

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 15, 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., 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 New Mexico Attorney General's Office for teleconference meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 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. March 1, 2021

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance 19-08-05 – (Amendment B) Loan Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements & Improvements to the Wastewater Collection System

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Fleming made a motion that with no input from the public to go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Dean joined meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Publication of Ordinance 19-08-05 – (Amendment B) Loan Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements & Improvements to the Wastewater Collection System. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Memorandum of Understanding – Socorro County for Animal Shelter Services

Guadalupe (Lupe) Tarango, Animal Shelter/Dispatch Director reported that the MOU is to

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intake animals from the unincorporated areas of Socorro County. The MOU does not include the Village of Magdalena. The fee Schedule has been updated to take care of boarding of animals, shots, veterinary care, and euthanizations.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding – Socorro County for Animal Shelter Services as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Resolution #17 – Street Improvement

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director informed the Council Budget Resolution #17 is needed to allow for funding for the Bullock Project Construction and Engineering expenditures.

c. Budget Resolution #18 – Industrial Park

Ms. Lopez reported Budget Resolution #18 is for the increase needed to allow for removal of barrels per the New Mexico Environmental Department.

d. Budget Resolution #19 – Airport

Ms. Lopez reported Budget Resolution #19 is for the increase needed to allow for the Airport maintenance grant and expenditures.

e. Budget Resolution #20 – CDBG

Ms. Lopez reported Budget Resolution #20 is for increase needed to allow CDBG Cuba Road Project funds and expenditures in the amount of \$750,000.00.

f. Budget Resolution #21 – INR Loan

Ms. Lopez reported Budget Resolution #21 is needed to allow Gross Receipt Tax intercept for the New Mexico Finance Authority infrastructure loan.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions #17 through #21 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief informed the Council a grant was applied for last year for a new ambulance and the ambulance was delivered today. Chief Gonzales reported that 1500 vaccines were administered from Thursday March 4th through March 11th and another 700-vaccine event coming up this weekend. Chief Gonzales thanked all participants making the vaccine events possible, The Socorro Fire Department, Socorro County, New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico Tech, and volunteers.

Councilor Hicks joined the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker thanked Chief Gonzales and all members of the Fire Department for their hard work during the vaccine events.

Lloyd Martinez, Utilities Director reported that all parks are open and are accepting reservations for parties as long as COVID-19 protocols are followed.

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The Production Department received a new \$300,000.00 Vactor Truck. The Bullock project has started from California Street towards Lopezville Rd. Wastewater Treatment Plant project meeting is scheduled to discuss starting the project.

Councilor Olguin reported that Park Street before High School Road on the south bound lane there are several utility cuts that have settled making divots and deep holes in the road. Southbound traffic is traveling in the northbound lane to avoid driving through the bad part of the road. Councilor Olguin also asked if there could be a police presence in the area now that high school and athletics have started to cut down on speeding.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker reported that the 1.9 trillion-dollar COVID relief package has been approved and the City of Socorro is in line to receive 1.9 million dollars and Socorro County 750 thousand dollars. A representative of US Representative Yvette Herrell will meet with the City tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Councilors are invited to attend. The City will have a teleconference with Finley Engineering on the broadband feasibility study.

The City held a mediation session on February 24, 2021 with the Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) representatives in hope to settle the lawsuit SEC filed against the City. SEC was allowed until March 12th to hold a special Board meeting to for a vote on accepting or rejecting the agreed upon mediation offer(s). As of this meeting, the City has not received any information as to the SEC Board's decision. A lengthy discussion followed.

a. Committees List Update

Mayor Bhasker stated that Jon Morrison has been nominated as a new member to the Library Board and has accepted the nomination. The Council will be asked for a formal appointment at the next City Council meeting. The Mayor asked the Council if they have any suggestions for filling other vacancies.

b. Job Description – Technician I – Water Production and Wastewater Collection Department

Lloyd Martinez, Utility Director stated the job description is aligning the job with the new minimum wage law.

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

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

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Felix Saavedra, Jr. – 03/15/2021 – Production – Promotion to Production and Collections
Foreman – R-38 to R-41

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

d. Business Registrations

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker.

Enchantment Fences, LLC – Albuquerque, NM – Kamil Ozhan – Construction

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

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 152894 to 153112 in the amount of \$1,484,859.11 plus Payroll Transfers \$321,217.93, for a total of \$1,806,077.04. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

f. Announcement – Next City council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be a on Monday April 5, 2021 at 12:00 Noon using GoToMeeting online.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk