

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 22, 2022

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 Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, and Councilor Peter Romero were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. February 7, 2022

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORM

a. Socorro Warrior Soccer Club

Coaches Chris Olguin and Seth Rodriguez thanked the City of Socorro for their monetary support of the Socorro Warrior Youth Soccer Club. Mr. Olguin gave the Council an overview of the accomplishments of the U-10 team. Each player made an introduction and presented the City with a team photo.

Mayor Bhasker and Councilor Ocampo praised the team, coaches, and parents for their accomplishments.

b. New Mexico Tech Community Service Day

Michael Voegerl, Director of Student Affairs at New Mexico Tech, gave the Council an overview of New Mexico Tech's Community Service Day that would provide 500 hours of community service in one day. Mr. Voegerl stated on April 9, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., approximately 125 students will provide services to Socorro and Magdalena. Mr. Voegerl requested the City identify any organizations that are in need of volunteer work and where the City would need any help.

Mayor Bhasker reported to the Council as a result of a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools and President of the School Board involving an incident that occurred at a basketball game, the City will provide a resource officer at Sarracino Middle School for four days a week. The Mayor stated the Code Enforcement Officer's job description would be updated to include the Resource

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Officer's job duties and an additional person will be hired. A long discussion followed on youth problems and the importance of providing programming for kids and teenagers..

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Sands Motel Demolition

Mayor Bhasker reported to the Council that City Attorney Jerry Armijo has given authorization to proceed with the demolition of the Sands Motel. The Mayor stated that the removal of the asbestos will cost \$134,126.63 and the demolition will be handled by the City's Landfill Department. Once the lot has been cleaned a lien will be placed on the property.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Sands Motel Demolition. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 22-02-22a – FY23 MAP Application – Gianera Road and Kitt Place

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-02-22a – FY23 MAP Application – Gianera Road and Kitt Place. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 22-02-22b – FY23 LGRF Application – Manzanares Avenue

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-02-22b – Manzanares Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Dean relayed a message from a citizen pertaining to the Main Street Project awarded to other cities and why Socorro is not included. Mayor Bhasker stated Socorro was one of the first Main Street Projects involving the Plaza. The Mayor stated the Main Street Project takes the participation of businesses and cannot be done by city officials. Councilor Dean stated that it may be time to help businesses look into the project again.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

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NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Rena Benavidez	02/28/2022	Water/Wastewater /Production/Parks/ Streets, and Special Projects	Lateral transfer from cashier to Administrative Assistant	C-40 to C-42
Enrique Robles	02/21/2022	Landfill	Temp to Permanent	A-25
Peter James Gonzales	02/16/2022	Police	City wide increase	A-46 to A-48
Damion Ibarra	02/16/2022	Police	Probation incomplete	

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Westwind Landscape Construction, Inc.	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Kevin Neel	Landscape Construction
Our World Energy NM LLC	Out of Town	Phoenix, AZ	Caleb Antonucci	Solar Installation
Gonzales Landscaping	C-2	511 Park St.	Nico Gonzales	Landscaping, Gardening, and Trash Removal

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve vouchers 155150 to 155389 in the amount of \$1,336,559.15 plus Payroll Transfers \$362,306.66 for a total of \$1,698,865.81.

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

 /s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

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ATTEST:

/s/

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk