

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 7, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Nick Fleming 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 JUNE 7, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Hicks 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. May 17, 2021**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Dr. Jayant Kumar of Sandhill Dialysis Center thanked Mayor Bhasker and the City of Socorro for all the help provided to the Sandhill Dialysis Center in the past. Dr. Kumar stated that the Dialysis Center is not operating on a complete schedule, closing on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays because of shortage of healthcare workers and funds to run the clinic. Mayor Bhasker and Councilor Salome advised Dr. Kumar of possible funding sources.

Municipal Judge Frances Cases recognized Chief Clerk Barbara Scarborough, who will retire on June 30, 2021, for her 28 years of service with the court. Ms. Scarborough thanked the City of Socorro and Judge Cases.

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

**a. Ordinance 21-06-07 – LEDA Grant – Capitol Bar & Brewery**

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

Louise Marquez, New Mexico Economic Development Department Region 5 Representative informed the Council the Capitol Bar & Brewery will receive \$50,000 for a remodel and expansion project that will create 6 permanent full-time jobs.

Councilor Salome wanted clarification of the Claw Back penalty. Ms. Marquez replied if the Capitol Bar & Brewery does not achieve what is expected in the agreement, funds will revert back to the State.

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 7, 2021**

Earl DeBrine owner of the Capitol Bar addressed the Council stating the idea of a brewery came about during the pandemic when bars were shut down, but breweries could operate. Mr. DeBrine informed the Council that this year will be the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Capitol Bar. Mr. DeBrine also inquired about parking in front of the Bar being changed from parallel to diagonal. Mayor Bhasker stated the City would look into the request.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-06-07 – LEDA Grant – Capitol Bar & Brewery. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salome. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

a. **Public Hearing – Small Brewer Liquor License Application – Capitol Bar & Brewery**

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

Mayor Bhasker asked what services the Brewery will provide. Mr. DeBrine stated presently the bar will brew 5,000 gallons a year for consumption within the premises.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salome. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

b. **Council Action on Small Brewer’s Liquor License Application**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Small Brewer Liquor License Application – Capitol Bar & Brewery as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

c. **ICIP – Public Hearing**

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

Councilor Hicks 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.

d. **Resolution No. 21-06-07 – Municipal Election**

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk informed the Council that because the City has opted into the Local Election Act, Resolution No. 21-06-07 – Municipal Election is to inform the Socorro County Clerk of the upcoming Municipal Election on November 2, 2021, to elect four Council positions and one Municipal Judge.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-06-07 – Municipal Election. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 7, 2021**

**e. Resolution No. 21-06-07B – Condemning Sands Motel**

Mayor Bhasker stated Resolution No. 21-06-07B is to condemn the Sands Motel. The Resolution would allow the City to legally proceed to have a remedy to clean the building and lot that are a major problem to public health, safety, and crime. The City has exhausted every possible avenue with the owner to rehabilitate the problem and is now following New Mexico Statutes regarding condemnation.

Councilor Salome asked what options does the Sands Motel have? Mayor Bhasker replied that a letter was sent to the owner outlining the police calls, Public and Councilors complaints, unauthorized people inside the building with drugs, and trash at the property. The owner of the building has been asked to secure the building and give the City any plans of improvement. Mr. Monette stated that the Resolution contained the provision by which the owner could appeal any Council decision to condemn.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-06-07B – Condemning Sands Motel. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Transfer Title of Land to Socorro Vista, LLLP**

Mayor Bhasker congratulated Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Managing General Partner of Socorro Vista, LLLP for all the work in successfully getting the project awarded.

Ms. Chavez-Lopez introduced Jenn Lopez, Project Moxie President and Jeff Curry, Director of Development JL Green.

Jenn Lopez presented a Power Point presentation of the history of the project to the Council.

Donald Monette, City Administrator explained to the Council that after approval of the transfer title of the land, a resolution will be presented to the Council to deed the land.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Transfer Title of Land to Socorro Vista, LLLP. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed with Councilor Chavez-Lopez abstaining.

**g. Land Sale Request – Sammy Vivian – Hwy 60 West**

Mr. Monette stated the no revenue lease expired in 2014 and Mr. Vivian has approached the City to purchase the land. An appraisal dated May 10, 2021, valued the property at \$20,000.00. If approved to move forward, an ordinance will be presented to the Council depicting all the details of the purchase, including any costs to expand utilities.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Land Sale Request – Sammy Vivian – Hwy 60 West. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker gave the Council an update on the Broadband Feasibility Study.

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 7, 2021**

Councilor Olguin asked if the City is opening all the parks and if clean up has been done. Lloyd Martinez, Utility Director, informed Councilor Olguin that inspection of the equipment has been done and all parks are open.

Councilor Salome suggested that all organizations that request and receive City funds should give the Council an update of what the organization has done for the community. Mayor Bhasker replied the organization should be placed on the agenda so they can report their success and what is needed in the future. The Mayor stated that a letter information the organizations receiving funds will have the opportunity to be placed on a City Council agenda, preferably quarterly, and will be expected to update the Council and Mayor on their achievements.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Job Descriptions**

- i. Rodeo & Sports Complex Grounds Technician
- ii. Rodeo & Sports Complex Grounds Crewman

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

**b. Landfill Committee Appointments**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that there was a regional Landfill Committee that was comprised of two from the City, two from the County, and one from Magdalena Village. Michael Hawkes, County Manager suggested it be put on the agenda to fill the positions. Mayor Bhasker added that this is an advisory committee only.

**c. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

James McNeil – 06/01/2021 – Recreation – New Hire – Recreation Director – A-45  
Brittany McDaniel – 07/01/2021 – Municipal Court – Promotion to Chief Court Clerk – H-35 to H-41  
Ruby Lopez – 07/01/2021 – Administration – Salary Chart Adjustment – K-71  
Donald Monette – 07/01/2021 – Administration – Salary Chart Adjustment – F-98  
Leopoldo Pineda – 07/01/2021 – Administration – Salary Chart Adjustment – H-65  
Mike Winders – 07/01/2021 – Police - Salary Chart Adjustment – V-66  
Lloyd Martinez – 07/01/2021 – Water/Wastewater - Salary Chart Adjustment – KZ-75  
Mike Lucero – 07/01/2021 – Landfill - Salary Chart Adjustment – N-63  
Joe Gonzales – 07/01/2021 - Salary Chart Adjustment – T-74  
Barbara Scarborough – 06/30/2021 – Municipal court – Retirement  
Sebastian Alvarado – 05/28/2021 – Parks – Resignation

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 7, 2021**

Tiara Jojola – 0526/2021 Library - Resignation

Councilor Ocampo expressed his excitement of having recreation opening up for the youth and every age group of Socorro.

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

Mayor Bhasker extended an invitation to the Council to meet with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 12:30 pm at City Hall.

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be a on Monday June 21, 2021, at 12:00 Noon using GoToMeeting online.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk**