

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Minutes
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
Demetry Simonton, 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 of 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, and 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 currently known is that Highway 90 is closed at Kartchner Caverns; but once he gets more reports, he will report to Council.

Council Member Benning asked if there is a fire truck left within the City limits. Fire Chief Jones stated that all the City's apparatus were 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, the only city from Arizona, was number 25 on that list. He gave kudos to the Council Members and the community, who are the ones that really made that happen. There were 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.

Mayor Pro Tem stated that she believes that the Fortune Article is new this year. They were choosing a city or town from every state and Sierra Vista is the one that was chosen out of Arizona. They analyzed 1,900 cities and towns across the country. This is a big deal, and she is very proud. Lastly, she noted that the City must extend the invitation to mayors in Benson and Wilcox because they want to join in the ribbon cutting of the football fields.

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.

Ms. Wilson stated that this item is a request to edit Ordinance 94.03 that relates to the individual fields and Cyr Sports Complex, Veterans Memorial Sports Complex, and Tacoma Sports Complex, including their adjoining parking lots. This will call out that they will be closed at dusk or one hour after the last reservation. This excludes the football field and track, which will be open to the public during regular hours. However, this will allow those facilities to be closed unless they are in use by reservation. This will also add the closing time to 10:00 p.m., and specifically call out the pickleball courts and the tennis courts. If this is approved, this will establish a 30-day public review period. This was recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission who had discussion on it and think that this will help cut down on loitering in the areas when the facilities are not in use.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked Ms. Wilson for including information about the track being open in the morning and evening because people are itching to use it again.

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.

Ms. Yarbrough stated that there were some unexpected changes in between the work session and the Council meeting. Staff received information that Fort Huachuca intends to develop an IGSA for washer and dryer maintenance for the barracks on Fort Huachuca. This is a significant amount of money and the budget needed to be adjusted to reflect the City hiring two new personnel, two additional work trucks, and additional revenue for the IGSA. While, it is still in development, it will need to come to Council for approval, but staff wanted to make sure that they adjusted the budget to reflect that. The second item is a third-party cost assessment that is required as part of the DSIP grant for the sewer extension and broadband extension at the

airport. It was approximately double than what had originally been estimated. The airport fund was adjusted to reflect the increase in the grant amount and the design funds.

Ms. Dillaha stated that the City Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tentative budget is now proposed in the amount of \$175,145,445. Through council adoption of this resolution and pursuant to State Statutes, the budget will be capped. This means that the final budget may be less than or equal to the tentative amount but may not exceed it. The updated state forms and the memo with the summary of changes from the tentative book and from the last work session have been included with the resolution. Approval of the final budget is scheduled for July 27, 2023 and the resolution to adopt the property tax levy is scheduled for August 10, 2023.

Council Member Johnson stated that with respect to the IGSA with Fort Huachuca, he sees that there are expenses of \$316,765, and asked if the City is expected to make any money off this arrangement. Ms. Yarbrough stated that this is the revenue that the City would receive, and there would be administrative costs to the City. The first year would be about \$30,000 and it would go down to about \$15,000, which is the cost that the City would assess to manage the contract, staff, etc.

Council Member Johnson asked why the PSPRS payment is being reduced by \$65,000. Council Member Benning noted that the funds were put towards an event. Ms. Yarbrough stated that since the Fire Department's plumbing project was adjusted, there was about \$100,000 additional in the budget. Therefore, staff proposed moving the balance of that as an additional PSPRS payment on top of what had already been budgeted. However, due the changes that were made as of the last work session for a few additional items, the extra amount that was going to PSPRS was reduced.

Council Member Johnson noted that there is an increase in event supplies in Leisure to propose a new citywide event, and additional Christmas lights. He thought that after the discussion, this had gone away. Council Member Benning stated that he thought the same thing. Council Member Rodriguez stated that he thought that they decided that they were going to budget for it. The City is not spending it, it is going to be like everything else in the budget, set aside in case it is used for any of those special funds that are tied to Council's Strategic Plan. Mr. Potucek stated that it was his understanding based on the work session that the additional \$30,000, \$20,000 would be for an event and \$10,000 would be for Christmas lights in the budget, not necessarily with the intent of spending it, but to have Ms. Wilson do an analysis of what it would take to either put on the event and do the lights, bring that back to Council for determination as to whether staff would proceed. Since there is not a lot of time, staff added it in the budget in case Council did decide to go ahead with these things. However, it would be best if Parks went ahead and analyzed this and brought it back to Council before proceeding. It is not a go yet; it is just in there in case.

Council Member Johnson agreed with Mr. Potucek's assessment but wanted to make sure that the City was not going to be donating to any not-for-profit organization to put on the event. Mr. Potucek stated that based on the discussion held, it would be a City event.

Council Member Johnson stated that this alleviates his concern. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that this was her understanding as well.

Council Member Johnson moved to table Resolution 2023-051 so that Mayor McCaa could be a part of the proceedings. He voiced his discomfort at last minute things and noted that he would like to table this until the next full meeting. Council Member Benning seconded the motion.

Ms. Dillaha stated that she is unsure if this will make the timeline. Mr. Potucek stated that there is a State budget law provision for when these things need to be approved. He reminded Council that they are only setting the tentative budget amount, which then gets published in the newspaper, etc. By setting the amount, Council is setting a cap on the budget, but Council may still make changes within the budget before the final budget vote, which must be done a month from now at Council's second meeting in July. He added that he does not think that by having the changes that came up at the last minute, Council is hurting anything by moving ahead. Council will still have an opportunity to make changes by the final budget, a month from now.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Mr. Williams stated that the proper procedure would be to vote on the motion to table and then if that passes, the item would be tabled. If it fails, then Council goes back to the original motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Council Member Landry stated that she appreciates being able to make sure that as a group, they talk about things and decide things; but also, in the interest of time, and seeing that it is like a cap, she feels that it is better to have something budgeted for and not need than later need it and not have it budgeted.

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.

In response to Council Member Benning, Ms. Yarbrough stated that it is just a majority vote that is required.

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.

Ms. Yarbrough presented Council with their 8th Strategic Plan, which represents about 16 years of strategic planning by the City Council of Sierra Vista. This Strategic Plan will maintain Council's four focus areas of Invest, Ignite, Innovate and Conclude, and it identifies 21 priorities for action over the coming two years. Next steps, if Council approves this, would be to assign key staff to each of those priorities to create an action plan that will accomplish that priority within the next two years.

Council Member Benning thanked staff, Ms. Yarbrough, and Mr. Potucek for putting it on and having a consultant come in and walking Council through it. He added that he thinks that they have a good Strategic Plan for the next two years.

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.

Mr. Potucek stated that Mr. Slania was scheduled to be present, but Highway 90 is closed, so he may be delayed. He apologized for stating on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, that these bonds were going to be used on the American Leadership Academy that is being cited in Sierra Vista on Buffalo Soldier trail. It is for their already existing sites in Florence in the West Valley.

The resolution states that this is for the Industrial Development Authority of Sierra Vista to issue \$180,000,000 in bonds for the American Leadership Academy sites in Florence and Waddell. The Industrial Development Authority has the authority to do that by State Law and can do even remote sites outside the State of Arizona, but this happens to be within the State of Arizona. The Industrial Development Authority benefits by receiving the fees generated from the issuance of the bonds, and they can make about \$100,000 a year, which they can use for other projects, hopefully locally in the future. The Industrial Development Authority is not necessarily an arm of the City, but the two touch points that the Council has with the Industrial Development Authority is the appointment of members and the approval of bonds to be issued. The full faith and credit of the City of Sierra Vista is not at risk through the issuance of these bonds.

Mr. Simonton stated that Mr. Slania sent him an email stating that he would be unable to attend due to being turned around at Highway 90 due to the fire.

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 pizzas out to people in the area, while others were taking drink donations to go deliver them 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. Sierra Vista is a great community to live in, no wonder that it was voted the best City in Arizona, which 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 secured \$219,000 from the State Transportation Board that will assist the City with its tight budget this year for 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, 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

