

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 17, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Michael Olguin was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 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. September 4, 2018

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Theresa Rivera, from the Socorro County Community Alternatives Program, invited everyone to the Socorro Recovery Pow Wow on September 22nd at noon. Ms. Rivera also gave a thank you plaque to the Mayor, City Council and Lloyd Martinez (Utilities Division Director) for assisting the program with their event.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Groundwater Level Monitoring Program & Data Sharing Agreement

Mayor Bhasker presented an agreement between the City of Socorro and the NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources which, if approved, will allow the NMBGMR to perform water level monitoring in City wells to gather new and existing data on groundwater levels and fluctuations. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is no cost to the City and all data resulting from the program will be provided to the City.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Socorro and the NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 1 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are Co-Op Project & Transfer from Special Utility Fund – Requirements are Co-Op Project & MAP Project – Amount is \$129,528.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the Co-Op Project FY 2019 award and MAP Project expenditures carry-over from FY 2018.

2. No. 2 – Substance Abuse Prevention Grant Fund

Resources are Behavioral Health Grant & Miscellaneous – Requirements are Contractual Services, School/Per Diem, Office Expense, Other Administrative Expenses & Professional Planning – Amount is \$125,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award.

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3. No. 3 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Wastewater Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$106,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for emergency repairs to the main sewer line.

4. No. 4 – Rodeo Arena/Convention Center Fund

Resources are State Appropriation – Requirements are Engineering & Construction – Amount is \$235,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the State Appropriation.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 4. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker stated that there would be a Utility Committee meeting on September 19, 2018. Mayor Bhasker stated that work on the collapsed sewer line on California Street should be done by the end of the week. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Utility Committee needs to look at how to upgrade the City's sewer lines and other infrastructure. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's base charges for utilities are much lower than other communities.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Lloyd Martinez, Utilities Division Director, stated that the Parks Department has been spraying and cutting weeds City-wide. Mr. Martinez stated that the Water Department has been busy with the sewer line repair on Faulkner Street and other water leaks. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been assisting with the sewer line repair and monitoring the wells and arsenic plants. Mr. Martinez stated that there was recently an EPA inspection which went well. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew laid burlap near the bleachers at the rodeo arena and have been fixing all of the drips on School of Mines Road.

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that youth and adult volleyball started. Ms. Rivera stated that the youth center is averaging 25-30 kids per day. Ms. Rivera stated that Finley Gym is charging a \$1.00 user fee per person per day and although some patrons are unhappy about the fee, the revenue is being used to do repairs inside and outside of the building. Ms. Rivera stated that there will be a youth flag football camp in November. Ms. Rivera stated that she will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the community kitchen. Ms. Rivera stated that she will be meeting with Socorro Schools to see what services they might be able to offer the youth center.

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that there has been interest from two parties regarding the RFP for Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services & Project Capital Financing. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will be submitting a query to the PRC regarding the SEC rate increase.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department recently hosted the annual barbecue for the Fire & EMS Expo. Chief Gonzales stated that the department is fully-staffed. Chief Gonzales stated that the new ambulance should be delivered by the end of the month. Chief Gonzales stated that he will be applying for a State fire grant to replace bunker gear, pagers and radios.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that cardboard continues to be picked up from local businesses. Mr. Lucero stated that the Sanitation Department is short one driver.

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Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, stated that the fall reading program will begin September 12th with participants receiving a free ice cream cone from Sonic upon completion of the reading activities. Ms. Lyons invited everyone to the Native Heritage Event on September 27th. Ms. Lyons stated that the Reading is Fundamental program has started. Ms. Lyons stated that amnesty weeks will be from October 1 through the 15th and overdue fines will be waived.

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, stated that employee training and audit preparation is ongoing. Ms. Lopez stated that the Finance Department will start billing businesses for recycling services soon.

Jay Santillanes, Transportation Director, stated that the annual M Mountain Fly In will be held September 22nd and will include food vendors, skydiving, etc. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City is working on getting the recently reconstructed levy certified with FEMA to which Mayor Bhasker stated that insurance rates for local residents should decrease after the certification.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from August 2018. Chief Winders stated that there will be active shooter training at NM Tech from October 17-19. Chief Winders stated that there will also be Narcan training soon as officers are now required to carry Narcan.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch & Animal Control Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Animal Control, Burglary and Traffic Accident stats from August 2018. Mr. Tarango stated that the two new dispatchers are currently in training and will soon attend the academy for certification. Mr. Tarango stated that he is having problems with the generator and will be having it looked at by a repair company. Mr. Tarango stated that the animal shelter is down one employee. Mr. Tarango stated that animal control staff has started issuing citations for violations of the City's animal control ordinance.

Ms. Saavedra stated that the State of NM Worker's Compensation Administration is requiring a safety inspection of City facilities and that the City's worker's compensation carrier will conduct the inspection on September 26th.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the ICIP is complete. Mr. Monette stated that the notice of intent for the \$3 million loan for repairs at the wastewater treatment plant has been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Final Budget Approval by DFA – FY 2018-2019

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's FY 2017-2018 final budget was approved by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

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b. Personnel Changes

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

Zachary Ortega - 9-13-18 – Landfill - Resignation

Robert Serna - 9-13-18 – Administration - Completed Probation - \$12.00/hour to \$12.60/hour

Marcella Alvarado - 9-1-18 – Finance - Promotion to Billing Clerk - A-21 to A-28

Jorge Sedillo - 9-18-18 – Landfill - New Hire*(Equipment Operator I) - A-21

Temporary New Hires: Zach Anaya, Enrique Robles

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulenfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Tiara Jojola, Deekota Chavez, Eva Chavez, Ever Sedillo, Mariah Jaramillo, Dustin Armijo, Matthew Lopez, Alexis Montoya, Taylor Saavedra, Jeremiah Gonzales

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

Referees (3)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

Bobbie's Bobbin - Out of Town - Escondida, NM - Roberta Stendel - Sewing & Embroidery
Doggie's in the Desert LLC - Out of Town - Arrey, NM - Randall Austin - Mobile Food Cart

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 145601 to 145901 in the amount of \$616,783.55 plus Payroll Transfers (\$305,565.26), for a total of \$922,348.81. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 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