

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 18, 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 Anton Salome, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Gordy Hicks. Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Nick Fleming were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 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. June 4, 2018**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**a. HOT Squad Lego League**

The students from the HOT Squad First Lego League presented the City of Socorro with a plaque to thank the City for supporting the team. The students, Josh Walsh, Iriana Valentino, Ixchel Valentino and Ithan Valentino, explained that the team competed in the world championship in Houston and out of 62 countries, they won sixth place. The Mayor and City Council congratulated the team on their success.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that construction had started on the telescope at the Magdalena Ridge Observatory. Mr. Stone stated that there will eventually be 10 telescopes at the MRO. Mr. Stone stated that summer classes have started. Mayor Bhasker thanked NM Tech for allowing the NM Association of Counties to have their meetings on campus.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. SCJJB FY 19 Contract Approval – Kirsten Kellar**

Polo Pineda, IT Director, on behalf of Kirsten Kellar, presented the FY 2019 contract between the City of Socorro and the State of NM Children, Youth & Families Department for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. Mr. Pineda stated that the contracted increased \$8,275 from the prior year and that the City provides a match by providing in-kind services.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve the FY 2019 contract between the City of Socorro and the State of NM Children, Youth & Families Department for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Consideration of Placement of Bronze Sculpture in Plaza**

Mayor Bhasker stated that Michael Pino had proposed the idea of placing a bronze sculpture commemorating miners in the City's Plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that a decision needed to be made as to whether the City would like to place the sculpture in the Plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would prefer that the sculpture be placed in another location, possibly NM Tech. Mr. Pino stated that he would like the sculpture to be in Socorro but that he has considered other locations

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such as UTEP, the City of Denver and NM Tech. Councilor Hicks stated that he also feels NM Tech would be a good location for the sculpture.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to postpone the decision on the Plaza until such time as the City can meet with NM Tech and see if they would be open to placing the sculpture at NM Tech. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will send a letter to NM Tech asking them to consider the placement of the sculpture at NM Tech.

**c. Recommendation from Mural Committee**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Mural Committee considered eight murals that were submitted for the City Hall building. Mayor Bhasker stated that the committee recommended that mural #1 be submitted to the City Council for approval.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve mural #1 which will be painted on the City Hall building. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Final Consideration on Subdivision Variance Request from A-1 Quality Redi-Mix**

Kristy Padilla, Administrative Assistant, explained that at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting of May 31, 2018, the P & Z Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to the City Council that the variance request from A-1 Quality Redi-Mix be approved. Ms. Padilla stated that the variance was for the property located at Spring Street, Padilla Street and Padilla Place. Ms. Padilla stated that the variance would allow the land to be split into three pieces. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's attorney did not have an issue with approval of the variance.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the variance request from A-1 Quality Redi-Mix. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that A-1 Quality Redi-Mix is on the June 21, 2018 P & Z agenda to present a sketch plan for a mobile home park which will be placed on one of the pieces of land listed above. Mayor Bhasker stated that the property is zoned R-4 which allows mobile home parks.

**e. Resolution No. 18-06-18 – SCCOG Participation for FY 18-19**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-06-18 which, if approved, would allow the City to participate in the South Central Council of Governments for FY 18-19 along with payment of membership dues of \$2,663. Mayor Bhasker stated that in the past, he was the voting delegate and Councilor Hicks was the alternate. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SCCOG had previously promised a half-time grant writer who would be located in Socorro and he would still like to see that happen. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like the SCCOG to assist the City with a CDBG project for renovating Finley Gym. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like the SCCOG to have more contact with the City.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approved Resolution No. 18-06-18 and further approve Mayor Bhasker as the voting delegate and Councilor Hicks as the alternate. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Recreation Committee**

Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Chavez-Lopez to be the chairperson of the Recreation Committee. Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Chavez-Lopez to suggest two more people for the committee.

**b. Planning & Zoning Commission Update**

Ms. Padilla stated that in addition to the above-mentioned variance request, at the May 31, 2018 P & Z meeting, the commission also considered an additional variance request and two home occupation permits. Ms. Padilla stated that the next P & Z meeting would be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Hicks stated that the Bicycle Trails Committee would like to put a “push button” for riders at the intersection of Spring Street and Highway 60.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that Parks Department crews have been busy cutting and spraying weeds at the City’s parks. Mr. Martinez stated that the Water Department has been busy fixing water leaks, assisting the Parks Department and replacing the gravel in the medians. Mr. Martinez stated that Customer Service has been busy with turn ons and offs and fixing stopped meters. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been doing water quality testing at the pool, cleaning lift stations and spraying for mosquitos. Mr. Martinez stated that the crews at the wastewater treatment plant are busy with daily duties and are currently working on digester #2. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew completed erosion control at the rodeo arena and are helping Socorro High School with drainage issues.

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that nine companies attended the pre-bid conference for architectural services at the convention center/museum and that six of those companies provided a bid. Mr. Pineda stated that bids for water parts and for the reconstruction of Texas Street will go out this week. Mr. Pineda stated that he met with someone from the NM Economic Development Department who provided him with updated data for Socorro. Mr. Pineda stated that the Socorro Electric Cooperative has nearly completed a street light inventory for the City.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the two new employees have been enrolled in training classes. Chief Gonzales stated that the new ambulance should be delivered by the end of July. Chief Gonzales stated that the ISO inspection went well and the results should be received in 3 to 4 months. Chief Gonzales stated that fireworks go on sale June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that letters regarding recycling cardboard had been sent to all local businesses. Mr. Lucero stated that residential cans have been ordered and should arrive next week. Mr. Lucero stated that he has submitted a request for two new hires for the Sanitation Department.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that the street sweeper has been out cleaning City streets. Mr. Silva stated that the work on Hilton Hills should be complete by the second week in July. Mr. Silva stated that the project on Western Hills cost approximately \$27,000 and the project on Hilton Hills cost approximately \$25,000. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Silva to get an estimate for speed bumps on Harold Drive.

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Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that the kids at the youth center go every Monday to Glen Duggin's farm where they are learning about farming. Ms. Rivera stated that the kids at the youth center also continue to attend the NM Tech music program and programs at the library. Ms. Rivera stated that Socorro Consolidated Schools has provided the youth center with one teacher and three aides to teach the kids. Ms. Rivera stated that there are approximately 110 kids each day swimming at the pool. Ms. Rivera stated that the Saturday pool hours have been changed from 8-1 to 12-4. Ms. Rivera stated that youth baseball has 146 participants, there are seven men's softball teams and three women's softball teams. Ms. Rivera stated that repairs are ongoing at Finley Gym.

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, stated that gross receipts revenues are still low and department heads have been good about watching their spending budget. Ms. Lopez stated that she has been working on utility bill collections and either making payment arrangements, placing customers on delinquent budget billing or turning utility services off. Ms. Lopez stated that E-Pay for utility payments online is working. Ms. Lopez stated that auditors will be starting in July and she is working on preparing the final budget for approval.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that officers have been busy with serving narcotics warrants and working the STEP Program. Chief Winders stated that the City has renewed the contract with Socorro Schools for a school resource officer (for one year).

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch & Animal Control Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department and Animal Shelter stats from May 2018. Mr. Tarango stated that he will be interviewing applicants for two 911 Operator positions. Mr. Tarango stated that he and another animal shelter employee are currently in training to become certified animal control officers. Mr. Tarango stated that he will be attending meetings of the 911 affiliate during the NMAC conference this week in Socorro.

Ms. Saavedra stated that 88 summer kids have been hired through the Summer Youth Employment Program and placed in one of 20 different locations. Ms. Saavedra stated that the City's liability insurance policy has been renewed and the premium is \$10,000 less than last year.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that he mailed documentation for both the MAP and the Co-Op projects. Mr. Monette stated that he met with the director of the teen center to work out some minor issues. Mr. Monette stated that thanks to the generous donations from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, First State Bank, Positive Outcomes, SMA Enterprises, A-1 Quality Redi-Mix, TLC Plumbing and Gail "Missy" Armstrong, the City is able to provide free swimming to people under the age of 18 for the rest of the summer. Mr. Monette stated that the donations totaled \$16,000 and the free swimming started June 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Monette stated that he met with engineers at the armory and the culvert has been ordered.

Mayor Bhasker stated, on behalf of Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, that the fence, gate and lights have all been installed at the library, that there was one leak in the roof after recent rains and there are 191 participants in the summer reading program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Changes**

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

Francisco Montoya - 6-18-18 – Sanitation - New Hire\*(Driver) - A-30

Jonathan Houston - 6-18-18 – Sanitation - New Hire\*(Driver) - A-30

Temporary New Hires: Mariah Jaramillo

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Tiara Jojola, Justin Lopez, James Chavez, Steven Chavez, Deekota Chavez, Eva Chavez, Ever Sedillo, Daniel Pacheco, Zach Martin

Student Workers: Taylor Saavedra, Damian Townsend, Lucas Madril

Lifeguards (13), Referees (7), Zumba/Yoga (4)

Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

That Barber Shop - C-2 - 102 Baca Street - Adam Paz - Barber Shop

Down n Dirty Disposal - Out of Town - Veguita, NM - Larry Leyba - Refuse Disposal

American Fire Protection Group Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Fire Protection Sprinkler Contractor

Falcon Cleaners - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Brian Falcon - Janitorial Services

Detecht LLC - R-3 (Approved by P&Z) - 1005 Bullock - Elena Oana Jacobs - Monitoring and Instrumentation for Construction & Blasting

Embroidery by Patty LLC - R-4 (Approved by P&Z) - 1611 Fatima Road - Patricia Saavedra – Embroidery

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 144777 to 145015 in the amount of \$534,012.52 plus Payroll Transfers (\$165,161.69), for a total of \$699,174.21. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously with Councilor Dean abstaining from the vote.

**d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 12:00 noon in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:05 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk -**