

Sierra Vista City Council
Meeting Summary
December 14, 2023

Mayor McCaa called the December 14, 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 – absent
Council Member Gregory Johnson – absent
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, Parks, Leisure, Library Services Director
Sharon Flissar, Public Works Director
Irene Zuniga, Capital Improvements and Development Manager
Matt McLachlan, Community Development Director
Jeff Pregler, Planner
Nathan J. Williams, City Attorney
Adam Curtis, Public Affairs and Communications Manager
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Tony Boone, Economic Development Manager

Invocation – Justin McPeak, Thunder Mountain Church, conducted the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – Council Member Landry 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 December 14, 2023 be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Presentations and Awards

Mayor McCaa and Council Members presented a certificate of achievement to Coach Jalen Hampton on behalf of the Berean Academy Football Team for their win of the CA Division I State Championship. Mr. Hampton stated that he is honored in being recognized by the City of Sierra Vista, voiced his appreciation at the football team in coming every day over the summer and achieving the State Championship, Mr. Yanez, the school director for making sure that the players have an analytic package in their helmets to ensure that that kids are safe. He added that the school principal, Lisa Metz, was the team's EMT and Bryan Shack, doubled down as

security. He noted that this was a true team effort and the City of Sierra Vista helped with letting the team use the fields.

Mr. Yanez thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and acknowledged a group of students from CASS who joined their team.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Potucek stated that this is the final Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for calendar year 2023. Due to the holidays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day that fall on a Monday, the City offices will be closed on those days and because the holidays fall on a Monday, the Monday refuse service will shift to Tuesday, and Tuesday will shift to Wednesday on those weeks, but there will be no special pickups for those two weeks. He reported that the Joint Powers Authority Board for SEACOM met last week, and the main item of business was to approve a contract for Tammi-Jo Wilkins who has taken over as Director. However, SEACOM is still faced with staffing issues that they are trying to address. He further reported that since the last Council Meeting, the City has received the America the Beautiful Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, just over \$1,000,000 that will be beneficial to be able to pay for some of the ongoing operations and maintenance expenses for administration and facilitation of various water groups as well as ongoing monitoring and modeling that must be generally found budgetarily each year. He thanked Ms. Flissar, who was instrumental in working on that. He also mentioned that the Airport Master Plan process has kicked off with Coffman and Associates along with Fort Huachuca that is also participating in that process. Lastly, he announced that the ADOT Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2023 and noted that the Highway 90-92 Project that is budgeted was tabled at the last meeting, but it is back on the agenda, and he hopes for approval. In closing, he wished everyone on behalf of the staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe Holiday Season, and he and staff look forward to serving the community again in 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey reported that she heard from the Vice Chair Richard Searle from the State Transportation Board, and he told her that the Highway 90-92 Project is on the consent agenda, and it will be approved.

Item 2 Consent Agenda

[Item 2.1](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Work Session Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2023

[Item 2.2](#) Discussion and Possible Action of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023

[Item 2.3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-092, Reappointment of Barbara Fleming, Neil Gago, and Ron York to the Employee Benefit Trust, said terms to expire December 31, 2026

[Item 2.4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-093, Accepting the Resignation of Barbara Fleming, and Appointment of Victoria Yarbrough to the Fire Pension Board and Police Pension Board, said term to expire August 1, 2024

[Item 2.5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-094, Reappointment of Wesley Hewitt, Berlynda Schaaf and John Moreno to the Park and Recreation Commission, said terms to expire December 31, 2025

[Item 2.6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-095, Appointment of Bruno Talerico to the Environmental Stewardship Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.7](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-096, Appointment of Lexi Prickett to the Youth Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025

[Item 2.8](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-097, reappointment of Bradley Snyder, appointment of Rachel Gray and Tait Wilcox to the Planning and Zoning Commission, said terms to expire December 31, 2025

[Item 2.9](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-098, Accepting the Resignation of Stephen Peterson, and Appointment of Kierra D. Wright to the Industrial Development Authority, said term to expire December 31 2029

[Item 2.10](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-103, Appointment of Keith Landry to the Transportation Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2024.

Council Member Rodriguez moved that the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes for the Work Session of November 7, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting of November 9, 2023, Resolution 2023-092, reappointment of Barbara Fleming, Neil Gago, and Ron York to the Employee Benefit Trust, said terms to expire December 31, 2026, Resolution 2023-093, acceptance of the resignation of Barbara Fleming, with regret, and appointment of Victoria Yarbrough to the Fire Pension Board and Police Pension Board, said term to expire August 1, 2024, Resolution 2023-094, reappointment of Wesley Hewitt, Berlynda Schaaf and John Moreno to the Park and Recreation Commission, said terms to expire December 31, 2025, Resolution 2023-095, appointment of Bruno Talerico to the Environmental Stewardship Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025, Resolution 2023-096, appointment of Lexi Prickett to the Youth Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2025, Resolution 2023-097, reappointment of Bradley Snyder, appointment of Rachel Gray and Tait Wilcox to the Planning and Zoning Commission, said terms to expire December 31, 2025, Resolution 2023-098, accepting the resignation of Stephen Peterson, with regret, appointment of Kierra D. Wright to the Industrial Development Authority, said term to expire December 31 2029, and Resolution 2023-103 appointment of Keith Landry to the Transportation Commission, said term to expire April 30, 2024, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

Council Member Rodriguez, Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, and Council Member Landry voiced their appreciation and thanked the newly appointed commissioners.

The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Public Hearing

[Item 3](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-099, Amendments to Development Code, Definitions Section 151.02.004, Supplementary District Regulations Section 151.04.007, Yards and Setbacks, Special Regulations for Particular Uses Section 151.06.013, Outdoor Storage, Walls and Screening Devices Section 151.15.005, Standards of Design, Matrix of Use Permissions by Zoning District Section 151.22.006, Use Permissions, and Request for 30-day public comment period

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-099, amendments to Development Code, Definitions Section 151.02.004, Supplementary District Regulations Section 151.04.007, Yards and Setbacks, Special Regulations for Particular Uses Section 151.06.013, Outdoor Storage, Walls and Screening Devices Section 151.15.005, Standards of Design, Matrix of Use Permissions by Zoning District Section 151.22.006, Use Permissions, and declaring a 30-day public comment period, be approved. Council Member Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 4](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-100, Consideration of the Sierra Vista Roadway Design Manual, and associated Development Code Amendments to 151.04.008-Clear Vision Area, 151.08.002-General Regulations, 151.08.003-Street Improvements Criteria, 151.08.004-Street Design Standards, 151.08.005-Street Access Standards, 151.17-Access Standards, and 151.19-Subdivision Regulations

Council Member Landry moved that Resolution 2023-100, Sierra Vista Roadway Design Manual, and associated Development Code Amendments to 151.04.008-Clear Vision Area, 151.08.002-General Regulations, 151.08.003-Street Improvements Criteria, 151.08.004-Street Design Standards, 151.08.005-Street Access Standards, 151.17-Access Standards, and 151.19-Subdivision Regulations, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

New Business

[Item 5](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-101, Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement between Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sierra Vista Police Department, and Cochise College Community College District

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey moved that Resolution 2023-101, amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement between Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sierra Vista Police Department, and Cochise College Community College District, be approved. Council Member Landry seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

[Item 6](#) Discussion and Possible Action of Resolution 2023-102, Support for Tohono O'odham Grant Application to assist with Renovations to the Henry F. Hauser Museum

Council Member Messmer moved that Resolution 2023-102, support for Tohono O'odham Grant Application to assist with Renovations to the Henry F. Hauser Museum, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried, 5/0. Mayor McCaa, Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey, Council Members Landry, Messmer, and Rodriguez voted in favor.

Call to the Public

David Jones stated that he saw an article in the Herald about the 9th Circuit ordering the US Fish and Wildlife Department to rethink or look into the Fort Huachuca water issue; therefore, as a citizen and their possible ramification that would be downsizing the Post, he is concerned. He requested that the Council add an agenda item to keep the residents apprised of the things that are happening in that regard. He also proposed that Council consider allowing citizens to observe and follow the process of the Vista 2040.

