

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 4, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 4, 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. August 20, 2018

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – Manufacturing Month

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring October 2018 as Manufacturing Month in the City of Socorro.

b. Proclamation – General Aviation Appreciation Month

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring September 2018 as General Aviation Appreciation Month in the City of Socorro.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 18-09-04 – Police Officer Salaries

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-09-04, which, if approved, increases the base salaries of certified City of Socorro police officers and changes the starting salary for new police officers. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that this is an attempt to improve the benefit package for police officers as the City keeps losing officers to area departments that have higher salaries. Chief Winders stated that the funds for the changes are already in the budget because the 17th police officer position has been dissolved and those funds will be used for the raises.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-09-04. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. SEC Rate Increase Protest

Mayor Bhasker provided a handout regarding how the NM Public Regulation Commission sets rates and instructions on how to protest an electric cooperative rate increase. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SEC Board, at its meeting on August 29, 2018, approved a resolution which allows the SEC to apply for a loan for \$26 million to upgrade metal poles from Socorro to Magdalena. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SEC plans to raise their rates \$1.2 million a year for the next 5 years but that this increase will not pay off the loan. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SEC is already \$50-60 million

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in debt. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SEC is required to inform customers of the rate increase through their Enchantment Magazine or through a special notice. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the City of Socorro, businesses, residents and any other interested parties should protest the rate increase so as to get more details on what the rate increase entails and how the rate increase will benefit the customers. Mayor Bhasker reviewed the protest instructions. Some discussion followed. Mayor Bhasker stated that the important question is how does the SEC plan to spend the \$26 million.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Salome stated that he attended a meeting of the Senior Center Committee on August 23, 2018. Councilor Salome stated that the committee discussed food service for the three centers. Councilor Salome stated that the Senior Center will be requesting the use of the Teen Center once a month for bingo.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like the Utility Committee to meet to discuss the purchase of new commercial dumpsters for local businesses (approximately 400). Mayor Bhasker stated that the price starts at approximately \$800 for a three-yard dumpster and increases by size. Mayor Bhasker stated that the local businesses will have to somehow assist the City with the purchase of the dumpsters by way of a rate increase over the next five years.

Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism & Event Manager, stated that the County Fair was well-attended with approximately 1,000 people (including contestants) both Friday and Saturday night. Mr. Brown stated that Sunday was the Bryden Bruton Memorial Rodeo and he would like the City to sponsor the event each year. Councilor Dean asked how the after-rodeo concerts turned out to which Mr. Brown replied that Friday's dance was not well-attended but Saturday's dance was well-attended.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Fire Department's ISO rating improved from a 5 to a 4. Chief Gonzales stated that the department may receive an additional \$10,000 in Fire Fund revenues because of the change. Mayor Bhasker stated that the insurance rating may also improve because of the change.

Demecio Silva, Street Superintendent, stated that the department will be installing speed bumps on Reservoir Street and Lopezville Road. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the staging for reconstruction of Texas Street was complete and the milling would start September 10th.

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that youth volleyball recently started. Ms. Rivera stated that work on the gym floor will begin September 15th.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the sewer line collapsed on California Street & Faulkner Street and repairs will cost approximately \$130,000. Mayor Bhasker stated that sewer lines throughout the City need to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker. Mayor Bhasker also read the list of police personnel who are getting a raise per Resolution No. 18-09-04:

BRANNAN	WILLIAM	2,101	B-40	B-42
CASTILLO	GRACE	2,101	DZ36	No change.
CHAVEZ	LUIS	2,101	Q-47	Q-49
CHAVEZ	MICHAEL	2,101	D-40	D-42
CHAVEZ	MARCOS	2,101	B-40	B-42
GARCIA	ANGEL	2,101	T-53	T-55
GARZA	ALFREDO	2,101	B-40	B-42
GONZALES	GILBERT	2,101	C-32	No change.
GONZALES	PETER	2,101	E-43	E-45
GREENWOOD	KENNETH	2,101	T-48	T-50
LOPEZ	GONZALO	2,101	C-40	C-42
MAULDIN	WESLEY	2,101	F-40	F-42
MELTON	WEYLIN	2,101	B-40	B-42
MIRABAL	LUCARIO	2,101	C-40	C-42
MONTANO	DOMINIC	2,101	D-40	D-42
RODRIGUEZ	JOE	2,101	A-35	No change.
VALENZUELA	CARLOS	2,101	I-43	I-45
WINDERS	MICHAEL	2,101	U-60	U-62

Mikayla McDowell – 9-4-18 – Animal Shelter – New Hire (Kennel Assistant) – A-20

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

La Madrina – C-2 – 338 N 6th Street – Mona Jacquez – Baptismal Outfits, Accessories, Pinatas, Candy & More

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, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 6:36 p.m., Councilor Fleming 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