

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 3, 2019**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Deborah Dean and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 3, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. May 20, 2019**

Councilor Olguin requested that more detail regarding the previous meeting's agenda item titled "RFP Award – Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services & Project Capital Financing" be added to the minutes from the May 20, 2019 City Council meeting.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez arrived.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes including the amendments as requested by Councilor Olguin. Councilor Fleming seconded the motion. After some discussion, Councilor Hicks withdrew his motion.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to postpone consideration of the May 20, 2019 minutes until the June 17, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Resolution No. 19-06-03a – NMDOT LGRF Co-Op Agreement**

Donald Monette, City Administrator, presented Resolution No. 19-06-03a which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the mill and inlay, including tack coat, subgrade prep, engineering & construction management of Western Avenue from Mustang Drive to Stallion Circle; Mustang Drive from Western Avenue to Stallion Circle; Stallion Circle from Mustang Drive to Western Avenue; Garden Circle from Western Avenue to the end of the cul de sac. Mr. Monette stated that the total project cost is \$57,925 with the NMDOT funding 75% and the City funding 25%. Demecio Silva, Street Superintendent, stated that this funding will cover approximately 50% of the project and the City will need an additional \$50,000 to completely finish the project.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-06-03a. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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**b. Resolution No. 19-06-03b**

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 19-06-03b, which, if approved, authorizes the City to prepare and submit a CDBG application to the NM Department of Finance & Administration for the Cuba Road Street & Drainage Improvements Project. Mr. Monette stated that there have been four public hearings with very little public input. Councilor Olguin asked how many more phases will it take to complete the Cuba Road Street & Drainage Improvements Project to which Mr. Monette replied there may be 2 or 3. Mr. Monette stated that the City will have to work with the NM Department of Transportation regarding drainage issues.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-06-03b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Monette stated that the Finance Director would like to request that the City Council move the July 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Council meetings to July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to close-out the fiscal year and finalize the budget.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to change the City Council meetings from July 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker stated that at the last City Council meeting, Council members asked for more information regarding the “RFP Award – Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services & Project Capital Financing” and to date, have not submitted any requests for additional information. Mayor Bhasker stated that he included a letter in the packet with his phone number along with the number to Administrator Monette, Attorney Nann Winter and consultant Ed Reyes so that questions and concerns could be answered.

Mayor Bhasker reminded everyone that there is a public comment meeting with the Public Regulation Commission regarding the SEC’s proposed rate increases at City Hall at 5:00 p.m. that evening (June 3<sup>rd</sup>). Mayor Bhasker stated that items to be discussed will include how another agency successfully dealt with a similar matter, a study done by UNM which showed savings and added jobs should the City takeover the SEC and testimony from the owner of Solaro who could not expand his business in Socorro due to high electric costs and low broadband connectivity. Mayor Bhasker stated one question he would like answered is where the \$1.799 million profit made by the SEC went and why, if they are making a profit, they are asking for a rate increase. Mr. Monette stated that the reason the SEC shows the profit is so that they can borrow more money. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the SEC rate increase is approved, NM Tech and the City may go completely solar. Mr. Monette stated that the rate increase pre-hearing will be June 19<sup>th</sup> and the hearing will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Monette stated that there may be a quorum of the City Council at the public comment session and that no action will be taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

None.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

Xpress Construction & Services LLC – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Gabe Romo –  
Construction & Roofing

Custom Grading Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Michael Montoya – Grading & Paving

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:20 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, 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**