

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 7, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Deborah Dean, 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 MARCH 7, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. February 22, 2022

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORM

None

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

None

Councilor Romero joined the meeting by phone.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Ocampo informed the Council that a signing event will be held for Socorro High School (SHS) students on Thursday May 5, 2022, at 11:45 a.m. at the SHS Eddie Castaneda football field.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked for clarification for work at the City's swimming pool that was brought to her attention by a constituent.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk, and Lloyd Martinez, General Services Director explained the bidding process.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the constituent that questioned this process has been paid by the City over \$500,000.00 in business dating back to 2014.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Salome. Mr. Pineda 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

Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Monette to explain the action to be taken out of Executive Session. Mr. Monette explained that as a result of Socorro Electric Cooperative's (SEC) responses to the latest filing in its rate Case No. 18-00383-UT to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and the City's desire to become a Municipal Electric Utility a letter will be sent to SEC expressing the City's offer to acquire the City's portion of SEC. If SEC would entertain the idea of selling the entire service area, the City would also entertain that idea. The letter will be mailed March 8, 2022 and posted on the City's website.

Councilor Hicks made a motion authorizing the City to send the letter to SEC's Manager and Trustees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated the City has not had any report from the legislators that represent the City resulting from the 2022 New Mexico Legislature Session. The Mayor expressed his displeasure over the City's share of State Appropriations compared to the surrounding Cities and Counties. The Mayor also stated that the City had lame Duck Legislators as a result of redistricting.

a. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Lockett Inc.	Out of Town	San Diego, CA	George Kaloudis	Managed Wi-Fi Service Provider
GTP Acquisition Partners II, LLC	C-2	834 U.S. Hwy 60 West	Jared Morley	Operator of Towers
Peak Harvest Cannabis New Mexico LLC	C-2	101 to 107 Manzanares Ave.	Richard Rood	Cannabis Cultivation, MFR/Packaging, Retail Store

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City council meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Road).

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk