

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 1, 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 Anton Salome, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Nick Fleming.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 1, 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. September 17, 2018

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that while enrollment has dropped at UNM and NMSU, enrollment at NM Tech has remained steady. Mr. Stone stated that the President's Golf Tournament raised approximately \$190,000 which will provide students with scholarships for tuition assistance. Mr. Stone stated that the 49er's parade will be held on October 20th.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 18-10-01a – Uniform Traffic Ordinance Update

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 18-10-01a. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the 2018 amendments to the State of New Mexico Uniform Traffic Ordinance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-10-01a for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Ordinance No. 18-10-01b – Updating Penalty Assessments

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 18-10-01b. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the updated fines associated with the State Penalty Assessment statute.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-10-01b for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 18-10-01 – Purchase of Dump Truck for the Water Department

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-10-01, which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a contract for the purchase of a new dump truck for the Water Department. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the new dump truck will replace the 1988 dump truck currently being used and that the funds are in the budget for the new dump truck.

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Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-10-01. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Dean asked the Mayor if he had received the information she had sent him regarding a grant for vehicles. Mayor Bhasker stated that he had received it, but it is difficult to do all the research on information that is forwarded. Mayor Bhasker stated that the SCCOG is currently advertising for a grant writer position and that the SCCOG has offered the City assistance from the grant writer once hired. Mayor Bhasker stated that information forwarded to City staff can then be sent to the grant writer for research.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, stated that the Utility Committee had met twice to discuss increasing sewer base charges and how to finance the cost of new commercial dumpsters. Ms. Lopez stated that the committee would like to increase sewer base charges \$4.00 per year for four years and that the funds would be used to renew and repair existing sewer lines. Ms. Lopez stated that in regard to purchasing new commercial dumpsters, the committee would like to increase the cost charged per dumpster and that users will be notified by letter of the impending increase. Mayor Bhasker stated that the current dumpsters were already 15 years old when the City purchased them and have greatly deteriorated. Mr. Martinez stated that the sewer line repairs on Faulkner Street cost \$50,000 to repair and the sewer line repairs on California Street cost \$105,000 to repair. Mr. Martinez stated that sewer lines City-wide that are not PVC need to be replaced.

Councilor Salome stated that the Senior Center will be changing food service vendors and will now use the same vendor as the detention center.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he (along with Donald Monette, Polo Pineda and the City's attorney) will be meeting with Joseph Herrera, GM of the SEC, on October 2nd. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to discuss the SEC's rate increase and ask for documentation such as the IRS report for the SEC for last year. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City had already requested, but had not yet received, a cost of service study and a synopsis of the SEC's USDA application for the \$24 million loan. Mayor Bhasker stated that the PRC's protest process includes an effort to resolve the issue and this meeting will be the first step in trying to comply with the PRC's protest process. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would provide a report on the meeting at the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Hicks stated that the Laura Haines M Mountain Fly In went well. Jim Dewey Brown, the City's Tourism & Events Manager, stated that Ms. Haines' father attended the fly in and that the barrel race was well attended.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jaramillo stated that the San Miguel fiestas went well.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero stated that Stanley Montoya, a resident of Texas Street, is requesting that the City complete the road reconstruction project all the way to the end of Texas Street. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City cannot add to or take away from the current CDBG project as it would affect future CDBG funding. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Street Department will, however, finish Texas Street and Hilltop as a separate project.

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Councilor Romero asked what guidance we are giving City staff regarding medical marijuana. Mayor Bhasker stated that federally, marijuana is still illegal, and it is still not allowed under the City's policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Rick Silva – 9-28-18 – Fire – Resignation
Virginia Vivian – 10-31-18 – Finance – Resignation
Matilde Acosta – 10-31-18 – Parks - Retirement

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

DeHart Motor Company LLC – C-2 – 1231 Interstate 25 W Frontage Road – Casey Spurgin – Auto Sales
The Wondering Scorpion - R-4 (Approved by P&Z) - 820 Granada - Kendall Chowinard - Food Truck
J3 Systems LLC - Out of Town - Bosque Farms, NM - Corporation - Roofing, Construction
World Tree Comics & Games - C-2 - 300 S California Street - Erin Kendall - Retail Comic Books
Summit Food Service LLC - R-3 - 1410 Ake – Corporation - Food Service (Inside of the Senior Center)

Mayor Bhasker stated that the business registration for DeHart Motor Company LLC was postponed from the last meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with the new owner who is cleaning up the property and will open an internet auto sales business.

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:43 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk