

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Michael Olguin, 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 MARCH 4, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. February 19, 2019

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Recognition of the SHS Wrestling Team

Mayor Bhasker and the City Council recognized the members of the Socorro High School Wrestling Team for their accomplishments at the 3A New Mexico High School State Wrestling Championship. Mayor Bhasker presented certificates to state champions Joel Partridge and Orion Rottman as well as 3rd place finishers Andre Gonzales, Sean McNeil, Francisco Encinias and Nicolas Gonzales. Coach Partridge and Coach Rottman thanked the City for supporting wrestling for the last 9 years. The members of the team introduced themselves and Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated them on a successful season.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Steve Edmonson – Radio Station Update

Steve Edmonson stated that he has owned and operated KYRN radio for 3 ½ years. Mr. Edmonson stated that he tried to sell the station but the sale resulted in a legal situation. Mr. Edmonson stated that the radio equipment was not returned and he was unable to put the radio back on the air. Mr. Edmonson stated that with some help saving the license, he was able to put KYRN back on the air in a limited capacity and he is able to run it remotely from Iowa. Mr. Edmonson stated that the station should be fully restored in a month. George Funkhouser, a local radio announcer, also attended the meeting. Mr. Edmonson stated that anyone with questions can call him. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Edmonson for the update.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 19-03-04a – Application for Funding for Convention Center

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Resolution No. 19-03-04a which, if approved, allows the City to submit a loan application for financial assistance to the NM Finance Authority for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving a convention center. Mayor Bhasker stated that the loan will be repaid with monies collected by the Convention Center Fee ordinance which became effective in 2015.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-03-04a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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b. Resolution No. 19-03-04b – Application for Funding for Road Improvements

Ms. Lopez presented Resolution No. 19-03-04b which, if approved, allows the City to submit a loan application for financial assistance to the NM Finance Authority for the purpose of acquiring, refunding and improving roads in the City of Socorro.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-03-04b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker asked when the Budget Committee will meet. Ms. Lopez stated that the committee will start meeting during the first week of April.

NEW BUSINESS

Chelsea Lyons, Library Director, provided a handout regarding the library's HOLI event which will be held March 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the 2nd Annual Trinity Downwinders event will be held on March 17th at 1:00 p.m. at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that the First Responders Basketball Tournament will be held March 30th at Finley Gym and the entry fee for spectators is \$5.00 per ticket. Ms. Rivera stated that the Youth Center will be open during Spring Break.

Councilor Jaramillo stated the services for Johnny Mounyo are on March 5th at 8:30 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Hicks stated that there is a group of people who want to clean up trash (including appliances) at the shooting range, take it to the dump and are hoping to dump for free. Mayor Bhasker asked who owned the property to which Police Chief Winders replied that it is BLM property used by the Socorro Gun Club. Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Hicks to have the Socorro Gun Club send the City a request in writing.

Mayor Bhasker stated that City Administrator, Donald Monette, was not reappointed as a New Mexico Tech Regent and congratulated him for the time he served on the board. Mr. Monette stated that he was asked to stay on two of the committees so he will still be involved with the school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Rebecca Moeller to the Lodger's Tax Committee. Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Rebecca Moeller to the Lodger's Tax Committee. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously. Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism & Events Manager, stated that there are 2 more vacancies on the committee. Mayor Bhasker suggested that the Lodger's Tax ordinance be reviewed to see if there are specific requirements about who can serve on the committee.

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a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Stephen Jojola - 3-1-19 – Fire - Completed Probation - A-32 to A-33

Brannun Armstrong - 3-1-19 – Fire - Completed Probation & FFI & II Certification - A-29 to A-35

John McGuire - 3-1-19 – Fire - FFI & II Certification - A-30 to A-35

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Special Janitorial Services – R-4 (Approved by P & Z) – 1238 Gibson Circle – Glenn Kolle –
Janitorial Cleaning of Business Offices

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:41 p.m., Councilor Hicks 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