

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
August 10, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the August 10, 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
Chris Hiser, Police Chief
Brian Jones, Fire Chief
Laura Wilson, Leisure, Parks, and Library Director
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Jennifer Dillaha, Budget Officer
David Felix, Chief Financial Officer
Mark Slania, IDA Attorney
Dimitri Simonton, IDA Member

Invocation – Randy Youngblood, Thunder Mountain Church, 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 City Council Meeting of August 10, 2023, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Presentations and Awards

[Heinfeld Meech and Company, P.C. presentation of Fiscal Year 2022 audit as required by Arizona Revised Statute §9-481](#) – Michael A. Hoerig, CPA presented a power point to Council regarding the audit's importance, reporting, process, and timeline

[Presentation by David Felix of compliance with Arizona Revised Statute §41-1494](#) - Mr. Felix stated that due to a rule based off an incident that happened back East, governing bodies shall comply with ARS 411494, which states that the governing body does not to fund or force any

employee to go to a training that assesses blame based on race, gender and so on. He noted that no staff member would ever send an employee to any sort of training that would qualify for this. Therefore, the presentation is to state that the City of Sierra Vista has not done that, nor has there been any cases seen of that, and staff would not be doing that because they do not have the money to do it, nor the inclination to do this.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek thanked Michael Hoerig with Heinfeld and Meech, longstanding partners, for performing their audit services for the City and doing a great job. He explained that an audit of a municipality is different than the IRS audits. They are here to help the City identify potential problems that the City may have had during the last year or identify areas where potential problems could arise and recommend solutions. He also thanked Mr. Felix and his staff for coming up another clean audit, which he is sure that another award is on its way to the City because of their work. He announced that the next regularly scheduled work session is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is on August 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He also announced that the Realtime Crime Center Project in the Police Department should be finished by August 25, 2023, and Police Chief Heiser would be happy to arrange a tour for Council. He stated that he thinks that this is a step forward for the City in terms of law enforcement in the community. He then reported that the SEACOM Joint Powers Authority Board was well attended and the two main items that came out of that was welcoming the cities of Bisbee and Wilcox aboard as members. Therefore, Mr. Pauken and Mr. Blaschke are now on the Board, and it is now a six-member board as opposed to a four-member board. It is great and the Board is hoping to work on the City of Benson as well. Also discussed was the agreement to have mutual aid with the City of Douglas and the Board's vote to extend a contract for a permanent employment to Tammi-Jo as the permanent Director that should be voted on at the next JPA Board meeting. Finally, the sales tax report, most recent one was not as robust as everyone would like to see. While it was up just over 3.3 percent, the retail sector was only up \$1,300 or .08 percent, a flat sales tax report. Staff is hoping that this is the summer doldrums, but staff will keep an eye on that, but they have seen some pretty strange fluctuations in the sales tax numbers.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Special Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2022

Council Member Messmer moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2023, the Work Session Minutes of July 25, 2023, and the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2023, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Ordinance 2023-007, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Property Tax Levy

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Ordinance 2023-007, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Property Tax Levy, not to exceed the \$0.1056 per each One Hundred Dollars of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property in the City of Sierra Vista subject to taxation, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-061, Funding Agreement with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in the amount of \$108,000.00 for the purchase of five (5) P25-Compliant in-car dual band radios and eight (8) grappler devices with associated installation costs and replacement nets

Council Member Johnson moved that Resolution 2023-061, a funding agreement with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in the amount of \$108,000.00 for the purchase of five P25-compliant in-car dual band radios, and eight grappler devices with associated installation costs and replacement nets, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Ordinance 2023-008, Amendments to Chapter 94, Section 94.03, Park Hours, of the Code of Ordinance

Council Member Benning moved that Ordinance 2023-008, amendments to Chapter 94, Section 94.03, Park Hours, of the Code of Ordinance, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-062, Accepting a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a Master Plan Update

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2023-062, a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$510,000 that includes a \$464,406 federal share along with a \$22,797 state match and a \$22,797 local match for a Master Plan update, be approved. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

[Item 7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-063, Proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its Education Facility Revenue Bonds (Champion Schools Project) Series 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-063, proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its Education Facility Revenue Bonds, Champion Schools Project, Series 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000, 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.

[Item 8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-064, Proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its Charter School Revenue Bonds (Delta Academy Charter School Project) Series 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000

Council Member Rodriguez moved that Resolution 2023-064, proceedings of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Sierra Vista regarding the issuance of its Charter School Revenue Bonds, Delta Academy Charter School Project, Series 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 7/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Benning, Johnson, Landry, Rodriguez, and Messmer voted in favor.

Call to the Public

Demetry Simonton introduced Mr. Mateo Luna-Borquez, who will be overseeing the Young Entrepreneurs Academy that the IDA is looking to bring in.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Benning thanked Pastor Youngblood for the invocation, stated that the Thunder Mountain Church has a good facility, leadership and a place to worship, and thanked Mr. Slania and Mr. Simonton for being in attendance, and welcomed Mr. Luna-Borquez to the IDA.

Council Member Johnson had nothing to report.

Council Member Landry asked for help from the community who may be willing to foster cats or kittens. She stated that there is an urgent need for fostering and if people are interested in that they may contact the Cochise County Humane Society and the Friends of the Sierra Vista Animal Shelter. They provide the food and supplies. She explained that recently there were a couple of pregnant cats that were euthanized in a shelter, not in Sierra Vista, but although not all the animals in the world can be saved, it would be nice if they could be. One of the things that the community can do, is to spay and neuter their pets. It can be pricey, but the Friends of the Sierra Vista Animal Shelter and other organizations offer vouchers and other support that helps cover the cost of spaying/neutering to make it very affordable. Lastly, she stated that a great thing about adopting from the shelter is that the animals already come spayed and neutered.

Council Member Messmer reported on the Sports Tourism and Film Authority that is coming to Cochise County. She stated that it was interesting on how the Cactus League is trying to be brought closer to the Warren Ball Field. She noted that they took a tour with Ms. Wilson, and they were very impressed with the City's sports facilities.

Council Member Rodriguez gave a shout out to Animal Control and stated that he witnessed two officers rescuing an injured hawk. He thanked local businesses that have been doing things for the schools, i.e., free haircuts, and announced that on Friday, August 18, 2023, there will be a Cochise County Veteran Stand Down, where provided will be information regarding benefits, mental health services, picture ID's, free haircuts, employment assistance, etc. at the Ethel Berger Center at 9:00 a.m. He also announced the Superintendent Roundtable for Education at 12:00 p.m. at 102 Fab Avenue on August 18, 2023, where any issues may be brought up

concerning education. He then shared that he was able to see some canine training on August 9, 2023 on Fort Huachuca where there were canines from the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Benson, Fort Huachuca, and the Sierra Vista Police Department. They hold training on most Wednesdays. They go around the County to see each other's training methods. Lastly, he stated that some of the soldiers on Fort Huachuca are thinking about getting out of the Army soon; therefore, he suggested that they may want to go on ride alongs with the Police Department, but some of them are looking to go back home. In closing, he encouraged support of the youth fundraisers and noted that a lot of people are selling their fundraisers tickets for \$10. This past weekend they had the big Colts Jamboree at the football field and this weekend is opening week; therefore, there will be a lot of youth football going on at the new field.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey thanked staff for putting together the Spotlight breakfast, an excellent job presenting, background work that went into, and video that was a freeze frame. She noted that the video was put online, which she has shared. She shared that she sometimes feels like the day has dragged, but when she looks back, it is always fascinating to see how much has been accomplished in the City in such a short amount of time, which makes her feel proud. She thanked everyone for all their hard work and reminded everyone of the upcoming Council Meeting and Greet on August 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. In closing, she shared that she has been going to the Cove in the morning at 5:30 a.m., and noted that everyone at the Cove is professional and nice first thing in the morning, such a great experience.

Mayor McCaa gave a shout out to Ms. Flissar and the crew down at the Environmental Operations Park. He stated that he had the opportunity to sit with Jerry, Carl, and David, who showed him their operations, an intense operation and eye opener. He also gave a shout out to Haven Health which he visited during his walk on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 as well as the Keller Williams Realty and Great Ace Hardware, which are all doing amazing work with their businesses. Lastly, he wished everyone a great weekend and announced that it is the first day of Little League and encouraged everyone to be out there cheering on the Blue Coats.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the August 10, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:45 p.m.