

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 19, 2021**

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

No members were physically present.

Council members remotely present at roll call were: Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Peter Romero 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 New Mexico Attorney General's Office for teleconference meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. January 4, 2021

b. January 14, 2021

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 and January 14, 2021 meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ocampo. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Bid Award – Purchase and Installation of a Security Fence at Eagle Pitcher

Lloyd Martinez, Utilities Director, stated that the bid if approved will be awarded to Enchantment Fences LLC. Chained linked fencing will be constructed around the perimeter of the Eagle Pitcher building.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Bid Award – Purchase and Installation of a Security Fence at Eagle Pitcher as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 21-01-19a – Open Meetings Resolution

c. Resolution No. 21-01-19b – Governing Body Rules of Procedure Resolution

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated the Council adopts Resolution No. 21-01-19a and Resolution No. 21-01-19b at the beginning of each year and after elections.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 21-01-19a and Resolution No. 21-01-19b as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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- d. **Resolution No. 21-01-19c – Purchasing Policy Resolution**
- e. **Resolution No. 21-01-19d – CDBG Certification and Commitments – Exhibit 1-Y**
- f. **Resolution No. 21-01-19e – CDBG Federal Requirements-Exhibit 1-Z**

Mr. Monette stated that Resolution No. 21-01-19c, Resolution No. 21-01-19d, and Resolution No. 21-01-19e are annual Resolutions that are required for CDBG projects.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 21-01-19c, Resolution No. 21-01-19d, and Resolution No. 21-01-19e as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **New Job Descriptions**

Mr. Monette stated that the majority of the job descriptions are aligning the job with the new minimum wage law.

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

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council he was disturbed that 2nd District U.S. Representative Harrell was one of the members of Congress that objected to the election of President Biden. In his opinion this is due from misinformation that has been passed around about fraud in the election and has not been proven by any evidence. The Mayor will draft a personal letter to Representative Harrell expressing his disapproval by the next Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker also invited Council members to sign the letter, should they so choose.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Hicks inquired about abandoned houses on Spring St. and College St. Mr. Monette and Chief Mike Winders addressed Councilor Hicks' concerns.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council of a meeting with Representative Gail Armstrong and Senator Siah Correa Hemphill for the City's request for Capital Outlay funding.

The Mayor explained that the grant agreement for last year's State Appropriation of \$350,000.00 for Finley Complex was finally executed by the City on January 14, 2021.

The following will be requested in this year's Legislative Session.

1. Reappropriate prior legislative appropriation for Finley Complex in the amount of \$350,000.00 to the Convention Center Project.
2. Request an additional \$200,000.00 for the Convention Center Project
3. \$350,000.00 for the Finley Complex Project.
4. \$150,000.00 to complete the purchase, installation and crossover to Tyler financial software.
5. \$3,000,000.00 to make repairs/upgrades to EMRTC bridge.
6. \$200,000.00 for City street projects.
7. \$100,000.00 for COVID-19 rapid testing.

Mayor Bhasker gave the Council an update on COVID-19

Councilor Ocampo announced that Socorro Consolidated Schools have partnered with New Mexico Tech to begin an early college high school program. This would allow a high school student to

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graduate high school with two years of college classes. Councilor Ocampo thanked Mayor Bhasker for the City's support.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Valen Alonzo – 02-01-21 – Admin – General Ledger Clerk Promotion – H-26 to H-40

Rena Benavidez – 02-01-21 – Admin - Additional Job Duties – B-28 to B-29

Kristy Padilla – 02-01-21 – Admin – Probation Review – P-47 to P-49

Ignacio Chavez – 01-01-21 – Fire – EMT-B License – B-34 to B-37

Violet Alvarado – 02-01-21 – Library – Minimum Wage Variance – L-24 to L-30

Carol Hale – 02-01-21 – Library - Minimum Wage Variance – N-28 to N-32

Tiara Jojola – 02-01-21 – library - Minimum Wage Variance – C-21 to C-26

Maribel Tarango – 02-01-21 - Minimum Wage Variance – G-22 to G-26

Alvaro Alvarado – 01-19-21 – Parks – Temp to Permanent Full time – A-24

Sebastian Alvarado – 01-19-21 – Parks - Minimum Wage Variance – D-21 to D-27

Kevin Gonzales – 01-19-21 – Parks - Minimum Wage Variance & Addition Job Duties – F-31 to F-33

Ryan Lopez – 01-19-21 – Parks – Temp to Permanent Full Time – A-24

John Silva – 01-19-21 – Parks - Minimum Wage Variance & Addition Job Duties – T-33 to T-35

John Patrick Silva Jr. – 01-19-21 Parks - Minimum Wage Variance – C-21 to C-27

Regina Valencia – 02-01-21 – Recreation - Minimum Wage Variance – F-20 to F-27

Joel Martinez – 01-19-21 – Road – Temp to Permanent Full Time – A-26

Jilberto Chavez – 01-01-21 – Sanitation – Completed Probation – A-26 to A-28

Corey Sanchez – 01-19-21 – Water - Minimum Wage Variance & Additional Job Duties – I-32 to I-34

Nancy Silva – 01-15-21 – Dispatch - Resignation

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

b. Voucher Run

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 152599 to 152709 in the amount of \$584,673.64 plus Payroll Transfers (\$338,289.46), for a total of \$922,963.10. 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 on Monday February 1, 2021 at 12:00 Noon using GoToMeeting online.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

