

City of Socorro Special City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 23, 2015

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Stephanie Saavedra, in the absence of the City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Donald Monette, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Ernest Pargas. Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Monette led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Selection of CDBG Project

Mayor Bhasker stated that on January 22, 2015 a public hearing was held to receive recommendations for the City's next CDBG project. Mayor Bhasker stated that the projects received are as follows:

- *A drainage project to address the backup of storm water in the Green Ditch stub from the drain that is restricted at the BDSF railroad crossing.
- *Paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the Texas Street area (Texas Street, B Street, Vermont Street and C Street) to include any necessary drainage work in areas affected downstream.
- *An overnight homeless shelter that will house a minimum of 20 individuals.
- *Improvements to the City Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- *Improvements to the City high pressure gas line to increase capacity.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration is recommending the second project on the list be chosen as it is a continuation of several projects that have already taken place.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the project listed as "Paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the Texas Street area (Texas Street, B Street, Vermont Street and C Street) to include any necessary drainage work in areas affected downstream" as the City's next CDBG project. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Monette stated that he attended the hearing and feels that the issues downstream are a matter of concern and need to be addressed. Councilor Monette stated that he wanted the addition of a culvert to the drainage ditch to be added to the City's ICIP. Mayor Bhasker stated that it could be added at the next meeting. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that an application has been submitted to the Water Trust Board for the A Street area. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the City was able to acquire property, holding ponds could be built. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City needs to work with BNSF Railroad on the crossing. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Santillanes if the City could use the spillway as a holding pond. Mr. Santillanes stated that the spillway usually runs up to $\frac{3}{4}$ full and wouldn't hold much more water and could spill over. Mr. Santillanes stated that widening the Green Ditch might help. Lloyd Martinez stated that putting a culvert from the City's concrete channel which crosses Meek Street to the Cuba Road ditch would divert water to the south end of Hope Farms Road and would relieve some of the water which currently backs up. Mayor Bhasker stated that it may take more than one project to finish all of the items. Mr. Santillanes stated that all required surveying (of the residents) has been completed and now the CDBG application will be submitted. Mayor Bhasker stated that all of the projects have merit but he feels that it would be best to move forward with the selected project.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:15 p.m., Councilor Monette motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

