

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
June 4, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Peter Romero were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. May 21, 2018

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – Immigrant Heritage Month

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation recognizing immigrants and the important role they play in communities across the United States. In the proclamation, Mayor Bhasker proclaimed June 2018 as Immigrant Heritage Month in Socorro.

PUBLIC FORUM

Wade Whitefield stated that he has lived in the Marshall Lane area for over 40 years and he recently noticed that the City placed a sign on the road limiting the size of vehicles that can use the road. Mr. Whitefield stated that he is a truck and bus driver and the limitations will affect him. Mr. Whitefield stated that he is aware that the dairy trucks farming in the area do not use the ditch because it is not wide enough and that is why they use Marshall Lane. Mr. Whitefield stated that he spoke with Mayor Bhasker and the Mayor has agreed to amend the sign to allow local traffic on the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like the dairy company to contact City Hall to address the issue.

Frank Amador stated that his business may be helping with cleanup efforts on the property where there had been a recent fire. Mr. Amador requested that the City allow him to take the debris to the landfill at no cost. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's responsibility was only to put out the fire and it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove the debris. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are concerns regarding what chemicals may be contained in the debris. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City charges \$35 per ton which is used to cover the costs of burying the materials and maintaining the landfill. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would not approve the request and would also be asking the City's attorney how to proceed with the cleanup (as it relates to the property owner's responsibility).

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that summer classes at NM Tech start next week. Mr. Stone stated that there will be several middle school and high school events on NM Tech campus this summer including the upcoming STEM camp. Mr. Stone stated that 2018 was NM Tech's largest graduating class. Mr. Stone stated that preliminary enrollment numbers for the fall look good.

Michael Pino provided pictures of a proposed bronze sculpture commemorating miners. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City identified the area at the Plaza where the sculpture could potentially go which was

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approximately 70% of the southeast corner of the Plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that he likes the idea of a sculpture but that he is worried how it will affect the Plaza area. Mayor Bhasker requested that the item be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board Update – Kirsten Kellar

Kirsten Kellar and Savannah Morris provided handouts regarding community resources and grant programs as well as teen center special events and workshops. Ms. Kellar stated that in conjunction with New Mexicans Against Gun Violence, ten students will get to paint a mural at the teen center. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will need to approve the mural prior to it being painted in a City building. Ms. Kellar stated that the board had a retreat in May which focused on the history of prevention. Ms. Kellar thanked the City for assisting with the relocation of the teen center in March. Ms. Kellar stated that the next step for the Suicide Prevention Grant will be training and creating focus groups. Ms. Kellar stated that the SCJJB will be presenting their upcoming budget to the City Council for approval.

b. Resolution No. 18-06-04a – NMDOT Co-Op Project

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-06-04a which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, pavement rehabilitation/improvements, drainage improvements, curb and gutter, sidewalk, construction management and miscellaneous to Western Avenue from Neel Avenue to Stallion Circle. Mayor Bhasker stated that the total project cost is \$99,528 with the NMDOT funding 75% and the City funding 25%.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-06-04a. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 18-06-04b – NMDOT MAP Project

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-06-04b which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a Cooperative MAP Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the planning design, construction, reconstruction, pavement rehabilitation, drainage and miscellaneous to Fairgrounds Road beginning at approximately 0.25 miles south of Raychester Road and proceeding south and west approximately 0.4 miles to the point where the previous project terminated. Mayor Bhasker stated that the total project cost is \$630,000 with the NMDOT funding 75% and the City funding 25%.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-06-04b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. City of Socorro ICIP

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the ICIP is due to the State by September 4th and the City must hold three public hearings prior to that date (which will be done at future City Council meetings). Mr. Monette stated that the State has implemented a new system and they are asking entities to “clean up” their project list. Mr. Monette stated that the City’s list has 37 projects and there are several that are repeated. Mr. Monette stated that he can suspend a project in the new system and it will not remove it from the list. Mr. Monette asked the City Council to review the project list and provide input as to how reduce the number of projects to approximately ten.

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e. Resolution No. 18-06-04c – Surplus Equipment

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-06-04c which, if approved, deems the following as surplus equipment:

Summit Horizontal Baler – Recycling – 8052103261
Cram-A-Lot Vertical Baler – Recycling – 3940
Forklift

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-06-04c. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution No. 18-06-04d – Utility Billing Write-Offs

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, presented Resolution No. 18-06-04d which, if approved, removes uncollectible utility billing accounts from 2013, in the amount of \$41,088.96, from the City's list of accounts. Ms. Lopez stated that the Finance Department still attempts to collect these funds through a credit agency.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-06-04d. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

g. Resolution No. 18-06-04e – Ambulance Billing Write-Offs

Ms. Lopez presented Resolution No. 18-06-04e which, if approved, removes uncollectible ambulance accounts from 2012, in the amount of \$202,530.14, from the City's list of accounts. Ms. Lopez stated that the Finance Department still attempts to collect these funds through a credit agency.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-06-04e. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

h. Budget Resolution No. 11 – CDBG Texas Street & Drainage Fund

Resources are Transfer from Revolving Loan – Requirements are Engineering – Amount is \$10,000 – The increase is needed to allow CDBG expenditures for Texas Street and drainage.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 11. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker stated that Councilor Salome, who couldn't attend the meeting, wanted to inform the City Council that a meeting of the Senior Center Board had not occurred yet.

Jay Santillanes, Transportation Department Director, stated that there will be a meeting of the Bicycle Trails Committee on June 12th at noon.

Mayor Bhasker asked about the status of the swimming pool. Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that since the pool opened on May 29th, there have been an average of 100 swimmers per day. Mayor Bhasker asked Ms. Rivera if a meeting of the Recreation Committee would be helpful to which Ms. Rivera replied that it would be helpful to discuss recreation matters.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker asked if a ban had been placed on the sale of fireworks to which the Fire Chief, Joe Gonzales, stated that there had not been a ban of the sale of fireworks.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that First State Bank and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District will be donating approximately \$16,000 to the City so that swimmers ages 18 and under can swim free for the rest of the summer. Mayor Bhasker stated that children ages 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Mayor Bhasker stated that this will start June 11th.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Virginia Vivian – 6-15-18 – Finance – Completed probation – A-28 to A-30

Kristy Padilla – 5-16-18 – Administration – Additional Job Duties – M-36 to M-41

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

X-Specially-4-U-Designs – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Arealia Derby –
Clothing/Handmade Soap & Oil/Silk Fabric

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

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

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk

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