of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding-Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (Agreement #220425-01), be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 9](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-033, Intergovernmental Support Agreement with Fort Huachuca to provide Fire Suppression Systems Inspection, Maintenance and Repair Services Provided by a Third-Party Contractor

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2023-033, an Intergovernmental Support Agreement with Fort Huachuca to provide Fire Suppression Systems Inspection, Maintenance and Repair Services Provided by a Third-Party Contractor, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 10](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-034, Dedication of the tennis courts located at the Veterans' Memorial Park Sports Complex to Steven Bokowski

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2023-034, dedication of the tennis courts located at the Veterans' Memorial Park Sports Complex to Steven Bokowski, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Council Member Landry stated that Coach Steve was a great person. She shared that her son was fortunate enough to take some classes with him during the summer a few years back and noted that he still remembers Coach Steve and the great time that he had. It was great to watch Coach Steve interact with the kids in getting them so enthused. Coach Steve was passionate about what he did, and she appreciates that the City is naming the Sports Complex after him.

Council Member Benning stated that the Park and Recreation Commission approved this action, 5/0, and they bring this type of stuff to Council, and help. He noted that he could not be prouder of his Park and Recreation Commission, a good dedication.

Call to the Public

Ms. Schaff, a member of the Park and Recreation Commission and the District 8 Treasurer for Service of the Little League in Sierra Vista. She explained that there are seven or eight leads, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista that has the League and Ponytail, Benson, Wilcox, Nogales, and Rio Rico. She announced that Service of the League will be hosting the State Baseball Tournament, 9, 10, and 11 years old. The date has not yet been determined, but it will be in the July time frame. The tournament will be held at the Stone Complex fields and there will be over 14 teams traveling to Sierra Vista to play; therefore, they are hosting for the entire State of Arizona. She noted that Police Chief Thrasher comes out to help along with his wife Jen. They

all they get subjected to books and he is very knowledgeable of the rules and usually 99 percent of the parents do not argue when he is there. She thanked Ms. Wilson for coming out and throwing the first pitch for them during opening ceremonies, and Mayor McCaw for coming out and seeing the big turnout for the opening ceremonies. The Avengers Division, special needs kids, attended the opening ceremonies. They range from age five to 19 years old. The teams are split so that they can play real baseball. The Littles play Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and the Bigs play at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night. They do not just do baseball because as soon as baseball ends, they are bowling, and from bowling they go to soccer, and then from soccer, they go into basketball, which was recently added. There is continuous work with the kids. Lastly, she announced that they will be hosting district tournaments for senior baseball and 9-, 10-, and 11-year-olds baseball, which will be held in June at Stone Complex on Arbenz Field.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Benning thanked Ms. Schaff for everything she does, Jessica Kunkle, and Mr. Hayes, who are very involved with the youth with the sports programs. He noted that without people like that, the sports tourism would not begin to take off. He congratulated Mr. Jones on his certificate of appreciation, well deserved, and thanked him for his recommendation to Mr. Potucek on Fire Chief Jones. He also thanked Officer Scott, who rides the Police Department motorcycle for pushing a truck that broke had broken down out of the street. He does this all the time as well as the EMTs and firemen. Lastly, he stated that May 4, 2023 is National Prayer Day, and it was made even better by the Interdenominational Christian Ministries. This is the 75th year that the president has made a proclamation declaring May 4th as National Prayer Day. Sometimes people do not speak up, and they may not have the same God, they may not believe, but he has the armor of God around him, and he believes that this is way to go, where one needs to go with their lives. He was able to break bread with a lot of his fellow Council Members, the Mayor, and great leaders of the City of Sierra Vista. He was able to talk about what they can do going forward, how to get better at what they are doing and forget some of the worries, pray for the nation, pray for the country, and most importantly, pray for Sierra Vista.

Council Member Landry congratulated the youth poster winners, noted that there was a lot of participation, and that it was great to see their art. She added that there is a lot of talented youth in the community and thanked them for participating. She also thanked the Mayor and Council for declaring May as a Mental Health Month and noted that it is important to break the stigma around that and encouraged people to check out the march for Mental Health with NAMI. She announced that in October they do their Sky Island bike ride. She stated that it is almost the end of the school year and being a teacher is a thankless job, but it has such a positive ripple effect on the community, on the world. She encouraged people to thank a teacher, show them some extra love because it has been a tough year and it is a tough job. She wished everyone to finish up the school year strong and to have a good have a good summer. Although, some will be in summer school. She encouraged people to reach out to any of the Mamas that they know whether it is your own, your favorite one, any new moms, anybody that might be having a Mother's Day different from in the past and show them some love as well. Lastly, she announced that the Animal Shelter is currently in need of bleach, donations are greatly appreciated. She then thanked all the new Commission Members for serving.

Council Member Johnson congratulated the Water Wise Poster winners and stated that he was amazed at the good artists in the City's schools. He also congratulated the Commissioners and thanked them for serving. It is a commitment and Council appreciates their input. Lastly, he congratulated Mr. Jones on his recognition and shared that he is always singing in the church choir.

Council Member Messmer congratulated everybody and Mr. Jones for his award. She announced that the Historical Society is having their fundraiser on May 5, 2023. There are still tickets available through their Facebook page or Instagram page, Neighbor page. The museum will open on Saturday, May 6, 2023 with their Jurassic Wonders from 1:50 p.m., starting with their grand opening ribbon cutting.

Council Member Rodriguez reported on the Special Olympics Run that was fun, gave a shout out to Todd from Cool FM who was out there running with the camera the whole time. The Police Department was out there, Officer Grady who put the event together, and the State Troopers. He also announced that Fort Huachuca held the Spring Career Fair during the week, and it was good to see that the City had a table out there because soldiers getting out of the military may want to stay in the area because the City has a lot to offer. He congratulated the Chamber winners from the Gala, a lot of lot of good businesses. He announced that May 4, 2023 is International Firefighters Day and noted that there are a lot of firefighters in the area, Palominas, Bisbee, Sierra Vista Fry, Fort Huachuca, Whetstone, Forestry, Hotshots, and everybody that is currently in the fire service business, it is fire season. He gave a shout out to them in attacking fires every day, Youth Commissioner, Sofia Rosa, who is going to ASU, who competed and won a grant through Travis Leadership Institute. He also announced that it is Municipal Clerks week, and thanked Ms. Adams, an awesome person, who keeps Council out of trouble and keeping them legit. He encouraged people to go to the Festival of the Southwest during the weekend at Veterans Memorial Park. He announced that the Legacy Foundation had their open house during the week celebrating 10 years. They do great things for the community, a lot of grants that are made possible by them. He noted that they are building an event center on the back. He announced that there is Fort Huachuca poker run on Friday, May 5, 2023 and cautioned people to keep an eye out for motorcycles out and about. The City also goodbye to the Sister City students and it seemed like they were trying everything they could to stay. Lastly, he mentioned that with all the sports going on, there are kids as well, but people are still speeding. People are not paying attention to the speed limit and the Police Department can only be so many places at one time.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey had nothing to report.

Mayor McCaa congratulated Mr. Jones and voiced his appreciation at his motivation and enthusiasm. He shared that his last etched memory of him is from 1983 when they were going to Mountain View to play the regional football game and he was out there cheering them on, but they lost 35 to 3. He congratulated all the commissioners and noted that he is looking forward to their comments. He announced that on May 1, 2023, Council signed the Strategic Plan with USAICoE, NETCOM, the Intel Center and network communication with General Hale and General Review Base and noted that Sierra Vista is privileged to be a part of that process going forward with the Strategic Plan. He also announced that last week he testified before the Senate Subcommittee on the Government Operations and Border management of the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs to examine the effects of increased migration on the on the communities that are along the border. He thanked Ms. Yarbrough and Police Chief Thrasher for their input. In closing, he thanked God for these great leaders, Council, people that are doing an amazing job going forward in leading the City into a higher dimension. Lastly, he announced that Tuesday, May 2, 2023 was Principals Day and gave a shout out to Ms. Nicole Young.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the MY 4, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 6:03 p.m.

Clea McCaa II, Mayor

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk