

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
December 21, 2020**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

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 DECEMBER 21, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. December 7, 2020

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Home Occupation Permit – Walker Outdoors

Postponed to January 4, 2021 Council Meeting.

b. Memorandum of Agreement – New Mexico Department of Health

Mayor Bhasker reported that he was contacted by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) to use the Youth Center to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations in March.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement – New Mexico Department of Health as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker gave an update on the Rapid COVID-19 testing. Testing has been very successful, 400 tests in the last week with 15 to 20 positives. Mayor Bhasker will meet with Dr. Stephen Wells, President of New Mexico Tech to put together rapid testing for every student returning for the spring semester.

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Councilor Hicks thought it would be a good idea if people that have traveled during Christmas would and should test after returning.

Councilor Ocampo reported that the annual food drive served over 600 individuals and 400 children received gifts and stockings.

Councilor Hicks reported the Disabled American Veterans Christmas dinner served over 350.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Description Updates

Mayor Bhasker presented the following Job Descriptions for approval.

1. Fire Chief
2. Assistant Fire Chief
3. Captain
4. Lieutenant
5. Firefighter/EMT
6. Fire Fighter Recruit
7. Fire Department Administrative Assistant
8. Assistant Sanitation Truck Driver/Crewman (Residential & Commercial)

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief stated that the new Job Descriptions for the Fire Department are due to the change in the minimum wage law.

Councilor Olguin thanked the Fire Department employees for their hard work during the pandemic.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the City is \$308,000 above last years total for gross receipt tax which is about a 10% increase.

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the Job Descriptions as read by Mayor Bhasker. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. Retroactive Salary Increase Update

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council the Salary Increases the Council decided to wait on until January to make active will become active January 1, 2021 and retroactive from July 2020.

Councilor Salome stated the public has lost a lot of services that the City provided during the pandemic that has saved the City money and would like to see if there is a way the public can benefit from these savings. Mayor Bhasker replied that these programs are still budgeted and the increase in gross receipt tax funds are above what is budgeted. The Mayor agreed with Councilor Salome that once the programs become active again to improve and expand on them.

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as read by Mayor Bhasker.

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Autumn Martinez – 12-16-20 – Animal Shelter – Completed Probation - A-25 to A-28
Jenelle Partridge – 01-1-21 – Division – Additional Job Duties – F-38 to F-40
Zach Anaya – 01-1-21 – Water Department – Promotion to Customer Service – B-22 to B-32
Richie Chavez – 01-01-21 – Wastewater – Additional Job Duties – I-25 to I-29
Shaun Fernandez – 01-01-21 – Gas Department – Operator II – L-32 to L-34
Rene Perez – 01-01-21 – Gas Department – Additional Job Duties J-39 to J-41
Timothy Gonzales – 01-01-21 – Transportation – Fulltime – CDL – A-27
Malaine Gutierrez – 01-01-21 – Transportation – Fulltime – CDL – A-27
David Chavez – 01-01-21 – Landfill – Fulltime-CDL – A-32
Dustin Aldrich – 01-01-21 – Fire – Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – J-36 to J-47
Mario Amaro – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – W-54 to W-55
Jedi Angel – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – E-46 to E-47
Lawrence Baca – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – X-58 to X-59
Matthew Brannan – 01-01-21 Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – T-54 to T-55
Ignacio Chavez – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – B-33 to B-34
Scott Crespín – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – F-46 to F-47
Mathew Jojola – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – C-41 to C-42
Jon Mcguire – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – C-41 to C-42
Humberto Lucero – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – H-50 to H-51
Daniel Pacheco – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – N-50 to N-51
Michael Padilla – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – B-41 to B-42
Leo Peterson – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – A-35 to A-36
Chris Rodriquez – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – A-33 to A-34
Ricky Silva – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – B-36 to B-37
Gabe Sosa – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – H-50 to H-51
Colton Wheeler – 01-01-21 – Fire - Minimum Wage Salary Adjustment – A-35 to A-36
George Serna – 12-09-20 - Retirement

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

d. Business Registrations

None

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 152281 to 152558 in the amount of \$1,049,432.41 plus Payroll Transfers (\$316,360.88), for a total of \$1,365,793.29. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker asked the Council if they had any comments.

Councilor Salome asked if the Police Department is sufficiently staffed with officers on the street. Mayor Bhasker replied they are 2 officers short.

Councilor Ocampo asked if there is any news on when vaccines will be available. Mayor Bhasker replied that the vaccines are here and are controlled by the hospital.

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Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief reported that the hospitals, NMDOH, and emergency management of each county compiled a list of who receives the vaccine first. Originally, they received a bundle of 70 or 80 vaccines for health care workers and those have been administered. They will be receiving 25 per week for first responders, law enforcement, detention center, and for the public the NMDOH will administer later in the spring. Chief Gonzales agreed with the Mayor that rapid testing is the way to go, his department would be shut down with out it.

f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be on Monday January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. online using GoToMeeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk