

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 21, 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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez 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 21, 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. June 7, 2021**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Public Hearing – ICIP Input**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Romero. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Donald Monette, City Administrator stated that the City is currently working on its ICIP and asked anyone who would like a project added to the ICIP to present their information to the City for consideration. Mr. Monette asked the Mayor and City Council to consider which projects they would like to see as the top five priorities.

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

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**b. Bid Award – Water Parts**

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk stated that bids for water parts were opened on June 1, 2021.

Mr. Pineda recommended that the bids be awarded to:

Water & Sewer Line Pipe – Ferguson Waterworks  
Repair Clamps & Couplings – Baker Utility Supply  
Brass Fittings – Baker Utility Supply  
Meters – Baker Utility Supply  
Meter Setters – Baker Utility Supply  
Water Fittings – Baker Utility Supply  
Fire Hydrants – Baker Utility Supply  
Sewer Fittings & Supplies – Ferguson Waterworks

Mr. Pineda stated that water parts go out for bid every 6 months. Mr. Pineda stated that the full dollar amounts of the bid will not be expended but rather only the parts that are actually needed will be ordered.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid to the vendors listed above. Seconded by Councilor Hicks. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimous.

**c. Resolution No. 20-12-07 – Housing Land Transfer-Reaffirmation**

Mr. Monette stated that at the last meeting the Council was informed that an ordinance was needed to transfer the land. Mr. Monette informed the Council an ordinance is not needed and would like the Council to reaffirm Resolution No. 20-12-07. If the Council approves a deed will be signed and the land transferred.

Councilor Romero motioned to Reaffirm Resolution No. 20-12-07 – Housing Land Transfer-Reaffirmation as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Resolution No. 21-06-21 – LGRF Extension**

Mr. Monette informed the Council the resolution is a request for an extension for work planned on West Spring Street.

**e. Resolution No. 21-06-21B – Police Raises 2021**

Mr. Monette stated police raises are to keep the department in line with other municipalities and jurisdiction.

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**f. Resolution No. 21-06-21C – MRGCD**

Mr. Monette stated this is to encourage and support the City of Socorro and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's efforts to develop, construct and maintain a long-term solution to manage stormwater in the City of Socorro.

**g. Resolution No. 21-06-21D – Application for Financial Assistance – NMFA**

Mr. Monette informed the Council the resolution is to apply for a street sweeper.

**h. Resolution No. 01A-001 – Ambulance Write Off FY21**

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Resolution No. 01A-001- Ambulance Write Off FY21 which, if approved, removes uncollectible ambulance accounts from 2015, in the amount of \$123,215.67, from the City's list of accounts.

The Mayor requested in the future, accounts outside of the city limits be reported separately.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve:

Resolution No. 21-06-21 – LGRF Extension

Resolution No. 21-06-21B – Police Raises 2021

Resolution No. 21-06-21C – MRGCD

Resolution No. 21-06-21D – Application for Financial Assistance - NMFA

Resolution No. 01A-001 – Ambulance Write Off FY21.

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimous.

**i. In-House Budget Resolution #101**

**j. In-House Budget Resolution #102**

**k. In-House Budget Resolution #103**

Ms. Lopez informed the Council the purpose of each In-House Budget Resolution.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolution #101 through #103. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**l. Budget Resolution #22 – Sedillo Park Renovation**

**m. Budget Resolution #23 – Lodgers Tax Fund 214**

**n. Budget Resolution #24 – Lodgers Tax Fund 215**

**o. Budget Resolution #25 – Recreation Fund**

**p. Budget Resolution #26 – Municipal Street Fund**

**q. Budget Resolution #27 – Convention Center Fund**

**r. Budget Resolution #28 – JT Enterprise Fund Gas Department**

**s. Budget Resolution #29 – JT Enterprise Fund Gas Department**

**t. Budget Resolution #30 – JT Enterprise Fund Water Department**

**u. Budget Resolution #31 – JT Enterprise Fund Water Department**

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- v. **Budget Resolution #32 – JT Enterprise Fund Wastewater Department**
- w. **Budget Resolution #33 – JT Enterprise Fund Street Improvement**
- x. **Budget Resolution #34 – Infrastructure Loan Fund**
- y. **Budget Resolution #35 – Special Utility Replacement Fund Landfill**

Ms. Lopez informed the Council the purpose of each Budget Resolution.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution #22 through #35. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

- z. **Socorro Public Library Policy Manual Revision 2021**

Chelsea Jones, Library Director presented the updated Library Policy Manual Revision 2021. Ms. Jones gave the Council a report of upcoming events and Tax Help New Mexico.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Socorro Public Library Policy Manual Revision 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Romero made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Hicks. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker reported out of executive session the discussion of three legal matters. No action was taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- a. **Job Description – Mechanic and Fleet Services Director**

Mr. Monette stated Tom Stidstone has been employed over 25 years as head mechanic and it would be appropriate to move him to the position of director.

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

**b. City Ordinance 26-3 Fire Chief Hiring Process Discussion**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council Fire Chief Joe Gonzales will be retiring in September. The Mayor appointed Lawrence Baca as Acting Fire Chief in the interim. A permanent Fire Chief will be selected following the guidelines set forth in Ordinance 26-3 - Fire Chief Hiring Process.

**c. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Lupe Tarango – 06/15/2021 – Dispatch/Animal Shelter – Excellent Work Performance – O-52 to O-60

James McNeil – 06/15/2021 – Recreation – Recreation/Tourism Director – A-45 to A-59

Lawrence Baca – 07/01/2021 – Fire – Promotion to Acting Fire Chief – Y-59 to Y-70

Mario Amaro – 07/01/2021 – Fire – Promotion to Senior Captain – W-55 to W-59

Daniel Pacheco – 07/01/2021 – Fire – Promotion to Captain – N-51 to N-55

Dustin Aldrich – 07/01/2021 – Fire – Promotion to Lieutenant – J-47 to J-51

Chris Rodriquez – 07/01/2021 – Fire – EMT-Basic Certification/Completed Probation – B-39 to B-42

Leo Peterson -07/01/2021 – Fire – Completed Probation – B-36 to B-37

Luis Chavez – 06/21/2021 – Police – Promotion to Captain – T-51 to T-53

Kenneth Greenwood – 06/21/2021 – Police – Payroll Correction – W-52 to W-53

Peter Gonzales – 06/21/2021 – Police – Promotion to Lieutenant – H-49 to H-51

Michael Chavez – 06/21/2021 – Police – Promotion to Corporal – G-46 to G-47

Tom Stidstone – 07/01/2021 – Auto Maintenance – Promotion To Mechanic & fleet Services Director – Y-53 to Y-55

Michael Perrault – 06/22/2021 – Police – Resignation

Joe Gonzales – 09/01/2021 – Fire – Retirement

Taylor Saavedra – 07/01/2021 – Rodeo/Tourism – Additional Job Duties – A-27

Alexis Utz – 06/22/2021 – Tourism/Rec./Conv. Center – New Hire – A-37

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

**d. Business Registrations**

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

Big Mike's Mobile – Out of Town – Bosque Farms, NM – Chris Montano – Food Truck  
ION Developer, LLC – Out of Town – Provo, Utah – Dave Rasmussen – Service Solar  
Contractor

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Western Technologies, Inc – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – James Warne III – Professional Services

Bogan Brothers Painting Company, Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Phil Chyunoweth – Painting Subcontractor

Indigo Organics, LLC – Out of Town – Veguita, NM – Alexis Trujillo – Farming & Agriculture

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

**e. Voucher Run**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 153478 to 153702 in the amount of \$1,906,676.20 plus Payroll Transfers \$318,713.95, for a total of \$2,225,390.15. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Procedures for in-Person Meetings and Accessing City Facilities**

Mayor Bhasker stated the first in-person Council meeting will be July 26, 2021. If attendees are vaccinated, masks will not be required. If attendees are not vaccinated, masks will be required and social distancing protocols must be followed.

**g. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date & Time**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

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