

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**July 26, 2021**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Mayor Bhasker 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 Peter Romero.

Council members remotely present at roll call were: Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Anton Salome.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 26, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

- a. **June 21, 2021**
- b. **June 28, 2021**
- c. **July 13, 2021**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021, June 28, 2021, and July 13, 2021, meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORM**

Robert Vaughn expressed his concerns of the nuisance of fireworks in the City of Socorro. Corbly Shaffer discussed her concerns of fireworks effecting her service dog. After a long discussion Mayor Bhasker will have city staff look into other municipalities ordinances and if allowable by law, will put it up for discussion at a future Council Meeting.

Ann Baca addressed the Council concerning speeding on the streets of Blue Canyon Road and Arroyo Drive. Mayor Bhasker requested increased police presence and a cost estimate for speed bumps for the two mentioned streets.

Robert Hubner discussed his concerns with chickens within the City Limits.

Susan Breitha addressed the Council with concerns of flooding on A Street.

Jeremy Petrie expressed his concerns with flow of water coming from the Richardson Subdivision flooding A Street.

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**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY**

- a. Ordinance 21-08-30 – Regulating the Proximity of Cannabis Establishments to Established Schools and Daycare Centers**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Publication of Ordinance 21-08-30 – Regulating the Proximity of Cannabis Establishments to Established Schools and Daycare Centers. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

- a. Sands Motel Condemnation Appeal Hearing**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Council has condemned the Sands Motel and the owners have requested their attorneys to appeal the condemnation.

Jerry Armijo, City’s Attorney, representing the Council stated James Rivera has appealed City Resolution No. 21-06-07b – Condemning Sand Motel.

Mr. Armijo swore in City of Socorro’s Police Chief Mike Winders. Chief Winders presented his Affidavit that supported Resolution No. 21-06-07b, photos, and police reports.

David Lutz, James Rivera’s Attorney crossed examined Chief Winders. Mr. Armijo asked if the Mayor or Council had any question. Mayor Bhasker inquired if Mr. Rivera has made any contact with the Police Department. Chief Winders replied no, not until he received his citations.

Councilor Hicks stated that the police reports show that something needs to be done, the property owner doesn’t seem to care about it and is not a safe place for the community. The City needs to continue with the condemnation, Councilor Hicks continued.

Councilor Olguin stated from his business the Sands Motel is in view and through his observation he can see transients wandering in and out daily and is worried about his business and his customers having to see it.

Councilor Ocampo stated he has received numerous complaints from the citizens of the City.

Mr. Armijo sworn in James Rivera, owner of 50% of the Sands Motel. Mr. Rivera stated he had plans to renovate the motel, but it fell through due to COVID-19 since he lives in Arizona and would have to quarantine on each trip. Mr. Rivera said he would be in Socorro by the end of the week to install lighting and fencing around the motel. Mr. Rivera agreed to meet with the city to provide a plan and timelines on the Monday following this Council meeting.

Mayor Bhasker informed Mr. Rivera and Mr. Lutz that if he misses the meeting, the City will move forward with condemning the motel.

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**b. Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP0 – Public Hearing/Public Input)**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Lloyd Martinez addressed the Council with concerns of flooding of his father's property located at 521 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Martinez stated that since the prior road and drainage projects the flow of the water has increased to this property. Mayor Bhasker reported that it will be added to the ICIP.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

Donald Monette, City Administrator informed the Council he has received two rating sheets from the Council and asked the Council to email the forms in by July 30, 2021.

**c. Home Occupation Permit – Shaye Lee**

Shaye Lee was not present, Mayor Bhasker postponed the Home Occupation Permit to a later date.

**d. Special Use Permit – Dulce Reyes**

Dulce Reyes informed the Council she is opening a medical spa and gave a detailed description of the business plan.

Councilor Chavez Lopez made a motion to approve Special Use Permit for a medical spa. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution No. 21-07-26 – Participation in Local Government Road Fund Program**

Councilor Chavez Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-07-26 – Participation in Local Government Road Fund Program. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution No. 21-07-26b – South Central Council of Governments 21-22 Participation**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 20-07-20b which, if approved, would allow the city to participate in the South-Central Council of Governments for FY 21-22.

