

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**August 18, 2014**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Donald Monette and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Peter Romero were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

Councilor Peter Romero arrived.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. August 4, 2014**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mayor Bhasker stated that he does not feel the local newspaper has been reporting pertinent information regarding the City Council's discussions about the SEC. The representative from the local newspaper who was at the meeting stated that he did not feel there was any substantial information to print after the last meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the SEC trying to acquire funds to fight the City is significant information. Mayor Bhasker also stated that getting the word out to the public that there will be a meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> with the consulting firm hired by the SEC is also important.

Carol Palmer stated that there would be a "Battle of the Badges" blood drive on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the City's Youth Center. Ms. Palmer stated that when a person donates, they get to vote for either the Police Department or the Fire Department. Ms. Palmer stated that there would be t-shirts for people who donate. Ms. Palmer stated that there are 43 appointments available for donors.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Resolution 14-08-18 – Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP)**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 14-08-18 which, if approved, authorizes the submittal of the City's 2016-2020 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Mayor Bhasker stated that the top five priorities listed were based on the information that was turned in by the City Council. Mayor Bhasker explained that funding agencies look at the requesting agency's ICIP to make sure projects are listed. Mayor Bhasker read the top five projects from the resolution as well as the list of completed and pending projects which were also listed on the resolution.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Resolution No. 14-08-18. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that the Utility Committee continues to meet to discuss the utility rates in each department.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Josh Kerns, Recreation/Youth Center/Tourism Director, introduced the new Tourism Clerk, Katy Weaver. Mr. Kerns stated that there had been several events recently including the Chile Harvest Triathlon, Health Fair and Hot August Nights. Mr. Kerns stated that the Tourism Department is also working on billboard and newspaper advertisements. Mr. Kerns stated that the County Fair Parade will be held August 30<sup>th</sup> and the M Mountain Fly-In will be held September 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kerns stated that he had surveys which were completed by people who attended Hot August nights and various suggestions were made on the surveys. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the concerns he received was the fact that the event held at Sedillo Park and not in the plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that it is easier to "police" Sedillo Park and that it

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gets less congested than the plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would eventually like to expand the events and have them held at the rodeo arena/recreation facility. Mayor Bhasker stated that it would be best to have smaller events on the plaza. Cindy Rivera, Youth Center Director, stated that Sedillo Park was better for this event because a helicopter was able to land, there were jumping balloons for the kids and there were multiple volleyball games being played.

Paula Mertz, Library Director, stated that there were 383 kids and 43 adults signed up for the summer reading program. Ms. Mertz stated that there were 12,500 books read by the kids. Ms. Mertz stated that there were 54 programs this summer and that 1,686 people attended the programs. Ms. Mertz stated that the library will be at Community Day at NM Tech. Ms. Mertz stated that the NM Library Foundation used the library for a meeting and were impressed with the building.

Lloyd Martinez, Parks/Production/Water/Special Projects Superintendent, stated that construction on the sewer line extension project will begin in a few weeks. Mr. Martinez stated that crews have been spraying for mosquitos. Mr. Martinez stated that the arsenic treatment plants are operating as they should. Mr. Martinez stated that the concession stand, bathrooms and handicap parking at the rodeo arena/recreation facility will be completed in early September. Mr. Martinez stated that on September 13<sup>th</sup>, AYSO and SHS will be using the new soccer fields. Mr. Martinez stated that crews will be aerating and fertilizing the City parks this month. Mr. Martinez stated that he is working with the engineers on upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant and that the upgrades should begin in December/January.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from July 2014 (225 ambulance runs, 18 fire calls, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that all of the autos and equipment is running properly. Chief Gonzales stated that the City received 2 new ambulances. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing.

Cindy Rivera, Youth Center Director, stated that there were 93 kids signed up for the summer program and that 60-70 kids attended each day. Ms. Rivera stated that there were 41 kids signed up for the after school program and that she is working on recruiting more kids. Ms. Rivera stated that for the summer project, the kids built a greenhouse using 1,000 plastic water bottles. Ms. Rivera stated that Socorro Schools provide a certified teacher and teacher's aide to the youth center.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation/Landfill/Recycling Director, stated that operations are normal at the Landfill, Sanitation and Recycling departments. Mr. Lucero stated that crews seeded and will now place mulch on the old cell at the landfill. Mayor Bhasker stated that the seeding is part of the closure process. Mr. Lucero stated that one of the commercial sanitation trucks is being repaired. Mr. Lucero stated that he will be getting a quote for residential cans.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from July 2014 (68 arrests, 345 citations, 5 DWI arrests, 224 police reports filed, 25 traffic accidents, 4,108 calls received by dispatch, etc.). Chief Winders stated that three officers attended STEP training on July 16<sup>th</sup> so that they would be eligible for the 100 Days and Nights of Summer. Chief Winders stated that Officer Peter Gonzales will go to the Police Academy for four months on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Chief Winders stated that he will be ordering 2 new police cars and that the department recently ordered new guns. Chief Winders stated that officers will be present in the school zones now that school has started and that the Police Department has a school resource officer working at the schools.

Deb Caldwell, from the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber has been working on the Socorrofest event as well as the Festival of the Cranes Arts and Craft Show. Ms. Caldwell stated that she was part of a strategic planning committee that met on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that City Hall has been busy as NM Tech students are returning and turning on their utilities. Ms. Gonzales stated that August is budget billing month and customers can come in and sign up for regular budget billing or delinquent budget billing. Ms. Gonzales thanked the Utility Committee members for attending the meetings. Ms. Gonzales stated that she has received requests to have a credit card machine at the landfill/youth center/animal shelter and that she is looking into how the City can provide the machine.

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Jay Santillanes, Utilities Division Director, stated that the road crew has been working at the rodeo/recreation facility and will chip seal the road on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Santillanes stated that the rodeo arena cover is almost complete and construction will soon begin on the arena itself. Mr. Santillanes stated that he is getting prices for the lighting at the rodeo arena. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department received notification that it must begin odorizing the natural gas. Mr. Santillanes stated that a system will be placed near the metering station in Belen and the odorizing process will start in October. Mr. Santillanes stated that Gas Department crews continue to replace natural gas lines on Leroy Place. Mr. Santillanes stated that Street Department crews are currently painting curbs and crosswalks, repairing potholes and checking drainage systems. Mr. Santillanes stated that he is working with the SCCOG and DFA to get final compliance on the 2012 CDBG project. Mr. Santillanes stated that the threshold for the next project is in January 2015. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City will start holding public hearings for the next project.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is in the process of placing GPS units in all City vehicles. Mr. Salome stated that the Administration has scheduled three meetings for City employees so that the policy can be explained.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Monette asked if the City has heard from DFA regarding the waterline extension project bid award. Mr. Salome stated that it is currently the time period for an appeal from any party who may have questions regarding the award.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Bhasker reported out of executive session the discussion of one personnel matter. No action was taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. New Flow Chart and Job Descriptions for Gas and Street Department**

Mayor Bhasker presented a new flow chart and job descriptions for the Gas and Street departments. Mayor Bhasker stated that by consolidating the employees from these two departments, more services can be provided as the duties can be shared. Mayor Bhasker stated that sharing duties will also reduce the amount of employees needed in each department. Mr. Salome stated that as the employees get better at what they do and their individual skills improve, more can be done with less people.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the new flow charts and job descriptions for the Gas and Street departments. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. New Flow Chart and Job Descriptions for Dispatch Department**

Mayor Bhasker presented a new flow chart and job descriptions for the Dispatch Department. Mr. Salome stated that the dispatch center has become more stable and is able to run itself without depending on the Police Department. Mr. Salome stated that the animal shelter began much the same way – as part of the Police Department and now is its own full-functioning department. Mr. Salome stated that the Dispatch Director will report directly to the Administration. Mr. Salome stated that the dispatch center will continue to physically operate out of the Police Department. Mr. Salome stated that the dispatch center will continue to work closely with both the Police and Fire departments. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the City ever turns into a regional dispatch center, the dispatch center needs to be independent and be able to evolve into a regional dispatch center.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the new flow charts and job descriptions for the Dispatch Department. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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**c. Reminder – National Guard Armory Transfer – September 2, 2014**

Mayor Bhasker stated there will be a luncheon at noon and a ceremony at 3:00 p.m. on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to transfer the National Guard Armory to the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker invited everyone to attend.

**d. Personnel Changes**

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

Grace Castillo – 8-18-14 – Police – Merged with Administrative Assistant Position – Z-33 to Z-36

Pat Salome – 7-1-14 – Administration – Merit/Retention – AZ-92 to AZ-96

Temporary New Hires: Rick Silva, Natasha Otero, Kevin Gonzales

Temporary Renewals: Emena Gonzales, Rick Griego, Tony Montoya, Paul Marquez, Carlos Alvarado, Ramiro Garza, Albert Hernandez, Rick Silva, Natasha Otero, Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Regina Valencia, Sergio Cuevas, Angelica Vega, Michael Padilla, Jeremy Chavez, Kevin Gonzales, Ryan Romero, Shaina Lopez, Jared Marquez, Elizabeth Dunning, Ibrahim Maiga

Student Workers: Matthew Jojola, Tamera Chavez, Giovanna Rosas, Samantha Maldonado, Sistine Dunn, Adrianna Griego, Zach Anaya, Jeremy Gallegos

Referees (10), Zumba (2), Lifeguards (12)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Business Registrations**

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

Sam and Rebecca Lukens – C-2 – 503 Center Street – Sam Lukens – Contracting/Remodel and Repairs  
TJ's Automotive Repairs – C-2 – 612 Hwy 60 – TJ Salas – Automotive Repairs

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 130870 to 131139 in the amount of \$872,233.68, plus Payroll Transfers (\$335,593.95), for a total of \$1,207,827.63. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**g. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – September 2, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on September 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:19 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Pat Salome, City Clerk**