

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**June 21, 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 Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Damian Ocampo, and Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. June 6, 2022**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**a. SCOPE Presentation – Samantha Winter**

Samantha Winter, SCOPE Coordinator gave the Council an update on the progress of the SCOPE program in accordance with the funds approved by the City Council Budget Committee. Ms. Winter stated that an additional fifteen bike racks will be install around the City and is in the process of developing a biking map. A second biking day is in the planning.

Councilor Hicks arrived at 6:18 p.m.

Augusta Amaro addressed the Council with a lengthy discussion pertaining to the City of Socorro baseball program.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. ICIP 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing**

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.

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

After hearing no comment from the public, Councilor Romero made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

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**b. Resolution No. 01A-001 – Ambulance Write Off FY22**

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Resolution No. 01A-001- Ambulance Write Off FY21 which, if approved, removes uncollectible ambulance accounts from 2016, in the amount of \$128,630.02, from the City's list of accounts.

The Mayor requested in the future, accounts outside of the city limits be reported separately.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 01A-001. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. In-House Resolution #102**

**d. In-House Resolution #103**

**e. In-House Resolution #104**

**f. In-House Resolution #105**

**g. In-House Resolution #106**

Ms. Lopez presented and informed the Council the purpose of each In-House Budget Resolution.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolution #102 through #106. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker announced Cascade was awarded TDS's fiber build contract and Danny Padilla's company was hired as a sub-contractor. The Mayor also reported that the road and utilities are under way for the new housing development near the Socorro General Hospital. The State Police will host a meeting at the Convention Center making it the first event held at the newly constructed Convention Center.

Councilor Hicks reported from the Airport Committee that the Captain Laura S. Haines Mountain Fly-In will be held September 24, 2022, coinciding with the San Miguel Church Fiestas.

Mayor reported that the asbestos has been removed at the Sands Motel and Michael Lucero, Landfill & Sanitation Director will soon demolish the building.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked how many people can the Convention Center hold. Mayor Bhasker estimated that between 270 and 300 depending on the nature of the event. Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked how many rooms are available. Mayor Bhasker replied that the main room contains two retractable walls that can be divided into the desired size and there are also three break out rooms. Councilor Dean asked about the fee structure for the building. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Tourism Department will research surrounding Convention Centers and develop a fee structure.

Councilor Salome asked if there is a plan for the museum inside the Convention Center. Mayor Bhasker stated that the El Camino Real Museum Advisory Committee has moved its focus from the museum to El Camino Real Trail Signage for the national parks. The Mayor stated the museum will get done in the future. Councilor Salome stated that it is great to have the museum in our community and if we don't tell and brag about our history then over time other folks will come in

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and tell about their own history. Councilor Hicks agreed with Councilor Salome and stated that when the South-Central Council of Governments started supporting the El Camino Real Museum, they would have liked it built in San Antonio instead of the constructed location because it would have made it more accessible to the public. Chelsea Jones, Library Director reported that she will be running a series of stories for the Defensor Chieftain from residents that have information of the history of Socorro.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Dean inquired about how to handle reporting problems with weeds. Mayor Bhasker informed Councilor Dean the City has two Code Enforcement officers Lawrence Montano and Chris Carrillo on staff and if she would have the public contact them.

Councilor Dean reported that she has been receiving calls about fireworks and why the Council did not get to vote on changes to the ordinance, or why the Council did not attach something to the ordinance for the Council to vote on, whether the City was going to amend the ordinance or not. She would like the Council to do something, at least putting a time limit on when fireworks can be lit. She stated she is glad the City got rain, so the City does not need to ban fireworks in any way, but the City needs to limit the time fireworks can be lit, just to show respect for neighbors that may have to get up early for work. Mr. Monette informed the Council that any changes would be an amendment to the current ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated he sent out a notice to the Council for a guideline to change the ordinance, but did not receive any guidance from the Council, but administratively, he is not in favor of changing the ordinance. Mayor Bhasker read Councilor Dean's suggestion, that fireworks cannot be set off between the time period of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> (Cinco de Mayo), and three days preceding and including the Chinese New Year, except for New Year's Eve (December 31), where fireworks shall be permissible until 1:00 a.m. on January 1. Mayor Bhasker asked for Councilor Dean's suggestions be put on the next agenda for the Council to vote if the ordinance be excepted as is or changed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Romero. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Bhasker reported out of executive session the discussion of one personnel matter. No action was taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Personnel Changes as read by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Andy Otero	07/03/2022	Fire	New Hire	A-41
Jose Ruiz, Jr.	06/21/2022	Library/Circulation	New Hire	A-31

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		Asst.		
Valorie Lesperance	06/02/2022	Dispatch	Abandonment	
Shaun Fernandez	06/17/2022	Gas	Resignation	
Luis Chavez	05/31/2022	Police	Retirement	

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that Luis Chavez ranked among the top police officers the City has ever had, he did his job with kindness and respect.

Mayor Bhasker congratulated Mr. Chavez on his retirement.

Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
SRSNM, LLC	Out of Town	Benicia, CA	Charles Hoage, Jr.	Restore fire, water or other damage to businesses or residents

Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 156083 to 156336 in the amount of \$1,251,867.13 plus Payroll Transfers \$423,159.96 for a total of \$1,675,027.09.

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

**Gordy Hicks, Mayor Pro-Tem**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk**