

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
April 15, 2019

Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Michael Olguin. Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Deborah Dean were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Olguin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. April 1, 2019

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

Councilor Deborah Dean arrived.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – Fair Housing Day

Donald Monette, City Administrator, presented a proclamation declaring April 16, 2019 as Fair Housing Day in the City of Socorro. Mr. Monette stated that having a Fair Housing Day proclamation is part of the required elements for CDBG funding.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Robert Markell, who is part of the Save Our Bosque Task Force, attended the meeting to inform the Mayor and City Council that the group had applied for Lodger's Tax funding. Dr. Markwell stated that the funds would be used to improve existing trails and maintain picnic areas. Dr. Markwell provided a handout regarding the Socorro Valley Trail and Rio Grande Trail. Dr. Markwell thanked the City for their consideration.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 19-04-15 – Combining of Lodger's Tax & Convention Center Fee

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 19-04-15. Mr. Monette stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to combine the lodger's tax and convention center fee ordinances. Mr. Monette stated that the bond counsel for the Convention Center Project felt the two ordinances would better suit the \$1.1 million bond if combined.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 19-04-15 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

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SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance No. 19-03-18 – Hemp Farming

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 19-03-18. Mr. Monette stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to license and regulate hemp growth and prohibit the use of non-feminized hemp seeds and plant. Mr. Monette stated that the Administration met with hemp farmers who would like the assurance of this ordinance in order to have a safe haven to grow hemp.

Councilor Salome made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public.

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

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 19-03-18. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 19-04-15a – Police Officer Salary Increase

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Resolution No. 19-04-15a, which, if approved, increases the base salaries of certified City of Socorro police officers and changes the starting salary for new police officers. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that this is an attempt to improve the benefit package for police officers as the City keeps losing officers to area departments that have higher salaries. Chief Winders stated that the funds for the changes are already in the budget because one police officer position has been dissolved and those funds will be used for the raises.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-04-15a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 19-04-15b – Utility Billing & Management Software

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, presented Resolution No. 19-04-15b which, if approved, resolves to expend \$144,738 of City funds to update the City's utility management and billing software. Ms. Lopez stated that the resolution is dependent on receiving funding from a grant that has been submitted for this purpose. Ms. Lopez stated that most likely, the conversion will happen in 2021.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-04-15b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 19-04-15c – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 19-04-15c which, if approved, adopts the federal regulations required in order for a municipality to receive CDBG funds. Those federal regulations include the following certifications and commitments:

1. Citizen Participation

Certifies its commitment to citizen participation by preparing and adopting a Citizen Participation Plan that includes ways to encourage public input using various methods to

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reach the public and assures that citizens are provided reasonable notice and timely access to local meetings, per the Open Meetings Act (NMSA 1978, Chapter 10, Article 15).

2. Fair Housing

Certifies its commitment to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to affirmatively further fair housing, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing and financing of housing or land to be used for the construction of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

3. Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance

Certifies its compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, whose purpose is to provide uniform, fair, and equitable treatment for persons whose real property is acquired or for persons displaced as a result of a CDBG-funded project or activity.

4. Section 3

Certifies its commitment to Section 3, a provision of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Act of 1968, which requires recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent feasible, provide job training, employment, and contracting opportunities for low and very low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their community. Attached is the Grantee Section 3 hiring information.

5. Procurement

Certifies its compliance with federal procurement code (24 CFR Part 85.36) and New Mexico Procurement Code (§13-1-120 NMSA 1978) by adopting a procurement policy annually for CDBG projects.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-04-15c. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

d. CDBG Federal Requirements

Mr. Monette stated that in regards to the above-mentioned CDBG funding, the City must approve the required elements detailed in Exhibit 1-Z. Exhibit 1-Z includes required elements for Citizen Participation, Fair Housing, Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance and the Section 3 Plan.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Exhibit 1-Z which includes required elements for Citizen Participation, Fair Housing, Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance and the Section 3 Plan. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

d. City of Socorro Procurement Policy

Mr. Monette stated that in regards to the above-mentioned CDBG funding, funding agencies also require entities to have a purchasing policy. Mr. Monette stated that the City currently follows the State procurement code and this policy will confirm that the City follows the State procurement code.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Purchasing Policy. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Fleming stated that the Budget Committee met to receive funding requests from the community and the committee will now consider funding for those requests.

Councilor Salome stated that Stronger Communities Together had their open house on April 12, 2019. Councilor Salome stated that Stronger Communities Together brings several programs in Socorro all to one location.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mr. Monette stated that the Administration has been very busy working on funding projects. Mr. Monette stated that the City has two USDA loans in process that lead to two bridge loans. Mr. Monette stated that the City also has many applications in process: the CDBG application, the Local Government Road Fund application, the MAP application, the scraper loan, the dumpster loan, the road bond, Lloyd's grant application for software and the Convention Center bond.

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 Mr. Monette:

Aidan Aragon - 5-1-19 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-27
Kevin Vigil - 5-1-19 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-32
Zachary Pinnick - 5-1-19 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-32
Michael Padilla - 5-1-19 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-27
Kristy Padilla - 4-15-19 – Administration - Additional Job Duties - N-41 to N-43
Andrew Lopez – 4-15-19 – Police – New Hire*(Police Officer) – A-37
Christopher Rico – 4-15-19 – Police – New Hire*(Police Officer) – A-37

Temporary New Hires: Joseph McGaha, Dwight Dow
Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Paul Foulentfont, 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, John Armijo, Seferina Ortiz
Student Workers: Lucas Madril, Darrian Greenwood, Matthew Guzman
Referees (2)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mr. Monette:

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Alliance Transportation - C-2 - 207/209 Fisher - Lori Fernandez - Transportation
Amador Complete Recycling Inc. - Out of Town - Polvadera, NM - Francisco Amador - Metal Recycling
TOTL Construction LLC - Out of Town - 2319 State Road 1 - Harlan Steele – Construction
Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 147449 to 147678 in the amount of \$729,212.75 plus Payroll Transfers (\$304,120.29), for a total of \$1,033,333.04. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:31 p.m., Councilor Fleming motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk