

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**May 6, 2019**

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

Mr. Monette stated that as both the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem were absent, the City Council would need to nominate a Mayor Pro-Tem to conduct the meeting. Councilor Romero made a motion to elect Councilor Michael Olguin as Mayor Pro-Tem for the May 6, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously. There were no other nominations.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Lego League “Team X” led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 6, 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. April 15, 2019**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of Lego League “Team X” stated that they made it to a national competition to be held in Arkansas and that people from all over the world will compete in the competition. The City Council congratulated the team for their accomplishments.

Brandon Brabson, the AG teacher at Socorro High School, stated that the welding class has been assisting the City in updating the Welcome to Socorro signs that sit at the north and south entrances to Socorro. Mr. Brabson stated that the class has been doing numerous other projects for the Socorro community. The City Council thanked the class for their contributions to Socorro.

Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin stated that he wanted to recognize Darrian Greenwood and Alejandro Portillo, both Socorro High School students, who had been accepted into the University of New Mexico’s Combined BA-MD Medical School Scholarship Program. Darrian Greenwood attended the meeting and stated that only 28 people from New Mexico were accepted into the program with two of those being from Socorro. Darrian stated that the program involves 8 years of school, a 5-year residency and a 3-year apprenticeship. The City Council congratulated the students for their accomplishment.

Savannah Morris and Nick Kellar provided an update on the Socorro Farmer’s Market. Ms. Morris stated that the days had been changed to Tuesdays and Saturdays. Ms. Morris stated that they have been working with Headstart students/parents, planning a community greenhouse and trying to recruit additional farmers. Ms. Morris stated that opening day is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Morris stated that “The Hub”, located next to True Value on Manzanares Street, is a centralized place where several grants came together in one location. Ms. Morris stated that the groups working out of The Hub include the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association, Juvenile Justice Board, Youth Suicide Prevention Grant, Socorro County Prevention Coalition, Health Council and Farmer’s Market.

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**a. Wacinqe BeMende – Pilot Program for Socorro**

Wacinqe BeMende, a NM Tech student and retired service member, stated that he has been approved through the NM Small Business Association to conduct a pilot program to combat poverty. Mr. BeMende stated that the program is not tax-supported or based on debt but rather starts with a savings account which is then transferred to dividend and stocks. Mr. BeMende discussed several programs that he feels have not worked to combat poverty. Mr. BeMende stated that he was asking the City to provide volunteer mentors to help guide the people who participate in the program. Mr. BeMende stated that a study done on his model showed that the program will produce greater results at less of a cost than other programs. Mr. BeMende stated that he would like the project to be County-wide. Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin suggested that Mr. BeMende talk to the County Commission as well. Some discussion followed.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Public Hearing – Liquor License Application – Restaurant Beer/Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only – Jackson Ranch Steakhouse**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin stated that Jackson Ranch Steakhouse, LLC has requested a Restaurant Beer/Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only which must be approved by the local Governing Body. There were no comments from the public. Tom Jackson, the owner, did attend the meeting.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Restaurant Beer/Wine Liquor License with On-Premises Consumption Only for Jackson Ranch Steakhouse, LLC. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 19-05-06a – Commercial Dumpsters**

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Resolution No. 19-05-06a which, if approved, authorizes a loan between the City of Socorro and the NM Finance Authority in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of purchasing commercial dumpsters.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-05-06a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Resolution No. 19-05-06b – Surplus Equipment**

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 19-05-06b which, if approved, deems a 2000 Cummins Street Sweeper (VIN 1J9VM4H39YC172042) as surplus equipment.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-05-06b. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Resolution No. 19-05-06c – Utility Billing Write-Offs**

Ruby Lopez, Finance Officer, presented Resolution No. 19-05-06c which, if approved, removes uncollectible utility billing accounts from 2014, in the amount of \$62,574.67, from the City's list of accounts. Ms. Lopez stated that the Finance Department still attempts to collect these funds through a credit agency.

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Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-05-06c. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Budget Resolutions**

**1. No. 11 – Street Improvement Fund**

Resources are MAP Project and State Appropriation – Requirements are MAP Project – Amount is \$630,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the MAP Projects FY 19 award.

**2. No. 12 – Tractor-Scraper Reserve Fund**

Resources are Investment Income Reserve and Reserve Loan – Amount is \$32,738.29 – The increase is needed to set up a new fund as per the Tractor-Scraper Loan requirement.

**3. No. 13 – Revolving Loan Payment Fund**

Resources are Transfer from Landfill – Amount is \$21,220.98 – The transfer is needed to allow for the Tractor-Scraper loan payment.

**4. No. 14 – Recreation Fund**

Resources are Walmart Grant – Requirements are Walmart Grant Expense – Amount is \$25,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the Walmart Grant award and expenditures.

**5. No. 15 – Health Council Grant Fund**

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Forward and Administrative Fee Income – Requirements are School/Per Diem, Other Administrative Expenses, Contractual Services and Professional Planning – Amount is \$29,500.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award and expenditures to June 30, 2019.

**6. No. 16 – Community Transformation Grant Fund**

Resources are Behavioral Health Services Grant – Requirements are Other Administrative Expenses and Contractual Services – Amount is \$50,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award and expenditures to June 30, 2019.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Fleming stated that the Budget Committee has been meeting once a week to discuss the FY 20 budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Romero complimented the Street Department on their work on South California Street, Western Hills and the County Courthouse area.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mr. Monette:

Ignacio Chavez - 5-7-19 – Dispatch - New Hire\*(Dispatcher) - A-20  
Sophia Perez - 5-7-19 - Animal Shelter - New Hire\*(Kennel/Office Assistant) - A-20  
Brandee Beachy - 5-7-19 - Animal Shelter - New Hire\*(Kennel/Office Assistant) - A-20  
Jeanette Lukesh - 5-6-19 – Finance - Additional Job Duties - L-32 to L-36

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

JLB Snowcones - C-2 - 200 S. 5th Street Lot #3 - Gloria Osornio de Merino - Snowcones & Popcorn  
Timberline Mechanical LLC - Out of Town - Magdalena, NM - Bobby Otero - Plumbing, Heating & Cooling  
The Swag Hag - R-1 (Approved by P&Z) - 1305 Brown Place - Gwen Valentino - Promotional Sales

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Monette asked the City Council to start thinking about which projects they would like to see as priorities on the ICIP.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:56 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:**

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