Greg Brown voiced his concern about the Pueblo Del Sol Neighborhood between Highway 92 and Snyder Boulevard. He recently became aware of an issue because he is wanting to enclose his front porch and had his permit denied due to the current right-of-way and the 20-foot setback requirement from the right-of-way, which is essentially his front property line. Foothills Drive is currently 46 feet wide with a right-of-way of 86 feet, which means the right-of-way currently comes to 20 feet into his front yard and all properties on his side of the street and another 20 feet into the properties on the opposite side. Since his house says 40 feet from existing street by requirement, that means that he cannot extend the front porch seven and a half feet because it would violate the 20-foot setback requirement. Even though the extended porch would still be 32 1/2 feet from the street. Lastly, he stated that he has filed for a variance at a cost of \$575, if approved, but he believes that he should not have to pay for a 7 1/2-foot porch to be extended out that much that seems to tie into the narrowing of streets.

Comments and Requests of Council

Council Member Landry stated that there is still time for people to share thoughts on the General Plan because feedback is very important. She wished everyone Happy Holidays, asked people to celebrate safely, and if traveling to make sure to take a break to be able to get to their destination safely. She also encouraged everyone to look out for their neighbors and other people in the community because this is not always a happy time of year for everyone; therefore, she encouraged everyone to reach out to see if they may need help, or invite them over, or bring them a meal.

Council Member Messmer announced that Saint Andrew's Church is hosting La Posada on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., starting at the Landmark Cafe and ending up at Julie and Sammy's. In closing, she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked the people that talked at the call to the public and stated that he loves to hear from the public in person. He announced that on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Boys and Girls Club, there are bikes to be assembled that Tour De Zona donated that will be delivered a week later by Sheriff Dannels and his crew. He also announced that the Glow Ride is on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Veterans' Memorial Park, and there is also a kids' glow ride this year and that is at 4:00 p.m., but the procession starts out to the community at 6:00 p.m. He thanked the Berean Football Team for including CASS and noted that he is glad to see that because there are some schools that do not have sporting departments. He also congratulated them on an awesome season and on their float in the Christmas parade. Lastly, he stated that Council received comments about the trash after the parade, but somebody picked up the trash; therefore, he tried to find out who it was to thank them but was unsuccessful. He thanked Ms. Zenda from the Sierra Vista Unified School District out there picking up trash around the Rothery Center, a big area. Finally, this is the Council's last meeting of the year; therefore, he wished everyone a Happy New Year, Festivus Holidays, Merry Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano, and encouraged everyone to remember those that are less fortunate and unsheltered during this time of year.

Mayor Pro Tem Umphrey stated that she normally tries to be upbeat since this is the last meeting of the year, but she received sad news that Judy Gignac, whom she considers to be a local legend, passed away in the morning. She was a friend, mentor, and over the last six years she would meet with her occasionally to provide guidance. She was the first female elected to the Board of Supervisors in Cochise County, sat on the Governor-appointed Board of Regents, and had an honorary doctorate from the University of Arizona. She was a special, smart lady and not a partisan person, she was a solution-based person, and she is going to leave a great legacy because she mentored a lot of people that are now serving in leadership positions around the County. In closing, she wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and asked everyone to keep in their thoughts and prayers Council Member Johnson who is currently at Banner Hospital.

Mayor McCaa stated that it was an amazing meal with the staff on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, thanked the cooks and organizers, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New year, Feliz Navidad, and thanked the City, the staff, law enforcement, first responders, medics, sewage, everybody that makes the City great. Lastly, he stated that everyone on Council looks forward to serving in 2024 and encouraged people to be kind to one another.

Adjournment

Mayor McCaa adjourned the December 14, 2023, meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:50 p.m.

Clea McCaa II, 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/UC8PtUplbkQsixlhSy-jeR_Q/videos