

Sierra Vista City Council
Work Session Minutes
October 24, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the October 24, 2023, City Council Work Session to order at 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Mayor Clea McCaa – present
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Umphrey – present
Council Member William Benning – present (arrived 3:53 p.m.)
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 Killberg, Leisure Services Manager
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Emily Duchon, Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services Manager
Gabriel Squires, Public Works Internal Operations Manager
Adam Curtis, Marketing and Communications Manager
Dianna Cameron, Economic Development Business Liaison
Jill Adams, City Clerk

2. Presentation and Discussion:

A. October 26, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda Items ([agenda attached](#))

Mayor McCaa stated that the agenda starts with the call to order, roll call, invocation led by Pastor Greg Rowles of the God is Good Church, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Johnson, followed by a proclamation declaring October 29, 2023 through November 4, 2023 as Veteran Small Business Week, and an award by the Economic Development Commission to Doc's Watering Hole as the Veteran Small Business of the Year.

In response to Mayor McCaa, Mr. Potucek reported that the RFP for the feasibility study for the Council's Strategic Plan item regarding the municipal court closes on November 15, 2023, the commercial pool resurfacing at the Cove has been awarded to Superior Pool and that work will start in mid-November, taking six to eight weeks to complete, and the Animal Control Center improvement and expansion project construction will start in March.

Item 2.1 Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023 – There was no discussion.

Item 2.2 Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2023 – There was no discussion.

Item 2.3 Discussion and Possible Action of the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023 – There was no discussion.

Item 2.4 Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-078, Acceptance of Radford Hyde's resignation from the Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Diversity Commission – There was no discussion.

New Business

Item 3 Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-079, Authorization to Accept Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Funding (Contract #2024-AL-034)

Police Chief Hiser stated that for over 20 years, the Sierra Vista Police Department has been involved in the Southeastern Arizona DUI Task force, primarily overtime deployments where the sole focus is on impaired driving all over the County. The funding source for that overtime for many years has been a recurring overtime grant through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The grant agreement is for overtime reimbursement for the officers to participate in these concentrated details that are focused on impaired driving. The grant amount is \$20,900, but that also includes an employee related expense reimbursed amount of \$8,354 for a total grant amount of \$29,254. That employee related expense amount is important in that it covers the public safety, personal retirements cost as well. The Police Department gets reimbursed on that as well and that is always something the Department looks for and ensure when it has these overtime reimbursements. The Department plans to use every dollar of this grant fund for deployments throughout the year, primarily on the holiday weekends and when there are a lot of people on the roadway and there is possibly some impaired driving.

Item 4 Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-080, Approval of 2023-2026 Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan for the City of Sierra Vista / Vista Transit

Ms. Adams stated that this Plan is an updated version of a Plan that was last approved by Council over three years ago. It is a three-year cycle that the City is required to update and have in place by the Council. It is required by the Federal Transportation Administration and the Department of Transportation that is directly tied to the grants and the funding that the City receives for the Transit System. The Plan is put into place to make sure that as an entity, the City does not discriminate against any of its customers, citizens, employees, anybody, primarily due to race, color or national origin. It has also been expanded over the years to include income status, sexual orientation, disability, age, and many other things. The Plan was not significantly altered from the last version. However, while doing research, it was found in the metrics that the numbers of Limited English Proficiency households has risen above the five percent threshold, which means that the City will be in the future translating vital documents such as ride guides, paratransit applications, and information that is important to transit riders into Spanish, as well as implementing a language line for other languages where they need an oral translation or even possibly a face to face on a phone translation. This is the biggest change, but it does not affect any programs, nor does it take into consideration the fare programs that Vista Transit currently runs. This is basically civil rights and that is what this is set to address.

Council Member Rodriguez referred to page nine, vehicle load for each mode, and asked about its meaning. Ms. Adams stated that it is information that she got from the Transit employees,

but she will get clarification and let him know on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he is glad that the Plan is being looked at again because the Plan as it is currently looks like there is a phone number that people can call if need be. Therefore, it is one step, and there is a somewhat of a plan in case they need it.