Councilor Dean made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-07-26b. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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**g. Resolution No. 21-07-26c – Mechanical Street Sweeper**

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director presented Resolution No. 21-07-26c, if approved, would allow the city to enter into a lease-to-purchase agreement for a Mechanical Street Sweeper in the amount of \$150,000.00, consisting of \$50,000.00 lease, \$100,000.00 grant.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-07-26c. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mayor Bhasker took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**h. Resolution No. 21-07-26d Approval of DFA Quarterly Report**

Ms. Lopez presented Resolution No. 21-07-26d which, if approved, adopts the 4th quarter financial report for fiscal year 2020-2021. Ms. Lopez stated that the report shows that the ending cash balance for the prior year matches the beginning cash balance for the new year.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-07-26d. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**i. Resolution No. 001A – Final Budget**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 001A which, if approved, adopts the final budget for the City of Socorro for FY 2021-2022.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**j. Budget Resolution #36 – Juvenile Justice Grant**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Allow grant award and expenditures to 6/30/2021 – Amount is \$8,000.00 – The transfer is needed to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 20-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**k. ARP Spending Priorities – Administration and Council Request**

Mayor Bhasker reported the City has received a million dollars in (ARP) American Rescue Plan funds. The mayor stated Administration has compiled a list and received a request from Councilor Salome. The mayor asked the Councilor's to send in their request so administration can compile a list for Council's approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Hicks asked if side by side vehicles will be allowed on City streets. Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Hicks to prepare an ordinance to present to the Council for consideration.

Councilor Hicks reported a mobile home on Park Street belonging to Charles Mandaville needs attention. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has no Code Enforcement Officer at this time, but the property may need to be condemned.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Beautification Committee**

Postponed to the next meeting.

**b. Fire Chief Appointment**

Mayor Bhasker appointed Lawrence Baca to Fire Chief.

**c. Job Description – Administrative Assistant – Recreation**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the Job Description as read by Mayor Bhasker. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Cheyenne Cortez – 07/12/2021 – Recreation – Administrative Assistant Recreation – B-29 to B-29

Alvaro Alvarado – 07/26/2021 – Parks – Completed Probation - \$10.50 to A-28

Ryan Lopez – 07/26/2021 – Parks – Completed Probation - \$10.50 to A-28

John Jojola – 07/26/2021 – Parks – Temp to Permanent Full time - \$10.50 to A-26

James Hollis – 07/26/2021 – Production – Temp to Permanent Full Time - \$10.50 to A-26

Joel Martinez – 07/26/2021 – Streets – Completed Probation - \$10.50 to A-28

Robin Romero – 07/26/2021 – Library – New Hire/Circulation Assistant – A-29

David Chavez – 07/26/2021 – Landfill – Completed Probation – A-32 to A-34

Joseph Williams – 07/26/2021 – Police – New Hire – A-46

Lena Chavez – 08/01/2021 – Admin – Completed Probationary Period – D-47 to D-49

Dezirae Armijo – 07/27/2021 – Recreation – New Hire/Asst Tourism, Recreation, Convention Ctr Mgr. – A-37

Melaine Gutierrez – 06/10/2021 – Transportation – Termination

Colton Wheeler – 06/13/2021 – Fire – Termination

Matthew Brannan – 07/31/2021 – Fire – Retirement

Demecio Silva – 07/31/2021 – Streets – Retirement

Alexis Utz – Tourism/Recreation – Did Not Accept Position

Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

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**e. Business Registrations**

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

AUI, Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Darrin Howells – Heavy Highway Contractor  
RMCI, Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Clair Blair – General Contractor  
Western Dewatering, Inc. – Out of Town – El Paso, TX – Eric Freeman – Dewatering  
Universal Constructors, Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Gilbert A. Luna – Asphalt  
Paving of Roads & Parking Lots

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Voucher Run**

**a. June 30, 2021**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 153703 to 153732/153746 to 153808 in the amount of \$304,749.38 plus Payroll Transfers \$178,251.68, for a total of \$483,001.06.

**b. July 21, 2021**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 153809 to 153834/153836 to 153910 in the amount of \$272,543.06 plus Payroll Transfers \$187,052.14, for a total of \$459,595.20.

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Monette requested the next City Council Meetings be changed to August 16<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers 111 School of Mines Road).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

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**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**