

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
December 6, 2021

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk took roll call.

Council members present at roll call were: Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Damian Ocampo, and Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr. were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. November 15, 2021

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORM

Savannah Morris and Chris Rottman, Prevention Coalition coordinators introduced Orion Rottman and Rose Valenzuela as Socorro High School core ambassadors along with their sponsor Carl Quintana. The program will help bring information and a true perspective back to the core team to help prevent substance abuse.

Ms. Morris stated that tobacco education regarding tobacco sales was presented to 15 establishments around the city with the help from the Socorro Police Department.

Rebe Feraldi, Environmental Chemist informed the Council a community advisory group for the Eagle Pitcher Superfund Site has been established. Ms. Feraldi, President of the advisory group, extended an invitation to the Mayor and Council to meetings to be held every second Thursday of each month. The group, in cooperation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) will provide the community with up-to-date information about cleanup processes.

Mayor Bhasker stated the City has been working on this for over 15 years, with the City paying the EPA \$250,000.00 in the first year, for a fine levied on the City. Mayor Bhasker stated there has been very little communication since that time.

The Mayor appreciated the efforts of the group and offered support from the City.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Fireworks Work Session

Robert Vaughn addressed the Council on the two items on the petition he would like to see changed on the City's current fireworks ordinance.

1. Types of fireworks allowed, specifically banning aerial display devices and ground audible devices at all times.
2. A calendar restriction around specified holidays during which permissible fireworks are allowed.

After a long discussion Mayor Bhasker stated he would like to bring back a proposal for the Council's consideration that includes the following:

1. Types of fireworks
2. The window when fireworks can be used
3. Fines for the illegal use of fireworks

Mr. Vaughn emphasized this is for the consideration of the use of fireworks, not the sales of the fireworks.

b. 2021 Audit Presentation – Robert Peixotto, CPA, Southwest Accounting Solutions, LLC

Robert Peixotto, CPA, Southwest Account Solutions, LLC presented the 2021 City of Socorro's annual audit. Mr. Peixotto reported that the City's overall financial health is economically healthy. The City has 7 months of cash to support expenses. Overall, the City has a very strong management team and a great Financial Director. The City is a healthy operation and there is no need for rate increases in the near future. No findings on this audit.

Mr. Peixotto said that it is rare to have a report with no findings and this is the third year in a row. Again, Mr. Peixotto congratulated the staff, Mayor and Council for letting staff do their job and setting the tone for the direction of the organization and having good quality employees to carry out that tone and vision.

Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Peixotto, Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, Councilor Fleming and the Finance Committee, and staff for a job well done.

c. Resolution No. 21-12-06 – Acceptance and Approval of the FY20 Audit

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-12-06 – Acceptance and Approval of the FY20 Audit. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Salome. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Code Enforcement Officer Swearing In

Mayor Bhasker stated he has appointed Lawrence Montano as Code Enforcement Officer in the City of Socorro for the purpose of investigating and enforcing the Code Enforcement Ordinances.

Mr. Montano recited the oath on becoming a Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Socorro.

Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Montano is a certified police officer which enables him to write his own citations.

The Mayor and Council congratulated Mr. Montano on his appointment.

Lawrence Baca, Fire Chief reported that Socorro Fire Department Annual Matanza raised over \$7,000.00. This amount was \$1,800.00 more than the Matanza held last year. Mr. Baca stated the proceeds will benefit 70 children at \$100.00 per child. Mr. Baca thanked everyone that supported and helped with the Matanza.

Mayor Bhasker reported the city received \$10,000 from the Community Kitchen bringing their rental space account at Finley Complex up to date.

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b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Name	Effective Date	Department/Position	Reason for Change	Salary
Maureen Trujillo	1/1/2022	Administration	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Alena Gachupin	1/1/2022	Administration	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Adam C. Lopez	1/1/2022	Parks	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Steven Chavez	1/1/2022	Parks	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Conor McFadden	1/1/2022	Library	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Austin Smythe	1/1/2022	Streets	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Curtis Sedillo	1/1/2022	Recreation	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Daryl Ross	1/1/2022	Recreation	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Carlos Benavidez	1/1/2022	Recreation	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Donivin Gonzales	1/1/2022	Recreation	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Jordan Torres	1/1/2022	Recreation	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Jason P. Padilla	1/1/2022	Summer Youth	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Analyz A. Alderete	1/1/2022	Summer Youth	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Angel Garcia	1/1/2022	Summer Youth	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Patrick Woods	1/1/2022	Summer Youth	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Enrique Robles	1/1/2022	Landfill	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Leroy Ganadonegro	1/1/2022	Landfill	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Albert Olguin	1/1/2022	Landfill	Minimum Wage Increase	\$10.50 to \$11.50
Julie Hurtgen	1/1/2022	Animal Shelter	Salary Adjustment	A-24 to A-26 (\$11.79)
Justin Lopez	1/1/2022	Animal Shelter	Salary Adjustment	D-24 to D-26 (\$12.11)
Dustin Aldrich	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	K-51 to K-53 (\$18.02)
Mario E. Amaro	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	X-59 to X-61 (\$26.46)
Jedi Angel	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	F-51 to F-53 (\$17.19)
Joshua Armijo	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-34 to A-38 (\$11.63)
Lawrence A. Baca	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	Y-70 to Y-72 (\$43.25)
Ignacio Chavez	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	C-37 to C-39 (\$12.12)
Jason Hatch	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-34 to A-38 (\$11.63)
Stephen M. Jojola	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	D-42 to D-44 (\$13.71)
Humberto Lucero	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	I-55 to I-57 (\$19.42)
Daniel Pacheco	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	O-55 to O-57 (\$20.56)
Michael Padilla	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	C-42 to C-44 (\$13.58)
Leo A. Petersen	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	B-37 to B-39 (\$12.01)
Christopher Rodriguez-Ulibarri	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	B-42 to B-44 (\$13.46)
Ricky Silva	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	C-37 to C-39 (\$12.12)
Gabriel Sosa-Alvarado	1/1/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	I-51 to I-53 (\$17.69)
Joe Melendrez	1/1/2022	Production/Division Director	Additional Job Duties	T-47 to T-60 (\$30.66)
James Hollis	1/1/2022	Production/Tech II	Completed Probation	A-26 to A-28 (\$12.33)
Keven Chavez	1/1/2022	Parks/Crewman	Minimum Wage Adjustment	A-26 to A-28 (\$12.33)
Sergio Cuevas	1/1/2022	Street Department/Operator I	Promotion to Driver II	F-30 to F-32 (\$14.09)
Joel Martinez	1/1/2022	Street Department/Operator I	Additional Job Duties	A-28 to A-30 (\$12.89)
John Patrick Silva	1/1/2022	Parks/Crewman	Promotion to Customer Service	D-29 to D-33 (\$14.15)
Joseph Williams	11/23/2021	Police	Termination	
Gonzalo Lopez	11/9/2021	Police	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

