

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
June 6, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Damian Ocampo and Councilor Peter Romero were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 6, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. May 23, 2022

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Dave MacNeil – Carolina’s Choice

Dave MacNeil gave a detailed report on Carolina’s Choice business operations. Mr. Mac Neil stated that \$2,000,000.00 has been invested in the building which was formally Solaro Energy.

Mayor Bhasker stated Mr. MacNeil will use the Council Chamber to give classes on the opportunities in the Cannabis business.

Councilor Fleming asked if Carolina’s Choice is going to be strictly a growing facility and how many store fronts would be supplied. Mr. MacNeil responded that it is a growing and manufacturing facility and will be able to supply 8 to 10 stores around the state, while local growers that lease space to grow would supply their own stores.

Councilor Fleming asked about security. Mr. MacNeil responded that a perimeter fence will be installed along with many cameras and employ a security guard.

Councilor Dean asked how many employees would be employed and if they would be local. Mr. MacNeil replied that twenty to forty residents will be employed, with at least one from out of town.

b. TDS Broadband update

Josh Worrell, Sr. Manager-Business Development of TDS gave an update on the progress of the TDS fiber build in the City of Socorro. Mr. Worrell stated that engineering has been completed, an RFP was issued to select a contractor and now TDS is in the stages of executing a final contract. Construction will begin in six to

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eight weeks.

Mayor Bhasker stated he had inquiries about what part of the City will be covered. Mr. Worrell responded that plans include over 5,000 service addresses that covers the greater Socorro area.

Councilor Fleming asked what kind of service would be offered. Mr. Worrell stated TDS would offer a triple play service consisting of broadband, video, and phone service. The entry level broadband speed is 300mb symmetrical at \$40.00 per month and a 100mb symmetrical discounted service to households that qualify. Services available are 300mb, 600mb, 1gb, and 2gb symmetrical.

c. MRGEDA

Kirsten Keller, Administrative Director of Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association reported the City has awarded \$10,000.00 to MRGEDA for fiscal year 2022 and is now asking for reimbursement. Ms. Keller stated that MREGDA assisted the Socorro Chamber of Commerce in obtaining a grant through the County of Socorro with the funding to help pay the past due rent for the Socorro Community Kitchen to the City of Socorro. MRGEDA is seeking funding for the creation of a regional Kitchen that can be used by surrounding Counties and funding to host regional job fairs in Socorro. Ms. Keller detailed other activities MRGEDA is involved in.

d. Socorro County DWI & Community Alternatives Program – Jason Frame

Did not attend.

e. Adam Paz – Parking on Baca Street

Did not attend.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. ICIP 1st Public Hearing

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

Donald Monette, City Administrator stated that the City is currently working on its ICIP and asked anyone who would like a project added to the ICIP to present their information to the City for consideration. Mr. Monette asked the Mayor and City Council to consider which projects they would like to see as the top five priorities.

Mr. Monette informed the Mayor and Council that the New Mexico Department of Transportation did not fund projects for the south entrance landscaping, the MAP project by Sarracino Middle School, and Manzanares Ave.

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

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b. Resolution No. 22-06-06 – Transfer of Land to Socorro Vista LLP

Councilor Hicks made the motion to approve Resolution No. 22-06-06 – Transfer of Land to Socorro Vista LLP. Councilor Salome seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that groundbreaking of the building was originally scheduled for July has been rescheduled to August.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Dean stated that the stop sign line at the corner of College Street and Franklin Street needs to be moved back as pedestrians and bicyclist are afraid of being struck by vehicles.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez reported a large pothole on Lucero Street.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

a. Business Registrations

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the Business Registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Botoxin’ with Tara	C-2	308 N. California St.	Tara M. Hall	Nursing Aesthetics
Baca House Brewery, LLC	C-2	115 Abeyta Ave.	David Chambellan	Restaurant/Brewery

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk