

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 7, 2019

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 Michael Olguin, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Nick Fleming was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 7, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. December 17, 2018

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – Holm Bursum III

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring January 2019 as Holm Olaf Bursum III Month in the City of Socorro. Mr. Bursum recently passed away and the proclamation recognizes his many contributions to the community. Mr. Bursum's son, Holm Olaf Bursum IV (Cuatro), accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Bursum family.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Festival of the Cranes Update

Michael Hanauer, Festival of the Cranes Coordinator, gave an update of the 31st Annual Festival of the Cranes event. Mr. Hanauer thanked the City for supporting the event annually with Lodger's Tax funds. Mr. Hanauer thanked the City's Police Department, Transportation Department and any other City staff that assisted in the event. Mr. Hanauer stated that this year, the event had 143 events held over 4 days. Julie-Anna Blomquist, an employee of the Bosque del Apache, also attended the meeting. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Hanauer for his update.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that campus has been quiet during winter break and that classes will resume next week. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is hopeful that funding for higher education and affordable tuition rates will be discussed during the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is working with a transition team through the legislative changes.

Mayor Bhasker stated that Socorro has two NM Tech regents, Jerry Armijo and Donald Monette, the City's Administrator. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Monette's position will be reappointed soon and he is recommending that the Administration/City Council submit a letter of recommendation for the reappointment of Mr. Monette. Mayor Bhasker stated that having Mr. Monette as a NM Tech regent has been beneficial to the City and the community. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the submittal of a recommendation letter for Mr. Monette to be reappointed as a NM Tech regent. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance No. 18-12-03 – Opting into Local Election Act with Extended Terms

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 18-12-03 which, if approved, opts the City of Socorro into the Local Election Act and extends the terms for current municipal officers.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Saavedra stated that by opting in, municipal elections would be conducted by the County Clerk in November of odd numbered years. Ms. Saavedra stated that the ordinance previously chosen by the City Council extends the terms of the current municipal officers. Mr. Monette summarized the dates of the extended terms.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-12-03. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jaramillo. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 19-01-07a – Open Meetings Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-01-07a. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Open Meetings Resolution is passed several times a year including the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and after an election. Mayor Bhasker stated that the resolution follows requirements made by New Mexico State Statute for open meetings.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-01-07a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 19-01-07b – Governing Body Rules of Procedures

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-01-07b which, if approved, reaffirms the Governing Body Rules of Procedure adopted April 7, 2014 and recognizes those rules as the method by which the Socorro City Council meetings are conducted. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Governing Body Rules of Procedure are re-adopted at the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and right after an election.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-01-07b. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing – Liquor License Application – Restaurant Beer and Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only with Patio Service – Haddock & McFadden, LLC dba Socorro Springs Restaurant

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that Haddock & McFadden, LLC dba Socorro Springs Restaurant has requested a Restaurant Beer and Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only with

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Patio Service which must be approved by the local Governing Body. Kacey McFadden stated that he and his wife purchased the restaurant from his sister. Mr. McFadden stated that Socorro Springs has been in business for 19 years and that in addition to the restaurant liquor license, he will apply for a brewer's license so that he can begin brewing beer. There were no other comments from the public.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Restaurant Beer and Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only with Patio Service for Haddock & McFadden, LLC dba Socorro Springs Restaurant. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Salome stated that the Juvenile Justice Board met recently. Councilor Salome stated that the JJB continues to have programs such as Teen Truancy Diversion Court, Alcohol Abuse Prevention, Youth Suicide Prevention Grant, Teen Court and mentoring programs. Councilor Salome thanked the City for being the administrative entity for the JJB and City staff for all of the support they provide.

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that the public hearing for the proposed utility rate increase ordinance will be held on January 22, 2019 during the City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker provided preliminary drawings for the Convention Center and Heritage Museum which will be located in the old armory building. Mayor Bhasker asked the Council to provide their input on the plans. Councilor Romero asked if the Administration had heard anything regarding the widening of Highway 60. Mr. Monette stated that the NM Department of Transportation wants a traffic study from the arroyo (on Highway 60) to California Street and the City does not currently have funding for the study. Mr. Monette stated that Representative Gail Armstrong is assisting the City with seeking funds for the traffic study.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Francisco Montoya - 12-18-18 – Sanitation - Completed Probation - A-30 to A-32

John McGuire - 12-16-18 – Fire - Completed Probation - A-29 to A-30

Jesse Carlowe - 1-6-19 – Dispatch - Resignation

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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b. Business Registrations

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

Zuf Corporation - R-3 (Approved by P&Z) - 1101 El Camino Real #8 - Zufuru Tejen-Kella - Consulting

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., Councilor Romero 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