

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting  
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801  
January 4, 2021**

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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Gordy Hicks 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 New Mexico Attorney General's Office for teleconference meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 4, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Fleming 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. December 21, 2020**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Home Occupation Permit – Walker Outdoors**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Home Occupation Permit – Walker Outdoors as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 21-01-04 – RUS Loan Resolution**

Ruby Lopez, Financial Director reported that the resolution is for contingencies in the amount of \$540,000.00 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lloyd Martinez, Utilities Director stated this is addendum #2 for the excess amount of the original bid to complete the project.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-01-04 – RUS Loan Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Bid Award – Water Reclamation Facility Improvements**

Tappan Mahoney, President Dennis Engineering Company (DEC) reported that two bids were received from the following:

AUI, Inc. - \$2,246,125.02

RMCI, Inc. - \$2,900,695.31.

After review by DEC and USDA Mr. Mahoney recommended the bid be awarded to AUI, Inc.

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Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Bid Award – Water Reclamation Facility Improvements as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker reported the City of Socorro, New Mexico Tech, and JC Trujillo of Positive Outcomes will provide COVID-19 rapid test for all New Mexico Tech incoming students arriving for the spring semester.

The Mayor encourages everyone to register with the New Mexico Department of Health to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines will be administered at the Youth Center starting in March.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Olguin requested information on the additional amount received monthly from the gross receipts tax increase. The increase went into effect July 1, 2020 for Economic Development purposes. Ruby Lopez, Financial Director replied that it is averaging around \$30,000.00 per month.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Business Registrations**

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

Walker Outdoors – R-1 – 1212 N. Avenida de Chamiso Pl. – Thomas Walker – Home Based Internet Sporting Goods Sales  
Sandra Martinez Designs – R-3 – 612 Nicholas Ave. – Sandra Martinez – Handicrafts Sales  
Rio Grande Orthodontics, LLC – 828 US 60 – Dr. Devan Vest – Orthodontics  
The Nice Speech Lady, LLC – C-2 – 1207 Frontage Rd. NW – Bekah Wilson Nice – Online Speech Therapy

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

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that a Special City Council meeting will be held on Monday January 14, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. online using GoToMeeting. The next regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. online using GoToMeeting.

Mayor Bhasker gave an update on COVID-19.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

