

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**November 1, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Gordy Hicks, and Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr. were absent

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. October 18, 2021**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting as presented with changes as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORM**

The following citizens spoke in favor of the Socorrofest continuing as a yearly event in the Plaza.

- Valentine Anaya
- Gary Axen
- Gayle Miller
- Dave Thomas
- Jim Ruff
- David Chavez
- Val Thomas
- Frances Deters
- Joanna DeBrine
- Martha Cather
- Theresa Apodaca
- Rob Lopez

Councilor Dean thanked the volunteers and musicians for attending to give support for Socorrofest.

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**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr. arrived at 6:51 p.m.

**a. Retirement – Joe Gonzales – Fire Department**

Mayor Bhasker congratulated City of Socorro Fire Chief Joe Gonzales on his retirement of 42 years and one month of service. Mayor Bhasker, the City Council, and newly appointed Fire Chief Lawrence Baca thanked Mr. Gonzales for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

Mr. Gonzales was present to receive his plaque and thanked the Mayor, City Council staff, and his spouse, Mrs. Vickie Gonzales.

**b. Small Business Proclamation**

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring November 27, 2021 as Small Business Saturday.

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

- a. Ordinance 21-11-01 – Authorizing the issuance of the \$6,424,000 City of Socorro, New Mexico Joint Utility System Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 in two series in the principal amounts of (i) \$4,950,000 Joint Utility System Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2021a, and (ii) \$1,474,000 Joint Utility System Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2021b, for the purpose of acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing or otherwise improving the Wastewater Collection System**

Councilor Salome made a motion to go into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Chris Muirhead, Bond Attorney with Modrall Sperling explained Ordinance No. 21-11-01, if approved is, for the issuance of \$6,424,000 City of Socorro New Mexico Joint Utility System Improvement bonds.

Councilor Salome made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 21-11-01. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Home Occupation Permit – Joseph Cordova**

**b. Home Occupation Permit – James Green**

Kristy Padilla, Planning and Zoning Manager gave the Council information on both Home Occupation Permits.

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Councilor Romero motioned to approve Home Occupation Permits for Joseph Cordova and James Green. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Resolution No. 21-11-01a – Change of Route and Termini L100462**

**d. Resolution No. 21-11-01b – Change of Route and Termini L100519**

Donald Monette, City Administrator, informed the Council this is the MAP and Local Government Road Fund originally approved for the Spring Street improvement project and asking the Department of Transportation to move the funds for the design, pavement rehabilitation for the following streets:

- College Avenue from Leroy Place to California Street
- El Camino Real from College Avenue to Bullock Avenue
- Fracisco de Avondo from El Camino Real to California Street

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that Spring Street is due for sewer line repair and replacement and the City will apply for paving funds for road improvements once the sewer line repairs are completed.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-11-01a and Resolution No. 21-11-01b. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Loan Resolution No. 21-11-01c – Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Mr. Muirhead explained this is a required form for USDA financing.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Loan Resolution No. 21-11-01c. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker introduced Lawrence Montano as the newly hired Code Enforcement Officer.

Councilor Romero inquired as to the status of the new committee to explore collaboration opportunities with Socorro County, NM tech and the Socorro Consolidated School District. Mr. Monette stated that Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Salome and Councilor Romero had volunteered to be on the committee and that a proposed agenda has been prepared.

Administration is working with the committee to find dates to discuss the agenda that meet each of the members' schedule.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker stated the City is in the process of receiving pricing on the removal of asbestos at the Sands Motel.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Pete Werner – 10/21/2021 – Police – Completed Probation – A-46 to A-48

John Jojola – 10/19/2021 – Parks – Failed to Complete Probation

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

Five Star Vending – R-4 – 114 B. Street – Joseph Cordova – Vending Machines

Green's Yard Cleaning – R-2 – 1209 NW Frontage Rd. – James Green – Landscaping

M Mountain Transportation – Out of Town – Lemitar, NM – Rosalie Silva – Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Triple B Beef LLC – Out of Town – Veguita, NM – Brittney Sue Jones – Sale of USDA Certified Beef

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 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**