

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 19, 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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Michael Olguin. Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019 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. February 4, 2019

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Certificate of Recognition – City Hall Mural Artists

Mayor Bhasker presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Magdalene Sanchez, Jessica LaPointe, Cyndie Lawrence-Devers, Donna Trueblood and Loretta Lowman in recognition of their artwork on the mural painted on City Hall. Ms. Lowman accepted the certificates on behalf of the other artists who could not be at the meeting. Ms. Lowman thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that she had fun painting the mural. Ms. Lowman stated that she hopes the City continues to support local artists and the beautification committee.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro Consolidated Schools – Technology Bond - Discussion

Ron Hendrix, Socorro Consolidated Schools Superintendent, stated that there is currently an election regarding a technology mill levy and that he attended the meeting hoping to discuss the need for the bond and answer any questions. Mr. Hendrix stated that the mill levy is for \$3 million per year for six years. Mr. Hendrix stated that among other things, the funds would be used to purchase computers for classrooms and improve security at all the school buildings. Mr. Hendrix stated that Socorro Schools has asked for additional monies from different funding sources for projects that don't include the items listed above. Mayor Bhasker stated that the bond failed in Albuquerque, so it is important to get the information regarding the bond out to the public. Mr. Hendrix provided brochures with information regarding the mill levy and stated that the brochures are being provided to the public. Some discussion followed.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Memorandum of Understanding – City of Socorro & Friends of the Library

Mayor Bhasker presented a memorandum of understanding between the City of Socorro and the Friends of the Library which, if approved, will serve as a standard operating agreement between the two entities. Julie Johnson, President of the Friends of the Library, stated that the MOU is a non-binding agreement that details the requirements and responsibilities of both entities. Ms. Johnson stated that an MOU is useful in defining expectations from both sides and documents a relationship of good will. Mayor Bhasker asked if the City's attorney had reviewed the MOU. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that he had reviewed the document with Chelsea Lyons, the City's

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Library Director, but that the MOU is not a legally-binding document and did not need to be reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Monette stated that Ms. Lyons requested approval of the document but was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between the City of Socorro and the Friends of the Library. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 19-02-19a – NMDOT MAP Project Application for 2019-2020

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-02-19a which, if approved, will allow the City to submit an application to the NM Department of Transportation requesting MAP funds for the continuation of improvements to Fairgrounds Road (4th phase). Mr. Monette stated that the City has not applied for funds for the 3rd phase as he is waiting to see what the current legislature will do with the City's capital outlay requests.

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

c. Resolution No. 19-02-19b – Loan Resolution for Purchase of Scraper

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-02-19b which, if approved, authorizes a loan agreement between the City of Socorro and the New Mexico Finance Authority in the amount of \$327,245 for the purpose of purchasing a wheel tractor scraper with an extended warranty. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that this resolution had previously been approved by the City Council but that some of the wording had to be amended and a new resolution must be approved.

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

d. Resolution No. 19-02-19c – Commercial Dumpster Loan

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 19-02-19c which, if approved, allows the City to submit a loan application for financial assistance to the NM Finance Authority in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of purchasing commercial dumpsters.

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

e. Bid Award – Water Parts

Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, stated that bids for water parts were opened on January 31, 2019. Mr. Pineda recommended that the bids be awarded to:

Water & Sewer Line Pipe – Baker Utility Supply
Repair Clamps & Couplings – Baker Utility Supply
Brass Fittings – Ferguson Waterworks
Meters – Baker Utility Supply
Meter Setters – Ferguson Waterworks
Water Fittings – Ferguson Waterworks
Fire Hydrants – Baker Utility Supply
Sewer Fittings & Supplies – Ferguson Waterworks

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Mr. Pineda stated that water parts go out for bid every 6 months. Mr. Pineda stated that the full dollar amounts of the bid will not be expended but rather only the parts that are actually needed will be ordered.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid to the vendors listed above. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

f. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 8 – Fire Protection Fund

Resources are Fire Protection Distribution Increase – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$19,852.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the distribution increase and to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 8. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

2. No. 9 – Fire Protection Fund

Resources are Fire Protection Grant – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$86,400.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the Fire Protection Grant award and to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 9. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

3. No. 10 – Rodeo Arena Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$35,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 10. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism Director & Events Manager, stated that although the Benjamin Roping event was cold and windy, approximately 80 to 125 teams participated. Mr. Brown stated that he continues to add events to the 2019 calendar. Mr. Brown stated that the soccer fields will be sliced and reseeded next week.

Isacc Angel, Gas Superintendent, stated that crews have begun work on the annual survey of transmission lines and the distribution audit. Mr. Angel stated that crews have begun landscaping at the City's division yard. Mr. Angel stated that the Gas Department assisted the Transportation Department with towing a van that had broken down in Belen. Mr. Angel stated that he is close to getting the permit needed to cross the ditch with a gas line on Cuba Road.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that strong winds have caused several

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landfill closures. Mr. Lucero stated that crews continue to pick up the litter that is being blown around by the wind.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he attended an SEC rate increase protest prehearing. Mayor Bhasker stated that the hearing officer seemed critical of SEC raising their rates, especially residential rates. Mayor Bhasker stated that the hearing officer gave the SEC several items they must comply with before the actual hearing in June. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a chance that protestors who wish to move forward may be cross-examined by SEC's attorneys. Mayor Bhasker stated that he told the hearing officer that SEC staff had called the protestors and tried to get them to rescind their protest. Mayor Bhasker stated that the hearing officer told the SEC they must cease calling the protestors. Mayor Bhasker stated that the project wherein the City would provide electric services is ongoing and that rates provided by the City will be dramatically less.

Polo Pineda, IT Director, stated that he has found approximately 50 street lights out and that the SEC is slowly fixing these lights.

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that flag football camp, taught by the SHS football coach and players, will be from March 4-8. Ms. Rivera stated that there will be a week off after that and then flag football will begin. Ms. Rivera stated that men's basketball and co-ed volleyball will begin March 5th. Ms. Rivera stated that she wants to host a first responders basketball tournament on March 30th. Ms. Rivera stated that youth baseball will begin early this year, during the first week of May, and end in mid-June to avoid the kids being in the hot weather. Ms. Rivera stated that adult baseball will start at the same time and end mid-August. Ms. Rivera stated that she is currently looking to hire lifeguards and the certification training will be held April 5-7.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Arts Party at Finley Gym is a big success each year but that prior to the next event, a memorandum of understanding will have to be executed to address several issues. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the main issues is the mess left behind after the event which City staff has been left to clean. Mayor Bhasker stated that an MOU will help define the roles of both parties.

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that at present time, the City had still not received gross receipts revenues. Mayor Bhasker stated that the delay of payments may need to be on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting. Ms. Lopez stated that City staff continues to use positive pay to deter fraud attempts (which are still occurring). Ms. Lopez stated that the Budget Committee will starting meeting next month to discuss FY 19-20.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from January 2019. Chief Winders stated that a second vehicle was recently stolen from the City's division yard. Chief Winders stated that the vehicle was found in Valencia County and whether or not the keys were in the car is being investigated.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch & Animal Control Director, stated that the animal shelter continues to receive a large number of puppies which shelter staff transport to rescue agencies. Mr. Tarango stated that with the resignation of one employee, there will be a position to fill at the shelter. Mr. Tarango stated that the newest dispatcher will graduate from the academy on February 22nd. Mr. Tarango stated that there is also one position open in dispatch and he is currently conducting interviews.

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Mayor Bhasker gave a brief update on behalf of the Library Director and the Utilities Division Director (Parks/Water/Wastewater/Production) as they were unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Saavedra stated that W-2's and 1095-C's have been distributed to employees and the data has been uploaded to both the SSA and the State of New Mexico. Ms. Saavedra stated that the City is currently accepting applications for lifeguards and firefighters. Ms. Saavedra stated that the City met with its medical insurance agent and the initial rate increase is 12%. Ms. Saavedra stated that if the City continues with no large claims, that number could decrease.

Mr. Monette stated that he has been working on documentation for several City projects and loans, including the Local Government Road Fund extension for South California Street.

Kristy Padilla, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that there would be a P & Z meeting on February 20th. Ms. Padilla stated that the buyer for the 14 acres of land south of Tractor Supply withdrew their offer.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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:

Mikayla McDowell - 2-3-19 - Animal Shelter - Resignation

Daniel Pacheco - 2-1-19 – Fire - Completed Probation - L-38 (no change)

James Chavez - 2-16-19 - Tourism/Rodeo - Completed Probation - A-19 to A-21

Chelsea Lyons - 2-16-19 – Library - Additional Job Duties - D-47 to D-50

Cindy Rivera - 2-16-19 - Recreation/Youth Center - Combination of Youth Services and Recreation Director Positions - K-40 to K-43

Temporary New Hires: None.

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, David Chavez, Deekota Chavez, Eva Chavez, Dustin Armijo, Alexis Montoya, Taylor Saavedra, 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

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

Agua Caliente LLC - Out of Town - San Antonio, NM - Suzanne Smith - Consulting

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Lambert Construction LLC - Out of Town - Sandia Park, NM - Matt & Tina Lambert - Construction
JMC Quality Builders - Out of Town - Orlando, FL - Marco Garavelo – Construction

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 146971 to 147217 in the amount of \$677,280.32 plus Payroll Transfers (\$298,633.95), for a total of \$975,914.27. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, 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, March 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:09 p.m., Councilor Fleming 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