

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 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 Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Deborah Dean, Councilor Nick Fleming, and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the Civil Air Patrol led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 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. August 1, 2022

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Civil Air Patrol

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Finley of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) introduced cadets and adult members of the CAP in attendance. Lt. Col. Finley recognized the outstanding support the organization has received from the City over the last several years and let the Council know of the ways the CAP has served the community and accomplishments they are proud of. Members of the CAP presented the Mayor with a certificate of appreciation for fifteen years of support. Mayor Bhasker thanked the CAP for their continued help with the City's Municipal Airport and annual Fly-In. Lt. Col. Finley presented a Power Point presentation of the CAP's history and accomplishments.

b. Socorro County Community Alternatives Program

Jason Frame, Coordinator of the Socorro County Community Alternative Program (SCCAP) asked the City to continue to support the annual Recovery Celebration, which will be held Saturday September 17, 2022, at Sedillo Park from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Frame gave the Council an overview of SCCAP and the activities of the Celebration. Mayor Bhasker informed Mr. Frame the City would help with the Event.

ORDINANCES

a. Ordinance No. 22-08-15 – Vacation and Accrued Leave

Donald Monette, City Administrator stated that the City's auditors recommended that this policy should be changed, allowing employees to carry over enough leave and it is in line with policies of other municipalities. It will allow an employees' leave to go from 120 to 160 hours with the maximum not to exceed 320 hours.

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Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 22-08-15. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

b. Resolution No. 22-08-15 – FY24 Funding of a Public Transportation System

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-08-15 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. UPS Lease Extension

Mayor Bhasker stated if approved this would extend UPS's lease with a monthly increase.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the UPS Lease Extension as presented. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Smith Road Abatement

Mr. Monette informed the Council that after the last meetings' discussion of the abatement, Kristy Padilla, Planning and Zoning Manager, went through the minutes of previous meetings and discovered that the gentleman that requested the abatement pulled his request. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is no abatement of Smith Road.

Mr. Monette stated that Michael Lucero, Landfill Director has presented the Council with the expenses of the demolition of the Sands Motel. Mr. Monette further stated that all expenses will be itemized to obtain a grand total to file a lien against the Sands Motel property.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that he has asked James McNeal, Recreation/Tourism Director, to give an update on what is going on at the Rodeo Arena. Councilor Salome recognized all the work performed by the different City departments and the money it saves the taxpayers. For example, the building of the road and the planting of the trees to the Rodeo Arena. The parking lot at the convention center. Councilor Salome feels these are things that the taxpayers should be aware of, informed about, and employees should be recognized for. Other examples Councilor Salome mentioned were, how the beautiful Arena was built and how the Sands Motel was demolished. Councilor Salome continued by stating that this Administration utilizes the skills of employees, to accomplish goals, rather than outsourcing to expensive contractors and consultants, and the Administration and Council should be proud of that.

Mr. McNeil and Cheyenne Cortez, Administrative Assistant, presented the Council

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with a list of past and future events and gave a brief description of each. Mayor Bhasker asked if any events are scheduled for the Convention Center. Mr. McNeil replied that, during the County Fair, the Fiber Guild will be displaying three years of their handmade quilts and New Mexico State University has inquired about booking a future event. Mayor Bhasker asked how the baseball season went. Mr. McNeil replied that approximately 275 kids took advantage of the program, which featured an end of the year tournament. It was added that, in association with the baseball programs, the Socorro Consolidated School District has committed to financing an upgrade to the dugouts and fences at the Sedillo Parks baseball fields.

Councilor Romero stated that the Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon was very successful, but it was not just Tourism Department that helped. It was multiple City departments that were involved to help make the event a success. Streets, Parks, Pool, Recreations, etc. Mayor Bhasker thanked the employees for their hard work.

Christopher Carrillo, Code Enforcement Officer, informed the Council on what code enforcement is currently focused on. The Department has 15 ongoing cases and have closed approximately 40.

Isaac Angel, Gas Superintendent/Airport Director reported on gas leaks, the installation of new gas lines, and cleaning weeds at the airport in preparation for the M-Mountain Fly-In.

Mr. Lucero reported that the new cell is continuing to be built and invited the Council for a personal tour.

Guadalupe Tarango, Animal Control Director stated that he will be transporting animals on August 26th and the shelter is currently full.

Mayor Bhasker announced that Mike Winder, Police Chief will be retiring at the end of September, after 24 years and 9 months. The Mayor stated he has interviewed two candidates for the position.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez reported that she was approached by a resident on Calle de Largo and was asked if, or when, the street could be repaved. The resident stated that it has been forty years since it was last paved. Mayor Bhasker replied the road was chip sealed/overlayed with in the last ten years and would check and let Councilor Chavez-Lopez know of the exact number of years. The Mayor stated that the City is currently paving Annette, Miller, Lucero, Padilla, and Granada Streets with the addition of sixteen speed bumps, to be constructed throughout the City.

Mr. Pineda stated that the CDBG's Cuba Street Drainage Improvements project will go out for rebid, with the pre-bid taking place on August 25, 2022. The new bids will be analyzed on September 7, 2022.

Mr. Monette thanked Lena Chavez, Administrative Assistant, and all departments

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involved, in applying for 4 recreational grants. The Mayor stated that the City will be the fiscal agent for New Mexico Tech and the County of Socorro, if their grant applications are successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bhasker reported in open session that the City was named in a Tort Claim that occurred at the Socorro General Hospital.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. 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
Simon Costello	08/18/2022	Fire	New Hire	A-42
Antonio Munoz	08/18/2022	Fire	New Hire	A-42

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Great Wester Specialty Systems, Inc.	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Jerry Mosher	Low Voltage Electrical
Pelletier Construction, Inc.	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	John Sims	Construction
H2ECO Water Bulk, Inc	Out of Town	Houston, TX	Joseph Devine	Bulk Water Supplier

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 156607 to 156800 in the amount of \$882,845.54 plus Payroll Transfers \$404,773.62 for a total of \$1,287,619.16.

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, 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, September 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

