

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 14, 2020**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Mayor Bhasker took roll call.

No Members were physically present

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that this City Council meeting is in compliance with the standards set forth by the NM Attorney' General's Office for teleconference meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 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. August 17, 2020

b. September 9, 2020

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 and September 9, 2020 meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

a. Toby Jaramillo Proclamation

City Administrator Donald Monette read the Toby Jaramillo Proclamation.

b. Special Use Permit Verizon Wireless

Carl Taskes discussed that this is a modification of the existing site next to First State Bank, removing existing antennas and replacing with new antennas with additional equipment on the tower. The mounts will not get any larger and the only difference will be an extra antenna on each of the three poles. This is a capacity modification for Verizon with no increase of equipment on the grounds.

Councilor Romero made a motion to pass the Special Use Permit for Verizon Wireless. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 20-09-14 – Loan Agreement New Mexico Finance Authority – Water System Improvements

Finance Director Ruby Lopez presented Resolution No. 20-09-14. The Resolution would approve an application for a loan of \$150,000 for the Evergreen Well and equipment. Approximately \$113,000 for a motor, electrical parts, and engineering and the remainder to be used for water meters. The first loan payment will be May of 2022.

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Councilor Romero made a motion to pass Resolution No. 20-09-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean.

Councilor Salome asked if the City has heard back from Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. about the power surges that burnt out the motor. Kirsty Padilla replied that the City has not heard back from the SEC's insurance company.

Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Resolution No. 20-09-14a – Disposition of Vehicles**

Councilor Romero made a motion to pass Resolution No. 20-09-14a. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution No. 20-09-14b – Authorizing the Application to the 5311 Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Program for FY21 Funding of Public Transportation**

Councilor Olguin made a motion to pass Resolution No. 20-09-14b. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution No. 20-09-14c – Adopting the FY 2022-2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)**

City Administrator Donald Monette presented Resolution No. 20-09-14c. After averaging the top 5 ICIP rankings received from the Councilors, the top five priorities are: 1) Old Socorro High School Remodel, 2) General Repaving including Bullock Avenue, 3) Funding for a fiber loop, 4) Fund the City Hall software purchase, and 5) the EMERTC Bridge.

Councilor Romero made a motion to pass Resolution No. 20-09-14c. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**g. CARES Application Discussion Only**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that there will be a Zoom Meeting for the training of the CARES Application. The amount of time Mr. Monette and Ms. Lopez have spent has been exemplary. The monies that will be received are for \$198,000 for small businesses grants and \$242,000 for City COVID-19 related expenses. Mr. Monette explained the City is able to recoup from the \$242,000 expenses that are directly COVID related. Instructions say that if people are forced to leave work the City could be reimbursed for their leave due to COVID. The City will be sending out an updated application with a list of requirements. Applications can be submitted online ([www.socorronm.gov](http://www.socorronm.gov)) once the final version is available. Mayor Bhasker stated that businesses need to generate less than 2 million dollars and have less than 50 employees to qualify and the grants. Funds will be limited from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. New Job Description**

Division Secretary (Gas and Water Department)

Councilor Hicks made a motion to pass Resolution No. 20-08-17a. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bhasker is planning to announce the replacement for Council Jaramillo at the City Council Meeting in October. 3 people have inquired and if the Council has others that are interested please forward with background information.

The City has been in contact with a company and has received a bid for a feasibility study for broadband. This is in conjunction with the VLA, New Mexico Tech, and Socorro County. This company did a feasibility study for Sierra County and they have started on its broadband with financial help from USDA and the State of New Mexico. The Mayor will bring this to the Council at next meeting to authorize the City to get involved with these three other entities to do the study to cover the entirety of Socorro County.

**a. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Deanna Aragon - 7-1-20 –Gas – Additional Job Duties - I-38 to I 39

Jenelle Partridge – 9-14-20 – Water/Wastewater - Additional Job Duties – F-37 to F-38

Waylon Billie – 9-14-20 – Street – Temp to New Hire – A-26

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

**b. Business Registrations**

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

Garley Heating & Cooling – Out of Town – Los Lunas, NM – Wesley Garley - Heating & Cooling

SignPlex LLC – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Jason Pollaro - Sign Company

Smoking Hook – Out of Town – Magdalena, NM – Cody Henderson – Food Truck

Ameresco, Inc. – Out of Town – Framingham, MA – George P. Sakellaris – General Contractor

Piston Auto Sales LLC – Out of Town – Veguita, NM – Oscar Rodriquez – Car Dealer

Cutler Repaving, Inc. – Out of Town – Lawrence, KS – Charles R. Veskerna – Asphalt Pavement

Recycling Contractor

Valley Sanitation LLC – Out of Town – Belen, NM – Dr. Roland Sanchez II – Commercial Hauler for MSW

Park N Shade, Inc. – Out of Town – Marana, AZ – Rick Bailey – Solar Carports

Rupert Plumbing & Heating Co. Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Richard Rupert – Plumbing Contractor

The Exterminator – R-2 – 327 Church St. – Randy Bonney – Pest Control

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

**c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be a special meeting on Monday September 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road. Online at

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/507148973> or calling 1-866-899-4679, access code 507-148-973.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

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*/s/*  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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*/s/*  
**Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk**