

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 15, 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 Deborah Dean, Councilor Damien Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Peter Romero

Council members remotely present were: Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Nick Fleming, and Councilor Gordy Hicks, were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. November 1, 2021

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORM

Robert Vaughn presented the Council with a petition containing 179 signatures requesting the City council to pass an ordinance restricting the use of fireworks in the city limits similar to most other municipalities in New Mexico. Mr. Vaughn would like the following restrictions included in the ordinance.

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

After a long discussion Mayor Bhasker requested a public session be put on the next Council's meeting.

Stewart Roache inquired about using Finley Gym for Yoga. Mayor Bhasker invited Ms. Roache to meet at the Mayor's office to discuss further.

Councilor Fleming arrived at 6:26 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. BLM/State Land Office – The Box Presentation

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Craig Johnson, Outdoor Recreation Director gave a presentation to the Council pertaining to a possible lease to the City for the use of the Socorro Box. Mr. Johnson stated the Box is a popular area for bouldering and hiking. The lease would be for approximately 60 acres of land with the term from 5 to 40 years. The lease is negotiable depending on the amount of land and planned improvements and intensity of use.

James McNeil, Recreation Director explained how the City would use the Box if the City was to enter into a lease.

Scott Roberts, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator at New Mexico Tech, stated that the State Trust Land along, with the City and New Mexico Tech participation, could open up more opportunity for outdoor recreation in the area.

Mayor Bhasker stated the City will submit an application for the lease of the Box to further the process and determine its feasibility.

b. Resolution No. 21-11-15a – LGRF – Adding Additional Street to Scope M700028

Donald Monette, City Administrator, informed the Council that if approved, this action would move the remaining funding from Bullock Avenue to the following streets.

- Bullock Avenue from Lopezville to California Street
- College Avenue from Leroy Place to California Street
- Francisco de Avondo from El Camino Real to California Street
- El Camino Real from college Avenue to Bullock Avenue

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-11-15a – LGRF – Adding Additional Street to Scope M700028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 21-11-15b – Accept Transfer of Land from Socorro Vista LLLP and to Transfer Land to Socorro Vista LLLP for Multifamily Rental Housing Development

Mr. Monette explained to the Council that Socorro Vista LLLP cannot acquire the land the City had transferred to them until an environmental assessment has been performed. Mr. Monette furthered explained once the environmental assessment has been completed, the land would be transferred back as intended in Resolution No. 20-12-07.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-11-15b – Accept Transfer of Land from Socorro Vista LLLP and to Transfer Land to Socorro Vista LLLP for Multifamily Rental Housing Development. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Code Enforcement Officer Swearing In

Postponed until the next City Council Meeting.

b. Appointment to Police Oversight Commission

Mayor Bhasker appointed Fred Berger to fill the empty position on the Police Oversight Commission.

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the appointment of Fred Berger to the Police Oversight Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Socorrofest Committee Update

Mayor Bhasker named Councilor Dean to head the Socorrofest Committee.

d. Business Registrations

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

Dewey Enterprises, LLC – Out of Town– Bosquecito, NM – Casey Dewey –
Electrical Contractor

Huskey & Earl's Landscaping – Out of Town – Alamo, NM – Huskie & Earl Monte –
Landscaping

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 154496 to 154687 in the amount of \$1,339,575.37 plus Payroll Transfers \$393,594.33, for a total of \$1,570,449.58.

Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council Councilor Hicks is doing better and currently at the Hearth Hospital in Albuquerque.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk