

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
April 20, 2020

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bhasker took roll call.

Members physically present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker

Members remotely present at roll call were: Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Toby Jaramillo was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. April 6, 2020

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. After ensuring the amended minutes were acceptable to the Council, Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 14 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Wastewater Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$80,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures.

2. No. 15 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Water Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$40,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures.

3. No. 16 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are MAP & Co-Op Funds Received – Requirements are Engineering – Amount is \$20,000 – The increase is needed to allow for the MAP and Co-Op project engineering expenditures.

4. No. 17 – Airport Construction Fund

Resources are FAA Grant/NM Aviation Grant/Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Capital Outlay – Amount is \$193,396 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award (runway sweeper).

5. No. 18 – General Fund

Resources are GRT Administrative Fees & Intercept – Requirements are Other Administrative Fees (GRT) – Amount is \$130,000 – The increase is needed to account for GRT Intercept & Administrative Fees Revenue and to allow for GRT Intercept & Administrative Fees expenditures.

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6. No. 19 – Convention Center Fund

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$125,000 – The increase is needed to allow for FY 20 expenditures.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 14 through 19. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to COVID-19, the most recent information shows 11 new cases in Socorro but the zip code for the cases had not yet been identified. Mayor Bhasker stated that approximately 95% of people are adhering to the “mask mandate”. Mayor Bhasker stated that retail stores and City employees are doing a great job wearing their masks. Mayor Bhasker listed the number of cases in surrounding communities and stated that Socorro is doing a good job protecting ourselves. Mayor Bhasker noted that he has seen some itinerant vendors in Socorro and that those people take away from our local businesses. Mayor Bhasker stated that these vendors need to acquire a City business registration. Mayor Bhasker stated that City finances are about the same as this time last year and the City is “ok” for now. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City received \$13,000 in funding for our ambulance service. Mayor Bhasker stated that people are receiving their stimulus checks. Mayor Bhasker urged residents to “still stay home”. Mayor Bhasker stated that when businesses start to reopen, point-of-service testing will be important. Mayor Bhasker stated that testing still consists of swabs but that there are machines that can do a 5-minute test. Mayor Bhasker stated that there will need to be some kind of testing at retail sites in order for businesses to reopen. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Governor is looking at certain types of businesses to see if they can reopen such as nurseries. Mayor Bhasker stated that the federal government needs to provide some type of guidance and monitoring system to help municipalities reopen businesses.

Councilor Dean stated that each community is different, and each community should have a say in how to move forward. Mayor Bhasker stated that the federal government needs to provide the rules and the City will enforce those rules. Councilor Hicks stated that he agrees testing on-site will be needed and it is important to try and get these machines. Mayor Bhasker stated that Abbott Labs only has 1,200 machines to distribute across the entire country. John Miller from the El Defensor Chieftain, who was in attendance remotely, asked if someone will be able to get a card that says they are not positive and who is responsible for helping people get those cards. Mayor Bhasker replied that the Department of Health has been conducting tests and it will be up to the State to put together assistance. Mr. Miller asked if the city is getting PPE from the government. Mayor Bhasker stated that Socorro General Hospital has a website that shows the different demographics about the 12 people they have treated so far. Mayor Bhasker stated as far as funding for private businesses, Wells Fargo would not assist the Mayor with his two hotels and medical practice but locally owned First State Bank did assist. Mayor Bhasker urged residents to keep him informed of any issues they are having so he can assist or look for assistance.

a. Personnel Changes

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Markeisha Lopez – 4-2-20 – Dispatch – Resignation

Dustin Aldrich – 4-1-20 – Fire – Completed Probation – I-45 (no change)

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 150581 to 150806 in the amount of \$1,545,833.42, plus Payroll Transfers (\$315,492.71), for a total of \$1,861,326.13. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

c. Cancellation of May 4, 2020 City Council Meeting

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to cancel the May 4, 2020 City Council meeting.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Mayor Bhasker's cancellation of the May 4, 2020 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salome. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he is always available by cell phone, Facebook, e-mail, etc. Mayor Bhasker stated that getting information out to the public is very important.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, City Clerk