Item 5 Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-081, an Intergovernmental Agreement with Whetstone Fire District for Fueling Services

Mr. Squires stated the City owns a fueling station located at the Public Works facility, and in addition to providing fuel for the City's vehicles and other equipment, it is also used to sell fuel to other government agencies. The Whetstone Fire District has requested that they be able to purchase fuel from the City. The resolution is to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Whetstone Fire District for fuel and services.

Council Member Johnson asked about the City's take when they fuel up. Mr. Squires stated that the markup is \$0.05 above and beyond what the City pays per gallon.

B. Virtual Presentation about Community Choice Aggregation or Electric Co-ops for Arizona Urban Areas by Arizonans for Community Choice

Shelly Gordon, State Director for Arizona's for Community Choice, a statewide organization, introduced Scott Hancock, Project Manager. She stated that the model called Community Choice Energy (CCE) is not competing models and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is not looking to convert Sierra Vista to this model. At Community Choice Energy, they feel that suburban and urban areas should have a similar option where they have a co-op run by a board that they elect than fixed power that powers the city. Cities like Tucson, Phoenix, or other cities within the larger counties do not have a similar choice. If people live in TEP territory or in APS territory, then they are automatically their customer. Therefore, Arizona's for Community Choice wants to bring a model to Arizona that would allow these cities to have similar options.

This is a monopoly model that is the structure in Arizona except for co-ops or municipal power, but basically it is where the utility owns the bundle. They own the generation and then the poles and wires deliver the power. This model was important when it started almost 150 years ago when they wanted to centralize all of that to get power to every household and business. However, times have changed and there are now people with rooftop solar, and power is coming from different sources, i.e., wind energy. It is not just gas which is what has been mostly used in Arizona. The CCA falls under this category, a variation of a co-op that would be for cities and counties and it is not competitive.

Community Choice Energy works with cities like Tucson, Phoenix, Chandler, or Tempe, which are not powered by a co-op but in a utility service. They would be allowed to buy power on the wholesale market and then the utility would continue to deliver that power. It is sort of an interesting hybrid arrangement where the city is just taking over the generation portion of what the utility does, but the utility is still doing everything else. It is not a municipal power, nor a co-op, it is just the generation piece of what the utility does. Any energy that Community Choice Energy purchases goes back to the grid and where needed. The customer is then automatically enrolled, and it functions like the utility, where the customer is automatically in except the difference is that they can opt out and stay with the utility if they so choose. The CCE allows the city, county, or group of cities to buy power on behalf of residents and businesses and then the

utility continues to deliver the power in that area. The customer is automatically opted in, and they get a choice of different plants depending on what they want in their energy mix, whether it is more green power or brown power. This is one solution that has been proven across the country for cities like Tucson and Phoenix, that have climate action plans and are trying to figure out how to reduce their own carbon emissions.

The benefits of Community Choice Energy are lower rates for ratepayers, increased energy choice, and it is localized. CCE makes money, but all that money goes back to the community to fund energy programs, and it increases renewable energy that is something that the city or county is interested in. This is a model that is authorized in ten states, three southwest states, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, and work is being done to bring this model to Arizona for heavily populated areas, larger cities that would be interested.

Arizona's for Community Choice has legislation that it going to be reintroduced this year. Cities like Sierra Vista, Willcox, and most of the rural counties in Arizona are powered by co-ops, smaller utilities, or they are their own municipal power like Page, Williams, and Wickenburg. However, large urban areas do not have any other options, and if they want to spend the money to form a municipal power, they can do that, but it takes 10 years and almost a billion dollars. CCE is a much less expensive and a quicker way for a city to transition.

Arizona's for Community Choice has been working on different fronts with different energy stakeholder groups, including the legislature and Corporation Commission, grassroots groups, and meeting with city officials, elected officials, people that are in sustainability staff, or environmental staffers. They also hold workshops every two months where they bring in experts from other states to talk about how this would work in their cities. There are currently eight cities that are supportive of this model that are interested in, and working on their climate action plans, Tucson, Flagstaff, Sedona, Phoenix, Tempe, Buckeye, and Cottonwood.

There are two CCE feasibility study bills in both the House and the Senate. CCE is meeting with Republican and Democratic Legislators because both see the value for different reasons. CCE thinks that this has the potential to be a bill that has bipartisan support. CCE is also hoping that the Sierra Vista City Council can say that the model is worth being studied and that it is fair that larger cities have a similar option as the co-op model, which would not compete with co-ops, nor affect reliability at the grid.

Mayor McCaa thanked Ms. Gordon and stated that he needs to do more research on the co-op model.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that this sounds a lot like what the co-op is currently doing for Sierra Vista as a community and noted that he did not hear about the energy savings for the customers. He further stated that the City of Sierra Vista is not in the energy business as a municipality. The City has energy companies, but the most important issue is the citizens and how they would be affected or benefited. He further added that he has seen other cities vote this in and then they are stuck for a year before they can change their mind. Ms. Gordon clarified that nothing would change for Sierra Vista because the CCE is for large urban areas. She clarified that they are talking to cities like Sierra Vista that are powered by co-ops to have them say that they think that it is fair that cities should have a similar option to this type of model because they currently do not have that.

Mr. Hancock stated that some of the benefits for larger urban cities or smaller cities that might adopt this as well are lower rates, creation of a cheaper energy landscape across the board for Arizonans, and it creates water savings for everyone when different energy sources are used.

C. [FY24-25 Strategic Plan Implementation Plan](#)

Ms. Yarbrough stated that the Plan is the how the house staff is going to go about in executing or achieving the various priorities and initiatives that Council has set. A lot of these are carryovers from the previous Plan, which was briefed at the last meeting as to how those finished up or are carrying on.

This Plan is Council's Plan and feedback, direction, or wish to see implementation go in a different direction is greatly appreciated by staff. For some of the new priorities, there will be teams created or broad goals that are going to be drilled down with the departments through a multi-phase plan.

- Page 4, Priority 6, Inventorying and Evaluate City Processes by Department/Division and Identify Areas for Improvement

This priority is one that will have a team created or broad goal. First, staff will need to take a good look and evaluate the issues, work with departments and divisions to identify those, and then assess the issues needed to be addressed and to prioritize those issues. Some parts of that might happen faster when talking about what to implement, change, or improve. This approach will be used in a couple of these different priorities.

- Page 9, Initiative 12.1, Increase Reach of Community Events Both in Person and Virtual

This priority was discussed during the next item.

- Page 10, Initiative 14.1, Evaluate/Study the Implementation of the Municipal Court

Currently there is an RFP out for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on a municipal court and those results once they come back will be shared with the Council for discussion and direction.

- Page 11, Initiative 14.2, Evaluate and Consider Visitors Center and Museum Options; 14.4, Conduct a feasibility Study for a Regional Convention Center; and 14.5 Evaluate and Determine OYCC Replacement Options

Initiative 14.4 is going to be moved to the next budget year because staff did not budget for the feasibility study on the municipal court or the convention center. Staff will do research on what the cost would be and get the RFP out next spring.

Initiatives 14.2 and 14.5 will require a lot of evaluation and staff will be working through all those items.

- Page 12, Priority 15, Maintain properly staff City Departments

This is something that is continually being worked on, but being formed is a staff recruitment and retention team that will meet on a regular basis to discuss some of the various things that are needed and suggested and will make recommendations to the City Manager for

implementation.

- Page 12, Priority 16, Continually Improve the Current Levels of Service in Programs, Services, and Amenities provided by Sierra Vista

The approach to this is like Priority 6, and broad one. Staff must identify all City services, programs, and amenities and then start drilling down into what needs assessment, improvement, roadblocks, and then prioritize the list for what needs to be addressed and implemented.

- Page 14, Priority 21, Strive to Simplify Digital Access to City Processes and Information

This has been worked on an ongoing basis. The CIO began a technology team earlier in the year and that team is going to continue to focus on project updates, IT training, review, and evaluation of solutions, and feature IT needs. Earlier in the year, steps were taken to look at some website functionality issues earlier in the year and made some updates and corrections.

D. Discussion on Special Event Co-sponsorship and Fee Reduction Program

Ms. Wilson stated that a couple of work sessions ago, she gave a presentation on the draft for a Special Event Co-sponsorship and Fee Reduction Program. At that time, she believes that Council had not had a lot of time to review it, and then, unfortunately she was ill during the last Council Meeting. She further stated that it is her understanding that there was a need for some more discussion and clarification. This item is on the agenda for Council to continue that discussion and she is present to take their feedback or questions so that Council can get what they are looking for.

Mayor McCaa stated that there were questions about page two, qualification requirements for those seeking fee waivers or co-sponsorship, number 4D, not having any religious or political purpose.

Council Member Messmer stated that she is a Roman Catholic, a Hispanic, and for her and her family and multiple others, it is the same, they cannot separate one from the other. She wonders about bringing a cultural event, mainly brought through by the church. They are not evangelizing, nor asking anybody to convert. They are bringing this event, this culture to people so that they can learn more about the Hispanic culture, specifically La Posada, a very religious thing, the journey that Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem for Jesus to be born. She explained that they go to three different spots, sing songs in Spanish and English, and at the end, where they get accepted, they have a little party with hot cinnamon, hot chocolate, and cookies. She added that perhaps she is reading too much into it, but when the policy states no religious purpose, she is confused because the event is not just the Hispanic culture that practices this. Spaniards and Filipinos practice this as well as churches in the City; however, they are not bringing it to the whole City. Saint Andrews did last year and would like to continue with La Posada on the West End. Most of the time they ask for advertisement from the City, and not any funds or street closures because the sidewalks are large, especially on the West End.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that it is not consistent with what the City is already co-sponsoring. She noted that it is not a holiday parade, it is a Christmas parade and there is a religious tie to it, which she never had any problem with. However, if the policy is going to state that the City cannot do one thing, the City must be consistent.

Council Member Johnson stated that the third paragraph on page two, the last sentence, it says religious organizations companies or groups may obtain fee waivers or co-sponsorships if the proposed program, event, or project neither promotes religious messages nor advocates for or promotes religious beliefs. He further stated that he thinks that this follows with what Council Messmer is thinking.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that it sounds like it does. Council Member Messmer stated that it does because when they apply, they can easily fill out all the questions; however, that one sentence at the end is confusing.

Council Member Johnson stated that Item D must be modified to not have a religious or political purpose because I think it is already explained in the policy in that third paragraph.

Ms. Wilson stated that she watched the last Council Meeting and heard Council's questions. Therefore, she did some research and there is a lot of Supreme Court cases that follow along. Christmas is a federal holiday and considered pretty much secular because of the elves, the reindeer, Santa Claus, and Christmas trees that are ok. However, what comes into play is that it basically states that government agencies can even have spaces where there are religious items like in a town square. It would have to be like placed by a member of the community and open to all communities. If there was a menorah or something like that, then it would also need to be allowed to have a Christian symbol, Kwanzaa, or other things. Sierra Vista currently does not do that in the City's parks. The City has a Christmas tree, but it is very secular and there is nothing in there with a religious connotation as well as the Santa Clauses in the park. She further added that the term Christmas for a Christmas holiday is also secular for some people. For some people it has a deep personal meaning and that is ok for a person to have a personal meaning with the word Christmas. The third-party event hosted by the Chamber that they call a Christmas parade is not for a religious purpose. They will allow entries for all religions to be explored and it is open to everybody. Legally there is not a First Amendment issue with that whatsoever according to her research. However, she is not a lawyer, and she knows that this was something that has been a partnership between the City and the Chamber which has been tightened up over time to make sure that there was an equal benefit with the expansion of the two-day Holiday Market and Tree Lighting event. They do these things in tandem so that it is a bigger and better experience for the community in the region, now with the ice rink and people coming in from all over.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey asked if La Posada, being open to the community, fits under this since they are not excluding anyone. She noted that at the last one, there were people there that were not Catholic and go to other churches. Ms. Wilson stated that written in the policy is that they must be a large community benefit. This section would need to be written to answer if there is a regional draw, and what is the city government's benefit to using its resources, and taxpayer dollars to promote this service/event. A lot of great events will fit the bill for, but it is basically a question if the City wants it, and does the City want its Marketing Department to be doing this for everyone, if we are talking specifically about marketing in this case, but there could be other things like fee waivers for the use of the parks.

Council Member Umphrey asked about the section about the event needing to bring a large benefit. Ms. Wilson stated that it is located on page one under program requirements that states that "it may be considered for a waiver reduction or co-sponsor endorsement by the City when the when the director, Ms. Wilson, determines that the program or event is of significant value to the community or to a large portion of its residents, and is within the scopes of services normally provided by the City."

In response to Council Member Umphrey, Ms. Wilson stated that an event of significant value is not something that would be saving a budget item that the event would require to ask the City to perform, and if that were not happening, is that something that the City would be doing.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that it is hard. He understands the verbiage, but he wonders how that would be gauged. He wonders how Council will support some as a community benefit but not others because data can be skewed to support all of causes.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that Council was just told that the City needs to initiate the line for Español and that is becoming more significant. Ms. Wilson stated that this does not mean that the City is not pro these events. These events can all happen, and there is nothing that is going to prevent La Posada from happening. This was written as a place of a government agency, and this is intentionally not easy to get. This is not a business that the City is in, and this is intentionally geared toward solving the direction that the City Council is setting within the Strategic Plan, things that are wanted as the City providing in the community, regional draws, things that would bring in tax dollars to the community. She added that gearing it towards the other way would take a much broader discussion.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that if organization X is interested in doing this and they want a waiver, and they do a presentation that relays how their event(s) are going to do all these things, he wonders if this is what is looked at. He noted that he is curious about the process because guidelines have been provided, but who is the person that approves the event because it can be very subjective depending on who they are. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey added that it is, especially if it is a new program.

Council Member Johnson noted that recently Council was approached by a group that utilizes the Cove for swimming, who indicated that their fees had gone up significantly. Therefore, does that fit within this policy? It is not a co-sponsorship event, but it is a fee that they are paying. Mr. Potucek stated that what is currently done is infinitely fair. The City charges rentals, lease space, and the reason for this is because if a group leases space, then the rest of the community cannot use that space while they are there and that is a fair way of doing it. If they want to use a park or the portion of a park, they pay for that to the exclusion of others using it at that time. The same goes with our other facilities like the Cove, tennis court, etc. They reserve time, they pay for that time, and get it. This policy is about certain events that Council decides to subsidize either with staff time, marketing, whatever the case is. There is the July Fourt event that is done in partnership with the Rotary Club, Oktoberfest, Christmas celebration, Veteran's day which are all things that the City is aware of during the year that are budgeted for because they are community wide events. The City is going to put staff, city resources, and public dollars towards them to do. However, in listening to the Strategic Plan discussions, Council would like to see the City engaged in more events because there is a benefit to bringing people in town. The discussion is about how to be fair or how to put these resources to use, will there be a need to budget more if the Council identifies other community wide events that need to be done, is there is a need to hire more staff, etc. Council could choose to do nothing because there is a fair system in place with fees and adjusting them for the cost. What is the topic of discussion is the level of public support and public dollars going to support other types of events besides the ones that are already subsidized.

Joe Kraps, resident of Sierra Vista since 1979, stated that he has served a seat on the dais as a councilman, as a Planning and Zoning commissioner, and has also done a lot of things in the community. He noted that the document being discussed raises a lot more questions, and

referred to page one, economic benefits, boosting local businesses and generating revenues through increased tourism and local spending; page two, activities specifically prohibited, enhanced private business – an oxymoron. He asked about somebody that wants to do a trade show that would enhance private business, a job fair, the farmers market. On page 2, qualifications 4A, it says free, including registration, entry, and participation fees. Page 4 lists events that the City is already involved in, Firebolt Youth Triathlon; however, he is sure that there is a fee of participating in the triathlon. There are the vineyards in the park for the Huachuca Art Association, and there is a fee, but that buys wine, Halloween at the Veterans Memorial Park that local businesses and people participate, who pay a fee to be there, and then there is the Christmas parade, which also has a fee. However, the policy stated that it is free including registration, entry, and participation fees. The next part of that, it says open to the public. It does not say free to the public.

Mr. Kraps shared that a couple of years ago there was an event in the park, something to do with motorcycles, and they tried to charge a fee to go into that area. It was decided that they cannot do that. The park belongs to the citizens, and somebody should not be taking a portion of that park and charging a fee. It should be open. He noted that it should be free to the public. He further shared that 20 years ago in the City of Tucson at Kennedy Park, located on the South side of town, had a group that got permission to have a certain area of the park, but they fenced it off and they started charging a fee and it exploded. They found out that people were upset and stating that the park belonged to them, and this group cannot rent the park to charge a fee because it is a public park. Therefore, when the City of Sierra Vista's policy states open to the public, he wonders if it means for each of the public or if it is open and a fee may be charged.

He then referred to page 3 on co-sponsorship, does not include the following: liability insurance. On page 4 the following conditions apply, and it calls for adequate special event insurance. Therefore, is there a difference between special event insurance and liability insurance because when there is a function in the park, the City requires that entity to give a copy of their certificate of insurance and there is a very big difference between special event insurance and liability insurance. Therefore, people need to know what the limits are. For liability insurance, the City requires \$2,000,000, which is going to be very expensive because typically special events would be bought once a year, not like a club that would have a liability policy that they have that would run the entire year. He shared that he is a car guy, and he goes to car shows, and on page four, number 2, it says that there shall be no flyers, posters, banners, or signage placed, posted, or distributed without obtaining appropriate permits. This sounds like he must get a permit to take his car show flyer and may have to pay for that permit to be able to lay that flyer in every car that is at the car show. This is how a car show is advertised. The person wants to lay a flyer for their car show on the seat of a car that is already at a car show, but this states that in no way can you promote all these things without obtaining an appropriate permit. If the City is going to have appropriate permits, then the City better define exactly what that is and how to get it, who must get it, and does another outside entity need to have the permit.

Lastly, he shared that 10 years ago, he went to then the assistant city manager and asked as a member of the Sierra Vista Car Club that the City waive the fee for one time, one year for the 25th annual cars in the park. They wanted the City to come on as a sponsor and would have treated the City the same as all the other sponsors in their advertising, but a week later, he was told that the City could not do that because if the City did it for the Sierra Vista Car Club, the City would have to do it for everybody. He noted that the City should have on the car club's 25th anniversary. There are only two in clubs Sierra Vista that have been around that long to include the Christmas parade, Art in the park, Cars in the park, which are now in their 30- or 40-year

range. All these events should be treated special because they do something that the City wants, to bring people to town, give the citizens of Sierra Vista something to do, and participate in, and that is free, a community event.

Council Member Johnson stated that he cannot disagree with a lot of what Mr. Kraps presented. He shared that he has never been a big fan of this proposal to begin with, and he will probably vote against it if it does come up for a vote. There are just too many caveats, and there is no reflection on Ms. Wilson, who tried at Council's request.

Council Member Benning agreed with Council Member Johnson and stated that he likes what was said about honoring those who have been in the City for 25-30 years. This opens a can of worms, and he does not think that Council would want to open a lot of debate. If this was brought to a vote, he would vote against it.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey agreed with all the points made, and although, she agrees with Ms. Wilson about secular, there are other federal holidays at that time of year, and she does not like the inconsistency and there are reasons other cities only call them holidays. She noted that she would also vote against this if it cannot be consistent.

Mayor McCaa thanked Mr. Kraps for his comments and stated that the City has always had the Christmas Parade. He thanked Ms. Wilson for the document.

Mr. Potucek stated that this fulfills a Strategic Plan item, but the thing is that fees that are charged are a fair system. It is just a matter of how to treat events going forward if the City is going to add events, which ones are going to be subsidized and which ones are not.

Council Member Landry asked what is going to happen going forward because she thinks that this policy came from the suggestion to do a Hummingbird Festival. It is always nice to have something written, a standard operating procedure or something that provides guidelines, otherwise it is hard to interpret things or know where things go.

Ms. Wilson stated that currently there is a special event process that is very clearly laid out, which is available online that answers the questions that Mr. Kraps brought up, liability insurance, alcohol permit, and the process. This was an addition to that because there was a large discussion on how to give out fee waivers, if fee waivers were to be given out. Typically, fee waivers are not given out. There are partnerships and cities across the country are allowed to partner with other organizations to bring things in. These events that are listed in the policy are largely grandfathered from a long time ago. The Firebolt Youth Triathlon pays their fees, but it is also a partnership. They pay for all the facility fees and there are other fees associated that other partners do. However, if there is something that the City was going to do anyway, having a partnership reduces the cost to the City and those are always good practices; however, they are normally sought out. The Department does get a lot of requests and in place is a fair system, people pay the fees, and staff's job is to uphold the City's fee structure and not give waivers. This brings to light how difficult that is when approached. However, it is ok for organizations that are doing fundraisers so that they can give all the good things they give to the community, and they can inject that money directly into the community's youth or special interests. By paying those fees, that park or that City facility becomes their property for a short time and allows them to do that without government getting in the way.

E. Report on Recent Trips, Meetings and Future Meetings

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey reported that she, Council Members Messmer and Johnson went to Yuma to the Arizona Rural Transportation Summit which has been used as a launching point for Council to share, present, and request money for projects in front of state senators, representatives, ADOT, engineers, and federal representatives. She noted that this is how they got the funding for four projects last year. The project in Sierra Vista was Theater Drive and that is how the City can pay for the design. It started with this process last year and this year the Department of Marketing and Communications put together a great video that was perfectly timed because they gave each only three minutes to present. The video was a great visual because a lot of these projects desperately need money for roads. However, it is different when one sees the road itself and it shows how well the City's Street Maintenance Department is doing with what dollars are had, and they have been keeping it together; but it is eventually going to fail. Needed is a total of \$24,000,000 for Buffalo Soldier Trail, but in this round the City is only asking for \$11.1 million from the state to partner with the City to pay for two sections of those six sections. The state is not going to have as much money to spend on one-time appropriations this time; they still want to support projects as much as they can, but not the whole \$24,000,000. For the first year, Sierra Vista would get \$11.1 million for two sections because the total asked for is for the whole region, \$19.1 million. The region includes Cochise County and Huachuca City since they partner with Sierra Vista and are member agencies of the SVMPO.

In response to Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that they will start work on Highway 90/92 as the bid is currently out. She also stated that people whose cars get damaged, may submit their claim on ADOT's website. The start date for construction is now in the beginning of February.

Council Member Landry announced that the Transportation Commission will be meeting on November 1, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall's upstairs conference room.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey announced the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2023 in City Hall's upstairs conference room, and on October 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Council Member Johnson announced the Environmental Stewardship Commission meeting on October 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall's upstairs conference room.

Mayor McCaa announced that the County Sheriff is holding a press conference later in the afternoon where multiple agencies, sheriffs, federal, local, DPS, and extra personnel will be saturating Cochise County addressing the load cars, drug crisis, high speed drivers taking loads all around Cochise County main corridors, Highway 92, Bisbee, Douglas, the 181 going north. He cautioned everyone to be mindful that seen in Cochise County as well as Coconino County, there will be a hike in County Sheriff vehicles that are doing a special task force sponsored by Cochise County Sheriff Dannels. He noted that if people want to learn more, they should go online to the Cochise County Sheriff's Facebook page. Graham County offered jail space and because they could not offer officers. Cochise County is at capacity, but Sheriff Dannels has stated that they have floor space but need cots. The task force will start on October 24, 2023 and continue until the problem goes away.

F. Future Discussion Items and Council Requests

In response to Mayor McCaa, Ms. Yarbrough stated that she is not tracking any specific items now besides some of the regular items because there is only one meeting coming up in

November and one in December; however, Council will have one more executive report.

3. Adjourn

Mayor McCaa adjourned the October 24, 2023, work session of the Sierra Vista City Council at 4:07 p.m.

Clea McCaa, Mayor

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk

A recording of the Council Meeting is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PtUpIbkQsixlhSy-jeR_Q/videos