



## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minute summary of the regular meeting of the City Council of Sierra Vista held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2015

SEAL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria G. Marsh", is written above a horizontal line.

Maria G. Marsh  
Deputy City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Adams", is written above a horizontal line.

Jill Adams  
City Clerk

Sierra Vista City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 27, 2015

Mayor Mueller called the August 13, 2015 City Council Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ

Roll Call

Mayor Rick Mueller – present  
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Blanchard – present  
Council Member Alesia Ash – present  
Council Member Gwen Calhoun – present  
Council Member Rachel Gray – present  
Council Member Hank Huisking – present  
Council Member Craig Mount – present

Others Present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager  
Mary Jacobs, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Alinen, Police Chief  
Ron York, Fire Chief  
Richard Cayer, Interim Transportation and Environmental Services Director  
Victoria Yarbrough, Leisure and Library Services Director  
Abe Rubio, IT Director  
Judy Hector, PIO  
Pam Weir, Management Analyst  
Jill Adams, City Clerk  
Nathan Williams, City Attorney

Invocation – Pastor Neal Holmes, Mountain Vista Baptist Church, conducted the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance - Mount led the pledge.

Item 1 Acceptance of the Agenda

Council Member Huisking moved that the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 27, 2015, be approved. Council Member Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Awards and Presentations: A Proclamation declaring the week of August 16 through 22, 2015 as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week was presented to Mr. Bowen.

City Manager's Report - Mr. Potucek made the following announcements:

- Council Work Session on September 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers regarding City Manager Update and a presentation and demonstration of new voting equipment by Cochise County Elections Division;
- Council Special Meeting on September 10, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers regarding personnel issues;
- City offices will be closed on September 7, 2015 in observance of Labor Day; and

- Refuse normally picked up on Monday and Tuesday will revert to Tuesday and Wednesday with the normal recycling schedule on Thursday and Friday.

## Public Hearings

### Item 2 Ordinance 2015-007, Amendments to the Tax Code of the City of Sierra Vista

Council Member Ash moved that Ordinance 2015-007, Amendments to the Tax Code of the City of Sierra Vista, be approved. Council Member Huisking seconded the motion.

Mr. Potucek stated that this is the final act of FY 2015-2016 budget process and it involves an increase of the retail sales tax code from the current rate of 1.75% to 1.95% as discussed in the budget work sessions and approved within the budget by Council during its final adoption. The amount that will be raised from the sales tax increase on a normal annual basis is approximately \$1.1 Million; but because the City cannot implement the sales tax until November 1, 2015, the City is looking at an increase in revenue for this fiscal year in the \$800,000 range and going forward it will be more.

Council Member Gray read a statement explaining why she would be voting in favor of the tax increase (on file with the City Clerk).

Council Member Ash concurred with Council Member Gray's comments and added that this being her first round of budget sessions as a new Council Member, she can certainly say that going forward there are improvements that can be made to the process; however, this is not a vote on that process. This is a difficult vote that she is confident will help lead Sierra Vista to accomplish those things that were set forth by the Citizens' Advisory Commission.

The motion carried, 5/2. Mayor Mueller and Council Member Mount casted the dissenting votes.

## New Business

### Item 3 Resolution 2015-086, Special Event Liquor License Application for Derek Lee McKinley on behalf of the Directorate of Family, Moral, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) for September 26 and 27, 2015 at Veterans' Memorial Park

Council Member Huisking moved that Resolution 2015-086, Special Event Liquor License Application for Derek Lee McKinley on behalf of the Directorate of Family, Moral, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) for September 26 and 27, 2015 at Veterans' Memorial Park, be approved. Council Member Gray seconded the motion.

Ms. Adams stated that this a special event liquor license application for the DFMWR fall fun fest on September 26 and 27, 2015. This is not normally a discussion item. It is usually a Consent item; but because there is not a Consent Agenda, it is up for discussion. There are no posting requirements and this is not a public hearing; therefore, there have been no comments from the community. The cursory background check is still done on the application by the Police Department and they have no objections for this application going forward. The group has the appropriate security in place and looks to have a well-organized event planned. If Council approves the application, it will be forward to the State for final issuance

The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Item 4 Approval of the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2015

Council Member Calhoun moved that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2015, be approved as written. Council Member Huisking seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Item 5 Resolution 2015-87, Acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for the Design of Taxiway G and J

Council Member Gray moved that Resolution 2015-87, acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for the Design of Taxiway G and J, be approved. Council Member Huisking seconded the motion.

Mr. Cayer stated that the item is to accept a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$54,468 as partial reimbursement of the City's cost for designing improvements to Taxiway G and J. The project has been completed and this is a reimbursement for the design. Construction of the project will be scheduled when funds can be received by additional grant funds from the FAA. That application will be placed later in the year and hopefully construction can be in FY 2017.

The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Item 6 Resolution 2015-088, Appointment of Brian Jones, said term to expire May 7, 2017 and re-appointment of Linda Nichols, said term to expire June 30, 2018 to The Employee Benefit Trust

Mayor Pro Tem Blanchard moved that Resolution 2015-088, appointment of Brian Jones, said term to expire May 7, 2017 and re-appointment of Linda Nichols, said term to expire June 30, 2018 to The Employee Benefit Trust, be approved. Council Member Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Item 7 Resolution 2015-089, Re-appointment of Phillip C. Micheau and appointment of Dr. Clyne Namuo to the Industrial Development Authority, said terms to expire March 26, 2021

Council Member Mount moved that Resolution 2015-089, Re-appointment of Phillip C. Micheau and appointment of Dr. Clyne Namuo to the Industrial Development Authority, said terms to expire March 26, 2021, be approved. Council Member Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Item 8 Resolution 2015-090, Appointment of Darnell Rambert, said term to expire October 12, 2016 and re-appointment of Felicia Tucker, George Pohlman, and Frank Jackson to the Airport Commission, said terms to expire October 12, 2017

Council Member Gray moved that Resolution 2015-090, appointment of Darnell Rambert, said term to expire October 12, 2016 and re-appointment of Felicia Tucker, George Pohlman, and Frank Jackson to the Airport Commission, said terms to expire October 12, 2017, be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Blanchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7/0.

Call to the Public

Andrae Newcomb, resident, spoke about Whetstone and its residents.

Comments and Requests of the Council

Council Member Gray welcomed the returning and newly appointed commissioners and thanked her mother for visiting Sierra Vista and noted that she is glad that her son, Malachi, is back in Arizona.

Council Member Mount congratulated the Industrial Development Authority appointees; talked about improving the budget process; and stated that he looks forward to working toward other goals.

Council Member Calhoun talked about a previous presentation by Mr. Bowen regarding National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; stated that she is happy with the number of appointments to the commissions; encouraged citizens to be involved; stated that she is also glad that Council managed to get through the budget process and added that she looks forward to hearing about budget processes and the way tax payers' money is spent as the City is transparent. In closing, she stated that the budget will be on line in October, talked about the brand and asked citizens to check out the tag line.

Council Member Huisking thanked Ms. Yarbrough and staff for the Humming Bird Triathlon; thanked Council Members for their contribution and especially Council Member Gray for being the recruiter; announced the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast for the Sierra Vista Community Garden on August 29<sup>th</sup>; and acknowledged Gabe and Hunter as part of Scout Troop 445 earning their Citizen Badge.

Council Member Ash thanked newly appointed commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Blanchard had nothing to report.

Mayor Mueller thanked citizen volunteers, particularly the Southeastern Arizona Hospitality Association promoting the local hotels that is being sponsored by Cochise College whose focus was on how to make Sierra Vista more of a tourist center and a satiation. He also mentioned that he is also glad that budget process is over with and wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

#### Adjournment

Mayor Mueller adjourned the August 27, 2015 meeting of the Sierra Vista City Council at 5:30 p.m.

  
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Mayor Frederick W. Mueller

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria G. Marsh, Deputy City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Adams, City Clerk

## **Council Member Rachel Gray Comments**

**Due to discipline and fiscal responsibility before and during the Great Recession, Sierra Vista has been able to weather the tough economic times of the past 7 years.**

Due to discipline and fiscal responsibility before and during the Great Recession, Sierra Vista has been able to weather the tough economic times of the past 7 years.

We have cut over 70 positions through attrition. We have reduced spending while minimizing impact to the community where possible.

But now with state revenue funds being swept and city's contribution to Public Safety Retirement system increasing significantly, it is now our responsibility to make up the difference.

We stand at a crossroads as a community. We need attention and resources to see our city thrive.

Without proper funding we will not be in a sustainable position for our city to prosper. We will not be a place where new businesses or employees will want to locate if we can't keep up with weeds, parks, roads, quality police and fire services and retention of high quality employees who have helped us through difficult times.

A few months ago the Citizens Advisory Commission was tasked by City Council to review both the city's needs and revenues. Based upon input from members of the community as well as city leadership it was concluded that there were some deficiencies including street maintenance, facility maintenance, vehicle replacements, neighborhood enforcement, Economic Development, Tourism, and Police Services.

They also gave us some recommendations. Central to each recommendation was an increase to Sales tax. A major reason for a sales taxes increase is that those in the entire Metropolitan Area would contribute toward services they use everyday such as parks, multi use paths, ballfields, library, roads, police and fire services.

An increase of 2/10th of a cent is both a conservative and responsible solution. It still keeps our sales tax rate among lowest in state while providing us with additional flexibility to start addressing deficiencies, as well as being proactive in areas that will increase our revenue in the future. Areas such as Economic Development and Tourism. Making Sierra Vista the Extraordinary Uncommon community that we know it to be.

Although I would like decisions like this to be cut and dried. Unfortunately they are not. It takes leadership, courage and vision to make a choice that benefits the community as a whole. I feel the citizens entrusted me to make decisions such as these. I will be voting in favor of this item. I am confident it will be a benefit to the community now and in the future.