

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**August 16, 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, and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Peter Romero were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. July 26, 2021**

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORM**

Sharon Sessions, NM Tech Director of Outreach informed the Council 100% Communities is a collective impact method in helping 100% City and County residents to have access to services to help the community survive and thrive. Ms. Sessions stated that one of the sectors is transportation and introduced Samantha Winter. SCOPE Coordinator Winter presented to the Council the biking initiative as a secondary healthy, cheaper mode of transportation. Ms. Winter stated SCOPE conducted a poll of what the community would like to see improved in biking. As a result, bike racks have been installed throughout the community. Other concerns and topics mentioned are pebbles on streets, more bike lanes, and hazardous traffic.

Mayor Bhasker addressed their concerns and welcomed 100% Communities to be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

Councilor Gordy Hicks entered at 6:24 p.m.

Jackie Muncy, Department of Health, addressed the Council on issues of Mental Health in the community. Ms. Muncy stated it may be time for the City and County to collaborate now that ARP funds are available.

Mayor Bhasker stated Mental Health should be put under the County's umbrella and have Socorro General Hospital on board for mental health treatments.

Councilor Salome stated that this is a good time for the City and County to attack this problem now that funding is available.

After a lengthy discussion the Mayor suggested that Mental Health be put on the City's ICIP.

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**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Resolution No. 21-08-16 – Adopting the FY2023-2027 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)**

City Administrator Donald Monette presented Resolution No. 21-08-16. After averaging the top 10 ICIP rankings received from the Councilors, the top ten priorities are: 1) Old Socorro High School Remodel, 2) General Repaving including Bullock Avenue, 3) Cuba Road Repave and Drainage, 4) Sedillo Park Improvements, 5) the Electricity Plant, 6) EMRTC Bridge Reconstruction, 7) Fiber Loop, 8) City Hall Software, 9) South I-25 Entrance Landscaping, and 10) Upgrade City Parks. Mr. Monette pointed out the City is making a lot of progress on all of Council's priorities.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to pass Resolution No. 21-08-16. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 21-08-16b - Distributing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Pay for Vaccine Incentive Program and Premium Pay for Essential Workers**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 21-08-16b. The resolution, if passed, will define all full-time City employees as essential workers, Award of Premium Pay (160 hours at the rate of \$13.00), and Incentive for COVID-19 Vaccination (40 hours at the rate of \$13.00).

Mayor Bhasker stated Finley Gym, City's Swimming Pool, Completion of the Convention Center, and remodel of City Hall will be on the list of priorities for the use of ARP funds and does not want to overlap any programs that are provided by other agencies.

Councilor Salome stated the funds should be used for compensating the employees but should be extended out into the community.

A lengthy discussion followed.

The Mayor asked the Council to send in specific items they think the APR funds should be spent on and reminded them he asked for requests at the July 26, 2021 Council Meeting, only receiving information from Councilor Salome.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to pass Resolution No. 21-08-16b. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. 2021 NMML Voting Delegates**

Mayor Bhasker nominated Councilor Hicks as the delegate to the New Mexico Municipal League Conference. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker stated the City will be advertising for a Code Enforcement Officer.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked about the status of Sands Motel. Mayor Bhasker stated that James Rivera never came into meet with the City as agreed to at the July 26, 2021 Council Meeting.

Mr. Pineda reminded the Council that filing date for the upcoming Municipal Election will be August 24, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Socorro County Clerk's Office.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Councilor Fleming 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 one legal matter. No action was taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Job Description – Accounts Payable Clerk**

**b. Job Description – Billing Clerk**

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the Job Descriptions as read by Mayor Bhasker. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Timothy Gonzales – 08/16/2021 – Transportation – Completed Probation – A-27 to A-31

Chris Gonzales – 08/16/2021 – Transportation – Additional Job Duties – E-33 to E-35

Carlos Savedra – 08/16/2021 – Transportation – Additional Job Duties – I-40 to I-42

Cassandra Benjamin – 08/16/2021 – Transportation – Additional Job Duties – P-37 to P-39

Lefty Gonzales – 08/01/2021 – Streets – Promotion to Foreman – A-28 to A-40

Pat Silva – 08/16/2021 – Parks – Minimum Wage – D-27 to D-29

Corey Sanchez – 08/16/2021 – Parks – Additional Job Duties – I-34 to I-36

Oscar Acosta – 08/16/2021 – Water/Parks Director – Department Added (Streets) – AZ-58 to AZ-61

Ruben Amaro – 08/16/2021 – Water/Parks – Assistant Director/Additional Job Duties – R-48 to R-50

Placido Chavez – 08/16/2021 – Water – Additional Job Duties – D-32 to D-33

Brian Standefer – 08/16/2021 – Water – Additional Job Duties – L-42 to L-45

Richie Chavez – 08/16/2021 – Wastewater – Minimum Wage – J-29 to J-31

Cody Polston – 08/16/2021 – Wastewater – EPA Documentation – R-46 to R-48

Henry Jojola – 08/16/2021 – Wastewater – Additional Job Duties – BZ-42 to BZ-47

Jeanette Lukesh – 08/16/2021 – Additional Job Duties – N-38 to N-39

Marcella Alvarado – 08/16/2021 – Billing Clerk – Additional Job Duties – C-38 to C-39

Mariah Jaramillo – 08/16/2021 – Delinquencies Clerk – Additional Job Duties – C-30 to C-33

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Wes Mauldin – 07/23/2021 – Police - Resignation

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 153911 to 154072 in the amount of \$1,659,257.77 plus Payroll Transfers \$380,791.97, for a total of \$2,040,049.74.

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, August 30, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

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