

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
July 25, 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 Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Peter Romero was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 25, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. July 5, 2022

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro Public Library 2022 Summer Reading Program

Chelsea Jones, Library Director reported that the Summer Reading Program had 145 participants made up of all ages and 31,375 minutes were read including 25 activities with attendance of 626 participants. Ms. Jones thanked Kathy Spring for organizing the event along with all donors and presenters and will recognize them individually in an upcoming Defensor Chieftain ad. Ms. Jones recognized the bike winners and the total amount of minutes read: Kacen Orr, 1275; Kodei Ulibarri, 4125; Harle Ulibarri, 4275; Annabelle Frazier, 375; and Jameson Grigg, 1500. Mayor Bhasker invited the bike winners in attendance to have a photo with the Councilors and Mayor.

Councilor Romero arrived at 6:08 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. City Council Powers

Mayor Bhasker discussed Chapter 5 of the City Code: Administration, Article II. City Council Section 5-6 Governing body: term; qualifications; powers and duties; vacancies of the City of Council. The Mayor questioned what specific protocol is used for what determines what Administration's responsibilities are and what Council's responsibilities are, as, recently, it seems the lines have been getting crossed. Moreover, what specifically the Council can ask Administration to do and what specifically the Council can decide to do on their own. The Mayor continued to inform the council that the ordinance does not state the Council is responsible for developing job descriptions. He continued that it is the responsibility of Administration to develop job descriptions that achieve the Councils goals. The Mayor stated that at the last meeting, the Council did not want to combine Economic Development with the Tourism/Convention Center Director. The Mayor stated that he could not see the Council telling him how the jobs

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had to be implemented. That is specifically the definition of Administration. If the Council would give a mandate to have Economic Development with specific job duties, then it would be the Mayor's job to implement it. The Mayor informed the Council that unemployment is at 3.9% in the City and the State is at 5.1%.and there needs to be discussion on how to implement Economic Development.

Council Olguin asked if the Council should have denied the job description and not amended it. Mayor Bhasker replied an Economic Development Director cannot stand on its own because the budget will not support that at this time. If management and administration feel there is a need to combined the jobs the Mayor does not think the Council has a right to put a stop to it, as long as the employees can accomplish the goals and perform the task. Councilor Olguin questioned about the money set aside for Economic Development. The Mayor replied not until the Electric Utility is complete. Council Olguin provided administration with an Economic Development job description for consideration.

Councilor Dean stated that the job description is overwhelming and consist of too much work for one person. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated if the job is overwhelming, we may lose that employee. Councilor Dean asked if this a new hire or for a current staff member. The Mayor stated that Recreation is separating from Tourism/Convention Center and Recreation will now need its own Director once construction of Finley Gym is completed.

Councilor Olguin asked if the Economic Development Director can continue to be left off this job description so that there can be some time for discussion so the Council can collaborate with the Mayor and administration to come up with a mutual agreement. The Mayor agreed to put it on hold and have discussions.

Donald Monette, City Administrator asked the Council to consider making a list of economic development tasks for the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association to concentrate on, as City pays them \$10,000 per year for economic development purposes. The City is also in the process of selling two lots at the Industrial Park to two new businesses and another new business is looking at two additional lots. And NM Tech is considering purchasing/leasing a lot for economic development purposes. These activities provide evidence the City is performing Economic Development functions, even though the City does not have an Economic Development Director.

Councilor Olguin asked about LEDA funds. Mayor Bhasker stated the only business currently utilizing State of New Mexico LEDA funds is the Capitol Bar and the City recommends other businesses apply.

b. General Employee Organizational Chart

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that administration is developing an organizational chart that would outline City jobs by position and containing no names. This would allow Administration to match salary ranges to jobs with similar duties/titles. The goal is to make positions with similar responsibilities similar in pay. Once that is achieved, Administration will analyze pay scales to make them competitive

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with other agencies, as the City would like to retain its directors and employees.

c. Public Hearing – Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

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

Brian Svoboda requested that bike paths around the City be added to the ICIP.

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

d. Public Hearing – Governmental Liquor License Application – City of Socorro (Socorro Rodeo and Sports Complex and Convention Center)

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

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

e. Action on Governmental Liquor License Application – City of Socorro (Socorro Rodeo and Sports Complex and Convention Center)

Councilor Hicks made a motion to pass the Governmental Liquor License Application for the City of Socorro. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

f. Smith Road Abatement

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Smith Road Abatement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero.

Councilor Salome stated he was not against the abatement prior to building the road, but recommends building the road and then look to see if additional space is needed and would like to build first then abate.

Councilor Romero asked if there is room for what Councilor Salome suggested. Lloyd Martinez stated that the City's engineers reported that sixty feet is more than enough to build the road, which would be comparable to the Bullock Street Project.

Councilor Hicks amended the motion to build the road first and then abate. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

g. Resolution No. 22-07-25 – Approval of DFA Quarterly Report

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director and Valen Alonso, General Ledger Clerk presented Resolution No. 22-07-25 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 Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-07-25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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h. Resolution No. 001A – Final Budget

Ms. Lopez presented Resolution No. 001A which, if approved, adopts the final budget for the City of Socorro for FY 2022-2023.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

i. Budget Resolution #15

j. Budget Resolution #16

k. Budget Resolution #17

l. Budget Resolution #18

m. Budget Resolution #19

n. Budget Resolution #20

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

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Budget Resolution #15 through #20. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

o. In-House Resolution #107

p. In-House Resolution #108

q. In-House Resolution #109

r. In-House Resolution #110

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

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolution #107 through #110. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Monette asked the Council to think of who would like to attend the New Mexico Municipal League Annual Convention on August 31st through September 2nd and the Council needs to elect a voting delegate and alternate. The voting delegate form is due by August 26, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Hicks thanked the Mayor and City for the new roof at the City's Municipal Airport.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bhasker stated the City received a legal complaint about code enforcement. The Mayor detailed the process code enforcement follows and the complaint has been turned over to the City's insurance company.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. VW CNG Grant Award

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the City was awarded \$1,931,382.09 from the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust 2022 Funding Cycle for replacing three diesel-fueled refuse hauler trucks and three diesel-fueled dump trucks with clean-burning CNG equipment. The Mayor thanked all employees that worked on the grant.

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b. Job Descriptions

- i. **Tourism, Marketing, Convention Services and Economic Development Director**
- ii. **Assistant Tourism, Marketing, Convention Services and Economic Development Director**

Mayor Bhasker stated the job descriptions are put on hold until discussions on the Economic Development Director are completed.

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Albert Olguin	07/25/2022	Gas	Transfer from Landfill	A-30
Joel Martinez	07/25/2022	Gas	Transfer from Streets	B-33
Jason C. Hatch	07/01/2022	Fire	Resignation	
Samantha Hurtgen	06/30/2022	Dispatch	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
HydraMetrics LLC	Out of Town	Centerville, MN	Mike Funari	Water Efficiency
RM-MCI, LLC Dbas Nowlin Mechanical	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Thomas Giannelli	Mechanical HVAC and Plumbing Contractor
Padilla electric & const. LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Gilbert Padilla	Electrical
J M C Construction, LLC Dbas J M C Roofing	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Jonathan Abeita	Construction
Yearout energy Services Co. LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Amy Leger	General Contractor Energy Savings
I-Star Energy Solutions LLC	Out of Town	Lancaster, PA	Andrew Martin	Specialty Contractor
U.S. Electrical Corporation	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Brock Darnell	Electrical Contractor
Leaf & Flower LLC	C-2	512 S. Hwy 85	Franci Gabaldon	Cannabis Dispensary
Desert Cowgirls LLC	Out of Town	San Acacia, NM	Jaclyn Meyers Ulibarri	Clothing Boutique

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Voucher Run

- i. **June 30, 2022**

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 156337 to 156511 in

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the amount of \$697,112.44 plus Payroll Transfers \$215,409.69 for a total of \$912,522.13.

ii. **July 20, 2022**

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 156512 to 156606 in the amount of \$843,497.67 plus Payroll Transfers \$261,301.69 for a total of \$1,104,799.36

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk