

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 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., 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 APRIL 19, 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. April 5, 2021**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Due to a City related emergency, Councilor Hicks left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Senator Siah Correa Hemphill gave an update of the 2021 New Mexico State Legislative session. The Senator thanked the City for its leadership during the pandemic in leading the state in recovery.

Mayor Bhasker expressed his concerns with the sick leave bill and the New Mexico Environmental Department over groundwater contamination along California Street. The Mayor gave the Senator a progress report of the broadband feasibility study.

The Senator thanked Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief for his help with the vaccine clinics. Mr. Gonzales reported 5200 vaccinations have been done by the Socorro Fire Department, Socorro County Emergency, New Mexico Department of Health, and many volunteers of retired doctors, nurses and New Mexico Tech Students. Chief Gonzales thanked the Senator and Lieutenant Governor Howey Morales for their help in the last vaccination clinic.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL**

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

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to go into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

a. **Resolution No. 21-04-19 – Local Government Road Fund Program Administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation**

Donald Monette, City Administrator advised the Council the Local Government Road Fund Grant was applied for last year and was intended for West Spring Street toward the Fire Academy and bus route loop. The City has some funds for the Western Hills project, but not enough for completion. This resolution is asking the New Mexico Department of Transportation to move the funds from West Spring Street project to the Western Hills project.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-04-19 – Local Government Road Fund Program Administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. **Discussion – Participation in Council of Governments**

Mayor Bhasker stated that Councilor Hicks is the representative to the South-Central Council of Governments and was called away from the meeting on an emergency. As such, the Mayor would like to postpone the discussion until the next City Council Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Romero asked when events will resume at the City of Socorro Rodeo and Sports Complex. The Mayor reported that New Mexico Tech will hold graduation ceremonies in May and until a Director is hired and the Department fully staffed events are still on hold.

Mayor Bhasker reported on a complaint received from a resident on Padilla Street about a noise problem. The Mayor reported no City ordinance is being violated and asked the Councilors if they have any suggestions.

The Mayor stated the sewer project is on hold due to a well along California Street contaminated with gas from stations that were in business years ago. Dewatering needs to take place from the contaminated well and the water cannot be pumped safely. The City is waiting on New Mexico Environmental Department's recommendations.

The draft Feasibility study for broadband service has been received by the City and other stakeholders.

Councilor Hick returned to the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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Councilor Ocampo reported the Recreations Committee met and had discussions on the expectation of a new Recreation Director and the quality of the programs for the youth and adults to be provided. Mr. Monette stated the Recreation Director position will be advertised by the end of May.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

Mayor Bhasker reported in open session on two legal matters.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

Camryn Sager – 04/19/2021 – Dispatch – Completed Probation – A-27 to A-29  
Andrew Garcia-Vigil – 04/19/2021 – Dispatch – Completed Probation – A-27 to A-29  
Waylon Billie – 04/19/2021 – Water, Production & Wastewater– CDL – A-28 to A-30  
Chris Sedillo – 04/19/2021 – Streets – Completed Probation – A-26 to A-28  
Wallace Gonzales – 04/19/2021 – Streets – Completed Probation – A-26 to A-28  
Joe Rodriguez – 04/12/2021 – Police - Resignation

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

**b. Business Registrations**

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

Mineral Exploration Location Services, LLC – C-2 – 203 Manzanares Ave. – Mel Stairs – Mineral Sales & Education  
Citrus Ramirez – Transient Vendor – Imelda Marrufo de Ramirez – Produce

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

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 153113 to 153295 in the amount of \$886,291.66 plus Payroll Transfers \$311,633.37, for a total of \$1,197,925.03. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Announcement – Next City council Meeting Date and Time**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be a on Tuesday May 4, 2021 at 12:00 Noon using GoToMeeting online.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 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**