

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
April 2, 2018

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Municipal Judge, Frances Cases, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Councilor Fleming requested that item 6a on the agenda (Swearing In of Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer) be moved to fall immediately after Consideration of Minutes and before Public Forum.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. March 12, 2018

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Swearing In of Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

Municipal Judge, Frances Cases, swore in Robert Serna as a City Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer which will allow Mr. Serna to write citations for violations of the City's Zoning Code Ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Serna is currently working part-time and will work towards getting certified as a zoning and code enforcement officer. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Serna will immediately focus on areas of Socorro that are the most "exposed" and work with land owners to clean up their property. Several members of Mr. Serna's family also attended the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the NM Tech Mechanical Engineering Department recently held a debate tournament which included 14 teams. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department recently ranked number one in the nation. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is working on developing a certificate in business management. Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with Peter Anselmo and Lillian Armijo, from NM Tech, to discuss availability at the Industrial Park and other benefits the City can offer new or relocating businesses.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

b. Resolution No. 18-04-02a – Adoption of CDBG Policies

Donald Monette, City Administrator, explained that the CDBG Program requires that entities have a Citizen Participation Plan, a Section 3 Plan, a Fair Housing Policy and a Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan in place in order to be able to apply for, or expend, federal funds. Mr. Monette stated that the resolution presented has been approved by the City Council in previous years and CDBG requests that municipalities reconfirm their approval of the resolution. Mr. Monette stated that a resolution was provided in the packet but an updated version had been received and provided to the Council.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-04-02a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Resolution No. 18-04-02b – Adoption of 2018 Socorro County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 18-04-02b, which, if approved, adopts the 2018 Socorro County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Monette stated that the City provided input designating California Street as a safety corridor which will allow the City to apply for mitigation funds if needed.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-04-02b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 6 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are MAP Project & Transfer from Special Utility Fund – Requirements are MAP Project - Amount is \$332,674.00 – The transfer is needed to allow for MAP Project funding and expenditures.

2. No. 7 – Landfill Improvement Fund

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Other Admin Fee – Amount is \$2,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to 6/30/18.

3. No. 8 – Gas Valve Reserve Fund

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Other Admin Fee – Amount is \$1,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to 6/30/18.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 6, 7 and 8. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Appointments to Mural Committee

Mayor Bhasker stated that there were only two entries in the City Hall mural contest and he would like to re-advertise for RFP's. Mayor Bhasker suggested opening the contest up statewide so that more entries could be received.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Fleming commended several City police officers for assisting with the rescue of a person whose car had turned over in a ditch. Mayor Bhasker recognized Officers Carlos Valenzuela, Peter Gonzales, Michael Chavez and Alfredo Garza, as well as Security Officer Gilbert Gonzales. Mayor Bhasker also commended the Police and Fire Departments for their response to a house fire on Main Street.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez thanked the City on behalf of Headstart Pre-School for fixing their sidewalks.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that there would be several payroll changes presented at both tonight's meeting and the next City Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that some of the changes include employees moving into a new position, the adjustment of employees within their salary range and employees receiving new tasks. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is saving money by assigning new tasks to current employees rather than hiring new people to fill these positions. Also discussed were the return-to-work retirees (placed with the City through a job placement agency).

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Rick Gutierrez - 3-30-18 – Landfill - Retirement

Marcella Alvarado - 4-2-18 – Finance - New Hire*(Cashier) - A-21

Lena Chavez - 4-2-18 – Finance - Promotion to General Ledger Clerk - A-26 to A-38

Cindy Rivera – 4-1-18 - Recreation/Youth Center – Adjustment into Correct Salary Range – J-32 to J-40

Chelsea Lyons – 4-1-18 - Library – Adjustment within Salary Range – D-43 to D-47

Tom Stidstone – 4-1-18 – Auto Maintenance – Promotion to Head Mechanic – U-40 to U-50

Demecio Silva – 4-1-18 – Street/Road – Adjustment within Salary Range – J-51 to J-56

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Fleming motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Custom Home Furnishings Sierra County – Out of Town – T or C, NM – Sara Nelson – Retail Furniture

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 p.m., Councilor Romero motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk