

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Chavez-Lopez led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. August 19, 2019

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance No. 19-08-05 – Loan Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements & Improvements to the Wastewater Collection System

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 19-08-05 which, if approved, authorizes a loan agreement between the City of Socorro and the New Mexico Finance Authority for the purpose of 1) acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing and improving the wastewater treatment facility and 2) acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering repairing and improving the City's wastewater collection system.

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

Chris Muirhead, bond counsel for the City, stated that the City Council had previously approved resolutions for the wastewater treatment facility and wastewater collection system improvement projects. Mr. Muirhead stated that this ordinance is for RCAC interim financing for the two projects in the amounts of \$1,218,644 and \$396,811. Mr. Muirhead stated that the interim financing will eventually move to a USDA loan. Mr. Muirhead stated that these processes are in compliance with NM State Statute.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 19-08-05. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Letter of Interest – Sacred Wind Enterprises

Mr. Monette presented a letter of interest for Sacred Wind Enterprises which will allow the City to move forward with a feasibility study for providing fixed-wireless broadband services. Mr. Monette stated that the City does not qualify for a CDBG planning grant so Sacred Wind will be funding the study and the \$45,000 cost will be rolled into the ownership/management agreement.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the letter of interest. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 1 – USDA Wastewater System Improvement Project

Resources are RCAC – Requirements are Engineering, Legal/Other Professional and Other Administrative Expense – Amount is \$396,000 – The increase is needed to allow for the RCAC bridge loan for the wastewater system improvement project.

2. No. 2 – USDA Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project

Resources are RCAC – Requirements are Engineering, Legal/Other Professional and Other Administrative Expense – Amount is \$1,218,644 – The increase is needed to allow for the RCAC bridge loan for the wastewater collection system improvement project.

3. No. 3 – Revolving Loan Fund

Resources are Transfer to USDA WWSIP and Transfer to USDA WWCSIP – Amount is \$30,000 – The change is needed in order to set up new bank accounts with minimum requirement and unforeseen contingencies.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 1, 2 and 3. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Final Budget Approval by DFA – FY 2019-2020

Mr. Monette stated that the City's FY 2019-2020 final budget was approved by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

