

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Gordy Hicks was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. August 6, 2018

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

Councilor Hicks arrived.

PUBLIC FORUM

Beth Kadall, race director for the 10th Annual Chile Harvest Youth Triathlon, thanked the City of Socorro for supporting the event. Ms. Kadall stated that there were 68 participants, ages 7 to 14. Ms. Kadall stated that the Socorro Striders and Riders received a grant from the USA Triathlon Foundation to increase local participation in the event. Ms. Kadall stated that local participation increased by 65% from 2017, making the grant successful. Ms. Kadall stated that there were 65 volunteers supporting the 68 participants.

Stacy Timmons, race director for the 23rd Annual Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon, also thanked the City for supporting the event. Ms. Timmons stated that there were 224 participants including participants from Arizona, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Texas. Ms. Timmons stated that there were 100 volunteers supporting the event.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that fall semester classes had started and enrollment was approximately 70 students higher than last year. Mr. Stone stated that there is a GO bond on the ballot for the election in November and it supports \$7.1 million in infrastructure improvements at NM Tech. Jay Santillanes, Transportation Director, stated that once all the NM Tech students have moved in, the Transportation Department will set up a tour of Socorro to familiarize the students with the City. Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that he is still working with NM Tech on a web page for students that will showcase events in Socorro.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. ENGIE Services U.S. Inc. – Energy Efficiency Program - Discussion

John McAllister, with ENGIE Services U.S., stated that ENGIE is the largest independent power producer in the world. Mr. McAllister stated that ENGIE is quickly moving into renewable and sustainable markets with a focus on energy efficiency and renewables. Mr. McAllister stated that energy efficiency projects can include upgrading facilities with solar panels, HVAC upgrades, installing LED lighting, etc. Mr. McAllister stated that ENGIE would like to perform a preliminary, no-cost assessment for the City of Socorro to estimate the savings they can deliver to the City of Socorro. Mr. McAllister stated that ENGIE is a pre-qualified firm through the State of New Mexico

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 2018

and the State actively engages as a third-party viewer. Gary Gunthorpe, of PPC Solar, stated that ENGIE has worked on several upgrades including projects for Sandoval County, McKinley County, NMMI, City of Farmington, City of Hobbs and the City of Gallup. Mayor Bhasker stated that ideally, he would like to see a solar farm constructed to meet all of the City's needs with the SEC using a rate for the solar farm and not each individual building. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to allow the City Administration to move forward with a preliminary, no-cost assessment for the City of Socorro through ENGIE. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

b. Request for Amendment to Zoning Map – High School Road/Park Street/A Street Area – Richardson Development Company, Inc. – R-3 to R-4

Kristy Padilla, P & Z Officer, stated that Richardson Development Company, Inc. is requesting an amendment to the zoning map from R-3 to R-4 for their property just north of High School Road. Ms. Padilla stated that at the July 19, 2018 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, the commission voted to send a recommendation to the City Council in favor of the zone change. This item was postponed from the August 6, 2018 City Council meeting.

Mayor Bhasker stated that per City ordinance, there are 8 criteria that need to be considered by the P & Z Commission and the City Council when making a decision. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's attorney recommended that the City Council be apprised of this criteria prior to make a decision. Penny Lommen provided a handout regarding Beehive Homes, an assisted living facility franchise. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels it is superfluous to discuss who may be occupying the property. Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance also states that property owners within 100 feet of the proposed change are the only people who must be notified of the change. Don Steinnerd stated that he is not sure the public is aware of what the 8 criteria are to which Mayor Bhasker requested that Donald Monette, City Administrator, list the criteria:

Criteria for recommendations and decisions. In considering all requests, the Commission shall review applicable plans to determine whether the request will:

(1)

Impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property.

(2)

Unreasonably increase the traffic in public streets.

(3)

Increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety.

(4)

Deter the orderly and phased growth and development of the community.

(5)

Unreasonably impair established property values within the surrounding area.

(6)

In any other respect impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the City.

(7)

Constitute a spot zone and therefore adversely affect adjacent property values.

(8)

Maintain the characteristics of an established and stable neighborhood.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 2018

Mayor Bhasker explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission is an advisory committee and the City Council must make the final decision.

The item died for lack of a motion. Mayor Bhasker stated that the property will remain zoned R-3. Mr. Monette stated that there is an appeal process the applicant may follow.

c. Resolution No. 18-08-20a – ICIP Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-08-20a which, if approved, authorizes the submittal of the City's 2020-2024 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Mayor Bhasker listed the top five priorities: 1) Community Center Remodel 2) Bullock Avenue/Franklin Avenue/Park Street 3) Sewerline and Treatment Plant Upgrades 4) Highway 60 Turning Lane Improvements 5) Broadband/Fiber Loop.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-08-20a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 18-08-20b – Surplus Equipment

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-08-20b which, if approved, deems the following as surplus equipment:

1999 Ford F150 – VIN 1FTDF1727VKD61184

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-08-20b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution No. 18-08-20c – 5311 Rural & Small Urban Public Transportation Program

Mr. Santillanes presented Resolution No. 18-08-20c which, if approved, allows the City to request funding for a public transportation system through the 5311 Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Program. Mr. Santillanes stated that in making the request, the City will commit and have a funding match which will be funded through the City's general fund. Mr. Santillanes stated that the amount of matching funds to the City is \$144,980.00.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-08-20c. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

f. Award of Architectural Services for Convention Center/ Heritage Museum

Mayor Bhasker stated that six RFQ's for architectural services for the convention center/heritage museum were received on May 31, 2018. Mayor Bhasker stated that after evaluating all of the RFQ's, Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the architectural services be awarded to NCA Architects & Planners. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will be meeting with the NM Department of Cultural Affairs to inquire about funding options.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the architectural services for the convention center/heritage museum to NCA Architects & Planners. 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
August 20, 2018

g. Proposed RFP for Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services & Project Capital Financing

Mayor Bhasker stated that he has been approached by two companies willing to finance the City of Socorro acquiring the entire Socorro Electric Cooperative grid. Mayor Bhasker stated that the companies see it as an investment and would allow the City Council to serve as the board. Mayor Bhasker stated the SEC would, however, have to agree to sell. Councilor Olguin stated that the more information he receives, the more comfortable he will be in making his decision regarding the City's potential acquisition of SEC. Mayor Bhasker stated that he hopes the City Council will also consider what the SEC has done in the past and where the City is headed if residents and businesses don't have the option of alternative energy. Mayor Bhasker stated that businesses are finding it hard to afford the cost of electricity. Mayor Bhasker stated that residents and businesses also need broadband and the SEC was not willing to work with TDS who was interested in doing broadband in Socorro.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to advertise the RFP for Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services & Project Capital Financing. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

h. Bid Award – Airport Electrical Vault – Molzen Corbin & Associates

Mr. Santillanes stated that one bid for the construction of the electrical vault at the City's airport was opened on August 16, 2018. Mr. Santillanes stated that Molzen Corbin & Associates, the City's airport engineer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Bixby Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$127,519.72.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for the for the construction of the electrical vault at the City's airport to Bixby Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$127,519.72. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

i. Resolution No. 18-08-20d – Authorizing Signatures on FAA Grant

Mr. Santillanes presented Resolution No. 18-08-20d which, if approved, authorizes the submission of an application for airport aid to the Federal Aviation Administration for the construction of a new electrical vault at the City's airport. The resolution also authorizes Mayor Ravi Bhasker to execute all documents related to the project.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-08-20d. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, stated that the Finance Department has been busy with audit preparations, employee training and new utility connections. Ms. Lopez stated that gross receipts revenues were down this month.

Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, stated that library will be purchasing outdoor seating for the courtyard. Ms. Lyons stated that Socorro Janitorial recently cleaned all of the floors and the library now has a contract with All Around Carpet for daily cleaning. Ms. Lyons stated that 224 children and 20 adults participated in

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 2018

the summer reading program. Ms. Lyons stated that upcoming programs include "It's a Quake" with Dave Thomas from NM Tech and a book discussion with Author Steven Havill. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint David Cox and Emmy Stanzione to the Library Board. Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of David Cox and Emmy Stanzione to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Kristy Padilla, Administrative Assistant and P & Z Officer, stated that the P & Z Commission met August 16th and will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month for the rest of the year. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Madeline Hildebrandt to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Madeline Hildebrandt to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that the pre-construction meeting for the Texas Area Street & Drainage Improvements Project will be held on August 22nd. Mr. Pineda stated that he met with a company who is interested in doing a solar project in Socorro.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from July 2018. Chief Winders stated there had recently been a couple of police pursuits.

Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism and Events Manager, stated that starting this weekend, there will be 11 straight weekend events at the rodeo arena. Mr. Brown stated that this year, one of the changes to the County Fair will include a concert after each rodeo. Mr. Brown stated that he ordered \$40,000 in equipment for the upkeep of the soccer fields. Mr. Brown stated that the community yard sale would this weekend.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch & Animal Control Director, stated that the two new 911 dispatchers are currently training and will attend the academy for certification in February. Mr. Tarango stated that he is in the process of hiring two new employees at the animal shelter. Mr. Tarango stated that there will be an animal adoption event at Tractor Supply on August 25th. Mr. Tarango stated that the animal shelter held their first annual meet and greet at the animal shelter so residents could meet the staff and tour the facility. Mayor Bhasker asked if there were any issues now that the local State Police office had closed and certain agencies were now being dispatched out of Albuquerque. Mr. Tarango stated that there had been some issues as the dispatchers in Albuquerque are unfamiliar with Socorro County and are having a hard time getting emergency services where they need to go.

Isacc Angel, Gas Department Superintendent, stated that natural gas line replacement is almost complete on Medley Street. Mr. Angel stated that crews are busy with new gas connections, preparing upcoming audit items and preparing public awareness mailings for October.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that the two new employees in the Sanitation Department are doing a good job.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that improvements on Hilton Hills are complete. Mr. Silva stated that his department will repair the utility cuts made by Gas Department on Medley Street when the project is complete. Mayor Bhasker stated that he received a thank you letter from a resident on Brown Place for the work down there by the Street Department. Mr. Silva stated that street signs will be placed on West place and that several areas of sidewalk around Socorro will be replaced.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 2018

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that crews are busy with standby for fall sports and other various events. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing. Chief Gonzales stated that the department has not received a determination on the ISO rating yet. Chief Gonzales stated that the department will once again host a barbecue for the Fire Expo. Chief Gonzales stated that the backup aerial is having some mechanical issues.

Ms. Saavedra stated that the summer youth program is over and had 88 participants. Ms. Saavedra stated that she is busy preparing for the annual audit as well as a worker's compensation audit. Ms. Saavedra stated that she has been very busy with public records requests as each request has to follow a process outlined by the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act.

Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP list has less projects because it was amended to eliminate repeat projects. Mr. Monette stated that the projects have been suspended and not deleted so that they can be revived if necessary.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City received a thank you letter from the San Antonio Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association for the City's assistance during recent flooding in the San Antonio area.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission

See Department Director reports.

b. Appointment to Library Board

See Department Director reports.

c. Personnel Changes

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

Alfredo Garza - 8-21-18 – Police - Resignation

Dominic Montano - 8-22-18 – Police - Resignation

Zach Ortega - 8-14-18 - Fire to Landfill - Transfer to Landfill Operator II Position - B-30 to B-34

Brannun Armstrong - 9-1-18 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-25

James Chavez - 8-16-18 – Tourism - New Hire*(Rodeo/Soccer Complex Crewman) - A-19

Temporary New Hires: Dustin Armijo, Matthew Lopez, Alexis Montoya, Taylor Saavedra, Jeremiah Gonzales

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Tiara Jojola, James Chavez, Deekota Chavez, Eva Chavez, Ever Sedillo, Zach Martin, Mariah Jaramillo

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 20, 2018

Student Workers: Lucas Madril, Synthea Carrillo, Erica Baca, Elise Brown, Darrian Greenwood, Ashlyn Aguilar
Referees (3)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

Socorro Dance Academy - C-2 - 306 California Street - Barbara Griego - Dance Instruction
Auto Restoration - R-4 (Approved by P & Z) - 707 Texas Avenue - Joseph Gonzales - Fix Cars
Good Help - R-2 (Approved BY P & Z) - 329 Church Street - Randy Bonney - Landscaping
Garcia's Sno Shack - R-4 (Approved by P & Z) - 1711 Fatima Road - Rosalyn Garcia - Portable Shaved Ice
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Global Planning & Scientific Solutions LLC - R-4 (Approved by P & Z) - 1201 ½ Santa Fe Lane - Luis Ortega - Professional Consultant & Scientific Analysis

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 145016 to 145237 in the amount of \$600,006.02 plus Payroll Transfers (\$154,372.72), for a total of \$754,378.74. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 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