

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
June 22, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey called the June 22, 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 – absent
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
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Dillaha, Budget Officer
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager
Dianna Cameron, Management Analyst
Adam Curtis, PIO
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Michael Slania, Attorney, Industrial Development Authority

Invocation – Council Member Benning led everyone present in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance – Council Member Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Item 1](#) Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Messmer moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of June 22, 2023, be approved. Council Member Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek reported that there are some fires going around in the area in which the Sierra Vista Fire Department is involved, and asked Fire Chief Jones to provide an update. Fire Chief Jones stated that there was a fire out south that was about 690 acres. It was initially dispatched as three separate fires, and through the collaboration the Fry Fire District, City of Sierra Vista, Palominas Fire, Whetstone Fire, Fort Huachuca Fire and the BLM Forest Service, everything is currently under control. They are doing the mop up phase. At this point, it looks like potentially three structures, no residential structures, and maybe some outbuildings

are in occurrence. Highway 92 will be opened within about an hour or so. Regarding the fire north in the Benson area, all that is known is that Highway 90 is closed at Katchner Caverns; but once he gets more reports, he will report to Council.

Council Member Benning asked if there is only one fire truck left within the City. Fire Chief Jones stated that all the City's apparatus are there. They had two engines, two brush trucks, and three chief officers out assisting with the fire. However, all City apparatus are back within the City limits now.

Mr. Potucek stated that the next regularly scheduled work session, which would have been on the July 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, has been changed to a special meeting. There are a couple of items that will require votes of the Council and then staff will be able to add the presentations as part of the agenda for that special meeting. The meeting on July 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers has been cancelled due to out-of-town commitments. Staff is trying to combine the two into one meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. He further reported that Sierra Vista was named by Fortune Magazine as one of the 50 best places to live for families in 2023. That press release has gone out, and Sierra Vista was number 25 on that list, and Sierra Vista was the only city from Arizona. He gave kudos to the Council Members and the community, who are the ones that really made that happen. There were a lot of various criteria used education, aging resources, general wellness, financial health, livability, cost of living, and outdoor recreational activities for families as well as the festivals. Lastly, he announced the Hampton Field Veterans Park Sports Complex dedication on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Work Session Minutes of June 6, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Work Session Minutes of June 12, 2023

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-047, Appointment of Mathew Swiney to the Sierra Vista Youth Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.5](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-048, Designating David J. Felix, Chief Financial Officer, as the person authorized to sign and submit the City's Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2023

[Item 2.6](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-049, Electrical Utility Easement for the Veteran's Memorial Park Sports Complex Restroom Building

Council Member Johnson moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of June 6, 2023 Work Session, June 8, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2023 Work Session Minutes, Resolution 2023-047, appointing Mathew Swiney to the Sierra Vista Youth Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025, Resolution 2023-048, designating David J. Felix, Chief Financial Officer, as the person authorized to sign and submit the City's Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2023; and Resolution 2023-049, an electrical utility easement for Veteran's Memorial Park Sports Complex's restroom building, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor

Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-050, Amendments to Chapter 94, Section 94.03, Park Hours, of the Code of Ordinance, and Declaring a 30-day Public Record

Council Member Benning moved that Resolution 2023-050, amending Chapter 94, Section 94.03, Park Hours, of the Code of Ordinance, and declaring a 30-day public record, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-051, Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2023-051, Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Council Member Johnson moved to table Resolution 2023-051 so that Mayor McCaa could be present for the vote. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

The motion to table Resolution 2023-051 failed, 4/2. Council Members Benning and Johnson voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer casted the dissenting votes.

The original motion unanimously carried, 4/2. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor. Council Members Benning and Johnson casted the dissenting votes.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-052, Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Strategic Plan

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2023-052, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Strategic Plan, be approved. Council Member Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-053, Approving the proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its education facility revenue bonds (American Leadership Academy Project), Series 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$180,000,000

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-053, approving the proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its education facility revenue bonds, American Leadership Academy Project, Series 2023 in an

amount not to exceed \$180,000,000, be approved. Council Member Benning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 6/0. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Call to the Public – There was no response.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Rodriguez stated hats off to everybody that is currently involved in putting out the fire, noted that a lot of resources were sent to that area, and he hopes that it was not somebody being careless that started it; but regardless of that, the community came together as always, and it was good to see people offering up their homes, businesses, and properties for livestock for all those people that had to evacuate. He added that he talked to Fire Chief Jones earlier in the day and he was taking some pizzas out there to people and others were taking drink donations to go deliver to the first responders. He announced that at the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, that Fort Huachuca has been doing since 1988, there were four Hall of Fame inductees, one was a posthumous award, but the grandson was there to accept the award. He thanked three Sierra Vista Police Officers that were pushing somebody through the intersection on Saturday, June 17, 2023, and noted that events like this make him happy because the City's officers did not drive by, which is seen in a lot of other cities when people are broke down. Lastly, he announced Equity Hope Ranch's annual ability job fair on Friday, July 7, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Council Member Messmer reported that there were 85 people at the Dinosaur Tribute Night at the Ethel Berger Center/museum, a great success.

Council Member Landry gave a shout out to all the teachers and all the school members that are working hard during the summer with the students, whether they are attending summer school or any type of summer program. She stated that with July 4, 2023 coming up, if people have pets that maybe scared, she suggested that they get a hold of their veterinarian ahead of time to make sure that the pets are taken care of, and they can have a calm night. Lastly, she added that there are a lot of different things going on at the park on July 4, 2023, a pet promenade, etc., a great time for families to get out there and enjoy each other's company in the City to celebrate Independence Day.

Council Member Johnson had nothing to report.

Council Member Benning thanked Demetry Simonton representing the Industrial Development Authority Board. He noted that the ideas, agreements, and these bonds are bringing a lot of stuff to the City. He added that he agrees with Council Member Rodriguez concerning the first responders, just seeing so many firefighters, police officers, etc. coming together from different aspects, and not worrying about who is paying for what, who is doing what, and just protecting people, was great to see. The community reminded him of the Monument Fire where everyone was helping each other out, it is a great community to live in, and it is no wonder that Sierra Vista was voted the best City in Arizona and that is due to the community, City's staff and everyone that participates. In closing, he invited everyone to come out to Veterans' Memorial Park on July 4, 2023, where he will be for the 11th year the MC all day. He added that there will be a noon ceremony with the B Troop bringing the proclamation, and the best fireworks.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey thanked Council for bearing with her while she ran the meeting. She gave a special thanks to Irene Zuniga and Jeff Pregler who worked on the SMART fund

application and made sure that the City was awarded that this past week from the State Transportation Board. They rallied and got it in on time when they knew that the funds were low, and if the City did not get it in, the City was not going to get a shot at this year's pot. They secured \$219,000 for the City that is going to help in a tight budget this year for the roads. She noted that at the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, the woman that was the posthumous award was the first female cryptologist. Her accomplishments included preventing alcohol from coming overseas during the Prohibition, cracking a code that stopped the Nazis from doing something, and it was sweet to see her grandson there to accept the award. In closing, she thanked all the first responders that are out there, and she hopes that everybody has a safe weekend.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey adjourned the June 22, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:36 p.m.

Carolyn Umphrey, Mayor Pro Tem

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk