

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**February 4, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2019 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. January 22, 2019**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Doug Scott, a local resident, stated that in light of the recent loss of a member of the Simkin family (who walked away from his home and had Alzheimer's disease), he would like to discuss search and rescue procedures. Mr. Scott apologized to the Simkin family for what he believes was a lack of participation in search efforts. Mr. Scott stated that he did not feel there was a clear avenue for him to pursue in searching for Mr. Simkin. Mr. Scott stated that he feels search and rescue procedures for how resources are deployed should be looked at and improved. Mr. Scott stated that resources such as silver alerts, CCTV, drones, private residence videos and infrared cameras need to be reviewed. Mayor Bhasker asked Police Chief, Mike Winders, to comment on the issue. Chief Winders stated that silver alerts are not similar to amber alerts and as they are statutorily regulated, a legislator must initiate a change. Chief Winders stated that the silver alert information is given to the State Police who, in turn, send the notice to the news stations. Chief Winders stated that he asked the news stations to run the story several times after the original story aired. Chief Winders stated that all Socorro area agencies participated in the search. Chief Winders stated that search and rescue was requested but the situation did not meet the criteria. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are bracelets equipped with GPS that a person can wear to help with this type of situation. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there is a bill going through the legislature right now that makes silver alerts more like amber alerts. Chief Winders also suggested that if a volunteer group comes together, they can be added to the City's notification system and be contacted if their services are needed.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that NM Tech continues to participate in the legislative session in Santa Fe. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech will be hiring several faculty members this year and continues to support families of faculty living in Socorro. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech has been working with Socorro Schools while creating NM Tech's 5-year academic calendar so that spring break at both schools are during the same week. Mr. Stone stated that in regard to enrollment numbers, the number of paid students is down 20% but the number of accepted students is up 30%. Mr. Stone stated that the difference may be that potential students are waiting to see the lottery scholarship awards before finalizing their decision.

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**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. City's Rescission of Resolution No. 18-02-20b**

Mayor Bhasker stated that on February 20, 2018, the Socorro City Council approved a resolution which committed \$50,000.00 over FY 2019 and 2020 for the purpose of funding a location study for the placement of a north-south access bridge over the Nogal Arroyo in Escondida, NM. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City does not have the funds to support this project and is recommending that the City Council rescind the resolution.

Councilor Romero made a motion to rescind Resolution No. 18-02-20b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 19-02-04 – Addition to the City's ICIP – Dispatch Department**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-02-04 which, if approved, would add the acquisition of new 911 emergency radio equipment for the Dispatch Center to the City's ICIP. Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, stated that the current radio system in dispatch is antiquated and the acquisition would be a direct replacement of the system. Mr. Tarango stated that McKinley County recently provided 2 radios but there is no way to tell how long they will last. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the item will appear on the updated ICIP in September.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-02-04. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Consideration of Naming New Street "Vista de Socorro Drive"**

Mayor Bhasker stated that with the addition of the permanent, supportive housing project, the road to the site will need to be named. Mayor Bhasker suggested that the road, which will dead end at the site, be named "Vista de Socorro Drive.

Councilor Romero approved the Mayor's recommendation of "Vista de Socorro Drive". Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez listed the upcoming events at Finley Gym including: flag football camp (first week of March), flag football (March 18-April 12), adult co-ed volleyball (games start March 4) and CPR classes for Finley Gym staff (April 5-7).

Mr. Monette stated that the City's New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration representative was in Socorro and was given a tour of the convention center, the finished Texas Street Project and Finley Gym.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Romero asked about the status of the project being done by Kelly Cable. Demecio Silva, Street Director, stated that Kelly Cable is doing a job for Dennis Engineering and they have paid for all necessary permits and fees.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Romero 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 two personnel matters. No action was taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Notice of Claim – Armory Building/Convention Center**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City recently received a notice of tort claim from a person who stated they fell at the back-door entrance to the convention center during a Lion's Club event. Mayor Bhasker stated that no events will be held at the convention center until it has been completely remodeled.

**b. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Russell Rackey – 2-4-19 – Dispatch – Completed Probation – A-20 to A-22

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

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

H.O. Construction – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Horacio Ortiz – Construction  
Mr. Fix It – Outside City Limits – 807 Foster Road – Cody Fivecoat - Handyman

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 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**

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk**