

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 18, 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 Gordy Hicks, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Peter Romero were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 18, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Bhasker requested the Executive Session be moved to the last item on the agenda.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with changes as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. October 6, 2021

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORM

None

Councilor Peter Romero arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr. arrived at 6:07 p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Retirement – Demecio Silva – Street Department

Mayor Bhasker congratulated City employee Demecio Silva on his retirement. Mayor Bhasker, the City Council, and Lloyd Martinez, Utilities Director thanked Mr. Silva for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

Mr. Silva was present to receive his plaque and thanked the Mayor and City Council.

b. Retirement – Matt Brannan – Socorro Fire Department

Mayor Bhasker congratulated City employee Matt Brannan on his retirement. Mayor Bhasker, the City Council, and Lawrence Baca, Fire Chief thanked Mr. Brannan for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

Mr. Brannan was present to receive his plaque and thanked the Mayor and City Council.

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FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

- a. **Ordinance 21-11-01 – Authorizing the Issuance of the City of Socorro, New Mexico Joint Utility Systems Improvements Revenue Bonds, Series 2021**
Ruby Lopez, Finance Director informed the Council the interim loan will be closed out for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and now will enter into bonds.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Publication of Ordinance 21-11-01 – Authorizing the Issuance of the City of Socorro, New Mexico Joint Utility Systems Improvements Revenue Bonds, Series 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- a. **Capital Outlay Legislative Request**
- i. **Street Repairs - \$2,000,000.00**
 - ii. **Mechanical Broom Street Sweeper - \$70,000.00**
 - iii. **Convention Center furnishings - \$250,000.00**

Mayor Bhasker discussed with the Council what the City intends to request in Capital Outlay funds at the upcoming Legislative session. The Mayor invited the Council to add any request they may have.

- b. **Resolution No. 21-10-18 – LGRF Additional Streets**

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk stated this is to move funds to enable the City to pave the following streets.

- Bullock Avenue from Lopezville Road to California Street
- College Avenue from Leroy Place to California Street
- Franklin Avenue from College Avenue to School of Mines Road
- El Camino Real from College Avenue to Bullock Avenue

Mayor Bhasker thanked the New Mexico Department of Transportation for all their help with the City projects.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-10-18 – LGRF Additional Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

- c. **In-House Budget Resolution #101**
- d. **Budget Resolution #1 – Rodeo Arena Sports Complex**
- e. **Budget Resolution #2 – Community Trans Grant Fund**
- f. **Budget Resolution #3 – Municipal Street Fund**
- g. **Budget Resolution #4 – Airport Construction Fund**

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

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Councilor Romero made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolution #101, Budget Resolutions, #1, #2, #3, and #4. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker reported the City is in the process of receiving bids for the cost of asbestos removal at the Sands Motel. The Mayor stated the removal of asbestos is required before the building can be demolished.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. SEC's RFP for Broadband Feasibility Study

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that on September 8, 2021 the Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. issued a RFP for a Broadband Feasibility Study. The Mayor stated by SEC doing so, it is duplicating the efforts of the City, County of Socorro, NRAO, New Mexico Tech, and Socorro Consolidated Schools.

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Jeremiah Gonzales – 10/18/2021 – Water – Completed Probation – A-26 to A-28

Russell Rackey – 11/02/2021 – Police – New Hire – D-35 to D-48

Steve Mathieu – 10/11/2021 – Rodeo/Recreation – New Hire – A-33

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

Global Power Sports NM LLC – C-2– 1261 NW Frontage Rd. – Ty R. Zimmerman – Repairs on ATV's/UTV's

Elevate LLC EEI – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Casey Fowler – Early Childhood Intervention

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 154296 to 154495 in the amount of \$1,339,575.37 plus Payroll Transfers \$425,988.96, for a total of \$2,087,067.87.

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Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Dean made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Olguin. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Romero. Mr. Pineda 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.

Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk