

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 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. December 3, 2018

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with the addition of the words “with no reduction in City services” added to the Local Election Act discussion as requested by Councilor Salome. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that NM Tech is working on bringing back the alternative licensure program. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is conducting several faculty searches and will encourage staff to live in Socorro. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is looking into options to assist faculty spouses in finding jobs in Socorro.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 18-12-17 – Utility Rate Changes

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 18-12-17. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to change the base rate charges and the basis for charges for gas, wastewater and commercial sanitation. Mayor Bhasker stated that the increase is needed to fund the replacement of natural gas lines and for the extension of sewer lines to the areas of the City that do not currently have sewer services. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that even with the increase, Socorro’s base charges and rates will remain lower than other cities of similar size.

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

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-12-17 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Deed for City Land to El Camino Real Housing Authority

Councilor Chavez-Lopez introduced Jenn Lopez (Project Moxie) and Jessica Pappas from Ethos Development. Ms. Lopez stated that the El Camino Real Housing Authority is sponsoring the development of a permanent, supportive housing project in Socorro. Ms. Lopez stated that the project will consist of 32, one and two-bedroom units. Ms. Lopez stated that the City of Socorro will assist with the offsite infrastructure, assist with technical support for zoning and provide the land. Ms. Lopez stated that supportive housing is a more humane solution to ending homelessness

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for individuals and families struggling with addiction, mental health and/or other disabilities who lack the social support, resources or ability to sustain and maintain housing without supportive services and subsidized housing. Ms. Lopez stated that the project will be on one of the City's January 2019 agendas where the City Council will consider approval of the development agreements and site control documents. Ms. Lopez stated that the application for funding to the NM Mortgage and Finance Authority is due by February 12, 2019 and if awarded, the project construction will take 18-24 months. Some discussion followed.

b. Resolution No. 18-12-17 – Banking Resolution

Finance Director Lopez presented Resolution No. 18-12-17 which is needed to update the signature cards for the City's bank accounts located at First State Bank. Ms. Lopez stated that the City's account number is being updated due to several fraud attempts on the account.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-12-17. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Bid Award – Commercial Dumpsters

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that two bids for commercial garbage dumpsters were opened on November 20, 2018. Mr. Pineda stated that he is recommending that the bid be awarded to Wastequip.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for commercial garbage dumpsters to Wastequip. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Budget Resolution No. 5 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Wastewater Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$40,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for emergency repairs to the main sewer line.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 5. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that Finley Gym will be having a staff Christmas party on December 21st at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Rivera stated that Toby's 49th Annual Food Drive will be held on December 22nd and that there are over 300 meals available. Ms. Rivera stated that the DAV will be hosting their Christmas party on December 22nd. Councilor Romero stated that the DAV party would be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that the Police Department Toys for Tots is still accepting names for disadvantaged children to receive Christmas gifts. Mayor Bhasker commended both the Police and Fire Department for providing Christmas gifts to Socorro's youth. Mayor Bhasker also commended Councilor Jaramillo on his annual food drive.

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Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, provided the December 2018 Director's Report to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Lyons stated that a Winter Celebration will be held at the library on December 20th. Ms. Lyons stated that the winter reading program is ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Dean asked if the City will be providing transportation for New Year's Eve. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels it is up to the establishments serving alcohol to approach the City and try to set up a program. Mayor Bhasker stated that after the establishments request the program, the City will have to consider if there is enough staff and budget for the request. Mayor Bhasker stated that several questions come to mind such as what the hours will be, where will riders be picked up, where will riders be dropped off and what is the City's liability. Jay Santillanes, Transportation Director, stated that the department is currently short-staffed, and it has been hard to find CDL drivers. Councilor Dean stated that Silver City offers such a program. Mayor Bhasker asked for information on Silver City's program and suggested that City staff contact NM Municipal League to inquire about liability. Some discussion followed.

Mayor Bhasker stated that trash pickup will continue on all holidays. Ms. Rivera stated that during week ending December 28th, the youth center will be open Wednesday through Friday and will be open on the same days for week ending January 3rd.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

Tony Montoya - 12-31-18 - Auto Maintenance - Resignation

Marcia Amaro - 12-17-18 - Animal Shelter - Completed Probation/Completed Animal Control Officer Training - A-20 to A-25

Amanda Torres - 12-17-18 - Animal Shelter - Completed Probation - A-20 to A-22

Temporary New Hires: None.

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulenfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Deekota Chavez, Eva Chavez, Dustin Armijo, Matthew Lopez, Alexis Montoya, Taylor Saavedra, Jeremiah Gonzales, Zach Anaya, Enrique Robles, Rena Benavidez, Veronica Boyd, Dwight Dow, Joe Lopez

Student Workers: Lucas Madril, Erica Baca, Darrian Greenwood, Ashlyn Aguilar

Referees (2)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

None.

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c. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 146472 to 1146733 in the amount of \$596,315.48 plus Payroll Transfers (\$316,493.29), for a total of \$912,808.77. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk