

**City of Socorro Special City Council Meeting  
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801  
January 9, 2015**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Donald Monette. Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Michael Olguin were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Monette led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Emergency Declaration – Collapsed Sewer Line on California Street**

Mr. Salome read the following emergency declaration resolution into the record:

**City of Socorro  
Resolution No. 15-01-09  
Emergency Declaration**

- WHEREAS,** The City of Socorro, a municipal corporation, provides, among other things, water, sewer and natural gas service to its residents, and;
- WHEREAS,** In the delivery of these services, the City is required to conduct regular maintenance and system improvements in an effort to provide minimal interruptions, and;
- WHEREAS,** Even with proactive maintenance and regular system improvements, from time to time, with aging infrastructure (collection system), serious and unexpected issues will occur, and;
- WHEREAS,** The City of Socorro, with the assistance of our engineers (Dennis Engineering), has been working toward the replacement of a sewer main which crosses California Street near the intersection of California Street and College Avenue (NMDOT right of way), and;
- WHEREAS,** This sewer main appears to have recently collapsed, and as such, is in need of immediate repair, and;
- WHEREAS,** The problems caused by the collapsed sewer main have continually worsened to the point where public health, welfare, safety and environmental integrity are now being compromised, and;
- WHEREAS,** In order to compensate for the collapsed line, the City is currently having to pump and transport sewage across California Street on a daily basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** in an effort to minimize the impact to public welfare and safety caused by this sewer line collapse, the City Administration is requesting that an emergency declaration(1) be made to facilitate and expedite the action required to eliminate all existing and future hazards. By enacting this declaration, the City of Socorro is declaring the collapsed sewer main an emergency and as such, intends to enact emergency procurement procedures(2) (NMSA 13-1-127) in addressing the problem.

**Passed, Approved and Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.**

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Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Pat Salome, City Clerk

(1) Letter from Dennis Engineering dated January 6, 2014.

(2) NM State Statute 13-1-127.

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Mr. Salome stated that if approved, the emergency resolution declaration allows the City to enact emergency procurement procedures and expedite the repair of the collapsed sewer line. Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that Stephanie DuBois, from the State of New Mexico, has approved the City's use of State appropriation funds for the repairs and that the funds will be reimbursed by the State. Ms. Gonzales stated that funds for the repairs were appropriated to the City for other projects. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the City is still waiting on a permit from the NM Department of Transportation and as soon as the permit is received, the repairs can begin. Mr. Martinez stated that there will be signage in the area and traffic control will be provided by the contractor (NM Underground). Mr. Salome stated that NM Underground is currently working on another City project and has worked on the sewer line that collapsed in the past. Mr. Salome stated that for these reasons, NM Underground will be the contractor selected for the repairs. Mr. Martinez stated that he would be delivering a letter from Mr. Salome to Smith's Grocery and Western Mercantile (the two businesses that will be most impacted by the repairs) ensuring that there will be business access during the project. Mr. Martinez stated that the project will last approximately 15 days. Mr. Salome stated that the repairs will cost approximately \$60,000.00. Mr. Salome stated that the repairs will require an open cut. Mr. Salome stated that the emergency declaration resolution will be posted on the State of New Mexico's procurement website. Mr. Salome stated that attached to the resolution is a letter from Steve Williams of Dennis Engineering dated January 6, 2014 explaining in more detail the nature of the engineering and the nature of the repairs. Mr. Salome stated that Dennis Engineering has been given the task of engineering this project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:14 p.m., Councilor Monette motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Pat Salome, City Clerk**