

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 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 Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Gordy Hicks was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. May 7, 2018

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the fall semester's first-year student numbers are looking better than last year. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech staff is looking into retention issues pertaining to students and staff. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech will offer some "mini" summer courses.

Councilor Salome arrived.

Patrick Vallejos, a local resident, stated that he is concerned that semi-truck and heavy equipment traffic on Marshall Lane is going to destroy the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that he agrees and the City Administration will look into options to protect the road.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Jay Armijo, Executive Director of the South Central Council of Governments, stated that the SCCOG is currently working on developing a tourism-related website (southcentralnm.com). Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG is co-hosting ICIP training in Deming on June 14th. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG will have their annual meeting in Socorro on June 29th.

Nick Kellar, from the Farmer's Market, stated that the Farmer's Market held their spring meeting and discussed what they could do to keep vendors from going to larger venues. Mr. Kellar stated that one idea is to re-establish Tuesday evening sales on the Plaza and eliminate Saturday sales. Mr. Kellar stated that Burritos n More will have "Taco Tuesday" during the Tuesday sales.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Plaza Sculpture Update – Michael Pino & Reynaldo Rivera

Michael Pino gave an update on a proposed bronze sculpture honoring the mining industry. Mr. Pino stated that he would like to place the 20 x 40 sculpture in the southeast corner of the Plaza. Mr. Pino gave an overview of donations for the sculpture. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Pino for his presentation and stated that his only concerns were the location (would the sculpture overwhelm the Plaza) and the safety of the sculpture. Mayor Bhasker stated that City staff can stake out the proposed area to see if the size of the sculpture works for the Plaza. Some discussion followed.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 2018

b. Resolution No. 18-05-21a – CDBG Comprehensive Plan

Donald Monette, City Administrator, presented Resolution No. 18-05-21a which, if approved, authorizes the continuation of work with the CDBG program to obtain funds for the preparation of a planning document.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-05-21a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 18-05-21b – Asset Management Plan Grant

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 18-05-21b which, if approved, authorizes a planning grant agreement between the City of Socorro and the NM Finance Authority for the purpose of financing the costs of an asset management plan.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-05-21b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 001A – FY 18-19 Preliminary Budget Approval

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, presented Resolution No. 001A which, if approved, adopts the City's preliminary budget for FY 18-19. Mayor Bhasker thanked everyone who helped in the preparation of the budget. Ms. Lopez stated that a resolution for final budget approval will be presented at a future Council meeting.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Lease of Water Rights Agreement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has excess water rights which have been inventoried by consultant Suzanne Smith. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has received a request (from Lonnie Wade Orr) to lease approximately 75-acre feet of the City's 1,000 acre feet which will generate approximately \$61,000 in revenue for the City over a five-year period.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the lease between the City of Socorro and Lonnie Wade Orr. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Olguin stated that the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association and the Center for Leadership in Technology Commercialization at NM Tech will be hosting a presentation by Tim Nitti, President and CEO of the NM Economic Development Partnership. Councilor Olguin stated that Mr. Nitti will discuss how NM Partnership works to support New Mexico's business environment and what he needs from local communities to help promote them to relocating industries from outside New Mexico. Councilor Olguin stated that the meeting will be held May 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at NM Tech and the public is invited to attend.

Councilor Salome stated that the Senior Board will meet soon to discuss ways to support, improve and enrich the services provided to seniors at the senior center.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she will be meeting with the developers and other providers for the supportive housing project on May 24th.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 2018

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, stated that utility customers can pay their utility bills online using their checking account information. Ms. Lopez stated that payment by credit card should be active in two weeks. Ms. Lopez stated that there have been some personnel changes in the Finance Department and that all new employees are training/cross-training. Ms. Lopez stated that per the MOU recently passed by the City and the County, funds have been distributed to Socorro County for the detention center.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department employees, as well as all other City crews, did a great job fighting a large junk yard fire on May 18th. Chief Gonzales stated that the department received mutual aid from several different departments and thanked them for their help. Chief Gonzales stated that he received two employee resignations and has submitted two new hires to replace those employees.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's new code enforcement officer, Robert Serna, will be looking at areas such as the one that experienced the fire and communicate with land owners to clean these areas up. Mayor Bhasker stated that if land owners clean up their lots, City staff will remove and dispose of the debris. Mayor Bhasker stated that Dave Willis is the land owner from the area where the fire was located and that he owns other similar lots. Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with the City's attorney to draft a letter to Mr. Willis regarding cleanup of the burned lot and his other lots.

Robert Serna, the City's Code Enforcement Officer, stated that he has been meeting with several land owners about cleaning weeds, trash, burned buildings, etc. from their lots. Mayor Bhasker stated that if no action is taken by land owners, the City may ultimately have to condemn these properties, clean them and place a lien on the property.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from April 2018. Chief Winders stated that Officer Will Brannan recently graduated from the Police Academy.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch & Animal Control Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from April 2018. Mr. Tarango stated that dispatch is running well and that he will be doing interviews for the two vacant dispatcher positions. Mr. Tarango stated that the animal shelter is short-staffed. Mr. Tarango stated that he has been meeting with members of various transport programs. Mr. Tarango stated that for fuel savings purposes, he would like to find groups that are closer to Socorro as the last transport was to Utah. Marcia Amaro, an animal shelter employee, stated that there are approximately 50 dogs at the shelter. Ms. Amaro stated that the shelter utilizes their Facebook page to find potential adopters. Mr. Tarango stated that Animal Control Training Services is willing to train him and Ms. Amaro to become certified animal control officers.

