

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
December 3, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Olguin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 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. November 19, 2018

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that NM Tech recently held their annual strategic planning meeting. Mr. Stone stated that several topics were discussed including economic development, relationships with the City of Socorro and Socorro Schools and ways to increase the student body.

Councilor Peter Romero arrived.

Mr. Stone stated that this is the last week of classes for NM Tech students for fall semester. Councilor Romero requested that NM Tech organize another “meet the administration/faculty event” as it was beneficial to the community.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance No. 18-11-05 – Animal Control Ordinance Update

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 18-11-05. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to update the existing City Animal Control Ordinance.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stone stated that the new SCCOG grant writer had given him a funding grant source for a dog park. There were no other comments from the public.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-11-05. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 18-12-03a – Proposed Release of City Easement

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Resolution No. 18-12-03a, which, if approved, allows the City to move forward with releasing a City easement which contains all of I Street, a portion of Mississippi Avenue and a portion of Colorado Avenue. Ms. Betty Houston, a local realtor, stated that the owner of the surrounding property is planning an unknown commercial venture.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-12-03a. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 18-12-03b – Participation in City of Albuquerque et al v. NM Taxation & Revenue Dept.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Resolution No. 18-12-03b which, if approved, allows the City to join a lawsuit against the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department regarding the alleged improper way NM Tax and Rev handles refunds to gross receipts tax payers

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-12-03b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Local Election Act (Choosing Only ONE Option Below)

- 1. Resolution No. 18-12-03c – Opting out of the LEA**
- 2. First Reading of Ordinance – Approval for Publication Only – Ordinance No. 18-12-03 – Opting into the LEA (Reducing Current Terms to December 31, 2019)**
- 3. First Reading of Ordinance – Approval for Publication Only – Ordinance No. 18-12-03 – Opting into the LEA (Extending Current Terms to December 31, 2021)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented the three options the City Council can choose from regarding the Local Election Act. Ms. Saavedra explained that the City Council would be deciding whether they want to opt out of the LEA, opt in to the LEA with a reduction in terms or opt into the LEA with an extension of terms. Councilor Olguin noted that there is a larger turnout (of voters within the City limits) during the November general elections than the City's March municipal elections. Councilor Olguin stated that he feels it is time to try something different to attract candidates as well as voters. Councilor Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Salome both stated that opting in would save the City money with no reduction in City services. Councilor Olguin reiterated that the City can opt in or out at a later date.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to choose Option 3 (Opting into the LEA - Extending Current Terms to December 31, 2021) and approve Ordinance 18-12-03 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously. Ms. Saavedra stated that the proposed ordinance will now go through the regular ordinance process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated, on behalf of the Recreation Committee, that youth basketball will start soon and the draft will be held December 4th. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the draft times are as follows: ages 4-6 at 5:30 p.m., ages 7-9 at 6:00 p.m. and ages 10-12 at 6:30 p.m.

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Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that there will be a blood drive at Finley Gym on December 21st from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Monette stated that the Utility Committee will meet on December 5th at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jaramillo stated that Ms. Rivera and her staff did a great job on the Christmas decorations in the Plaza.

Councilor Romero asked about the status of a complaint from a utility customer and his inability to pay his bill online. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that this particular individual is on budget billing (same payment every month) and the software does not allow a customer to pay an amount different from their monthly bill. Ms. Lopez stated that the software is designed that way as a security measure. Ms. Lopez stated that customers can pay an amount different from their budget billing amount by calling City Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Library Board Appointment

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that Mayor Bhasker would like to appoint Chris Adkins to the Library Board.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Adkins to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Olguin motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mr. Monette:

Joe Rodriguez – 11-5-18 – Police – Completed Probation – A-35 to A-37

Mariah Jaramillo – 12-1-18 – Finance – New Hire*(Delinquencies & Collections Clerk) – A-26

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

None.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:36 p.m., Councilor Romero 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