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that he recently attended Senator Udall's Rural Resource Roadshow which had 11 speakers and 48 attendees. Mr. Pineda stated that the NM Finance Authority gave an update about projects around the state including broadband projects. Mr. Pineda stated that broadband plays a large part in economic development. Mr. Pineda stated that the broadband committee at NM Tech would like to submit a grant using the City as fiscal agent. Mr. Pineda stated that the SEC bills the City for 103 street lights and he was only able to locate 63 of those lights. Mr. Pineda stated that the SEC is doing an inventory to identify the remainder of the lights. Mr. Pineda stated that 9 companies attended a pre-submittal meeting for architectural services for the old armory. Mr. Pineda stated that there are proposed murals on display at City Hall and the public can vote on which mural they like. Mr. Pineda stated that City employee, Joe Melendrez, received a \$7,000 grant to cover the costs of mosquito spray for this summer.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 2018

Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Lyons stated that with the recent rain, there were a few water leaks in the roof. Ms. Lyons stated that lighting outside of the library has been installed and the wrought iron fence installation is almost complete. Ms. Lyons stated that the summer reading program starts June 1st and runs through July 19th.

Jay Santillanes, Transportation Director, stated that the department will be assisting with rides for over 150 visitors to the NRAO. Mr. Santillanes stated that the department will also offer ride services for the NM Association of Counties meeting in June. Mr. Santillanes stated that fuel sales at the airport have increased.

Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism Director & Events Manager, stated that the Keep NM Clean & Beautiful grant was received. Mr. Brown stated that there will soon be a new billboard campaign for Socorro. Mr. Brown stated that there will be a senior pro rodeo in July.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that Parks Department crews have been planting flowers at the Plaza, in the medians and on School of Mines Road. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews have been fixing water leaks, doing new water connections, cleaning drain lines at the high school and working on stopped meters. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been busy getting the swimming pool ready and maintaining the lift stations. Mr. Martinez stated that the Wastewater Department has been cleaning digester # 2 and will clean SBR #1. Mr. Martinez stated that crews at the soccer fields and rodeo arena are reseeding the soccer fields and planting grass by the bleachers in the arena.

Mr. Martinez, reporting for Recreation Director, Cindy Rivera, stated that May 24th is the baseball draft and games will start on June 4th. Mr. Martinez stated that there will be a meeting with pool staff on May 25th and the pool will open May 29th. Mr. Martinez stated that the youth center summer program starts June 4th.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that crews are currently repairing commercial dumpsters, baling tires and picking up litter. Mr. Lucero stated that he is advertising for a sanitation driver and getting quotes for residential carts.

Isacc Angel, Gas Superintendent, stated that Gas Department crews assisted with turning natural gas service off during the fire. Mr. Angel stated that crews started gas line replacement on Medley and School of Mines Road. Mr. Angel stated that the gas meter audit is still ongoing and that the contractor mail outs for 811 have been completed.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that crews have been busy patching pot holes. Mr. Silva stated that crews finished the concrete project in front of Finley Gym and moved over 500 donated chairs from NM Tech to Finley Gym. Mr. Silva stated that crews have started the Hilton Hills road reconstruction project.

Ms. Saavedra stated that the renewal rates for liability and worker's compensation insurance should be received early next week. Ms. Saavedra stated that letters for the summer youth program have been mailed to the workers. Ms. Saavedra stated that there will be a meeting on May 25th to complete payroll paperwork for the lifeguards.

Mr. Monette stated that the Western Hills local government road fund reconstruction project has been approved.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 2018

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

Theodore Ygbuhay - 5-15-18 – Fire - Resignation
Jerome Martinez - 5-18-18 – Fire - Resignation
Koshmen Alvarado - 5-11-18 – Sanitation - Resignation
Michael Padilla - 5-30-18 – Finance - Resignation
Marcia Amaro - 5-21-18 - Animal Shelter - New Hire*(Office/Kennel Assistant) - A-20
Amanda Torres - 5-21-18 - Animal Shelter - New Hire*(Office/Kennel Assistant) - A-20
John McGuire - 6-16-18 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-27
Stephen Jojola - 6-1-18 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-25
Damien Ortega - 5-22-18 - Auto Maintenance - New Hire*(Mechanic) - A-35
William Brannan - 5-16-18 – Police - Police Officer Certification - B-30 to B-40
Zach Ortega - 5-1-18 – Fire - Completed Probation & EMT-B Certification - B-25 to B-28
Julio Peguero - 5-21-18 – Sanitation - Additional Job Duties - M-36 to M-40

Temporary New Hires: Debbie Acevedo, Zach Martin, Daniel Pacheco

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Tiara Jojola, Justin Lopez, Ray Aragon, James Chavez, Steven Chavez, Deekota Chavez, Wade Dixon, Eva Chavez, Ever Sedillo

Student Workers: Taylor Saavedra, Damian Townsend, Ambriel Mauldin, Lucas Madril
Referees (7), Zumba/Yoga (4)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Art's Unlimited - Out of Town - Alamogordo, NM - Art Serna - Custom Airbrushing, Clothing, Gifts, Novelties

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 144485 to 144776 in the amount of \$1,214,078.68 plus Payroll Transfers (\$297,601.85), for a total of \$1,511,680.53. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 21, 2018

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m., Councilor Hicks 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, Deputy Clerk