

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 3, 2022**

Mayor 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 Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., Councilor Peter Romero, and Councilor Anton Salome.

Councilor Gordy Hicks was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to amend the agenda to move Item 11. a., Swearing in of Police Chief, to fall after Item 5. Proclamations and Awards.

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. September 19, 2022

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Retirement – Mike Winders – Police Chief

Mayor Bhasker presented a retirement plaque to Mike Winders who retired as the City's Police Chief on September 30, 2022. Mayor Bhasker read the plaque which recognizes Chief Winders 24 years 11 months of dedicated law enforcement service for the City of Socorro. Chief Winders thanked the City for providing him the opportunity to work for the City and serve as the Chief. Also in attendance was Chief Winders' wife Sandy. Chief Winders received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that during his tenure of 32 years as Mayor there has been six Police Chiefs and the City has not experienced any civil rights issues, no police involved shootings, and no big scandals.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE CHIEF

Joseph Gutierrez, Municipal Judge, swore Angel Garcia into the position of Police Chief. The family of Chief Garcia was present for the swearing in. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated Chief Garcia on his new position.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 22-10-03a – Law Enforcement Fund Grant

Mayor Bhasker stated if approved, the City would accept \$787,500.00 for the Law Enforcement Fund Grant. The City is awaiting the specification on how this grant is to be administered to attract and hire up to six qualified police officers.

Councilor Romero motioned to approve Resolution No. 22-10-03a as presented. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 22-10-03b – Disposition of Vehicles

Councilor Olguin motioned to approve Resolution No. 22-10-03b as presented. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Salome asked when the insurance would terminate on these vehicles. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director stated that once the Resolution has been approved the insurance will be terminated. Kristy Padilla, insurance coordinator, stated she would take the vehicles off the insurance list the following day, if approved. Councilor Chavez-Lopez inquired how the vehicles will be disposed of. Mayor Bhasker stated that the vehicles have to be equally available to the public. Ms. Lopez stated that the disposition of the vehicles also has to be approved by the State of New Mexico.

c. Notice of Interest

- i. Flood Mitigation (6th Street)**
- ii. Wastewater System Expansion (Evergreen Drive)**
- iii. Wastewater System Expansion (NE Frontage Road)**
- iv. Wastewater Treatment Plant (SCADA System)**

Donald Monette, City Administrator explained this is funding that has come available through the bi-partisan infrastructure law (BIL). Mayor Bhasker stated the Flood Mitigation (6th Street) (\$5,500,000.00) is taking the water that forms on Bullock Steet to a holding pond for processing before it can flow into the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy ditches. The Wastewater System Expansion (Evergreen Drive) (\$8,000,000.00) is expanding sewer service on Evergreen Drive. The Wastewater System (NE Frontage Road) (\$5,500,000.00) expands sewer service on the NE Frontage Road, and Wastewater Treatment Plant (SCADA System) (\$1,000,000.00) is to install SCADA system to monitor the system.

Councilor Salome motioned to approve Notice of Interest i., ii., iii., and iv.as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chelsea Jones, Library Director stated that the General Obligation Bond Issue 2, which if passed, will provide publicly funded New Mexico libraries with a total of \$19,000,000.00 will be on the ballot for the November 8, 2022, general election and encourages everyone to vote. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a grant for individuals to help rehab their houses in the amount ranging from \$10,000.00 to \$50,000.00, and the applicants have to complete the application individually. The

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Mayor is in hopes the library would help the individual complete the application as they do with income taxes. Councilor Chavez-Lopez explained some of the programs she administers through the Housing Authority. Mayor Bhasker stated that he knows of six families that are living remotely because of the housing shortage in the City. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated the Governor has provided \$10,000,000.00 in grant funds to buy or remodel homes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Pineda informed the Council that TDS will have a kickoff meeting at City Hall on Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to present their marketing and network build overview.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Mayor Bhasker reported out of executive session the discussion of three personnel matters. No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Charles Zimmerly presented the Mayor and Council with glasses from the Oktoberfest event that was held at the Hammel Museum on October 1, 2022. Mr. Zimmerly thanked the City for its help with the event.

a. Planning and Zoning Appointment – Brian Skornia

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve the appointment of Brian Skornia to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Job Descriptions

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the Job Descriptions as presented. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker questioned Ms. Lopez if the recent salary changes were approved in the budget that was sent to DFA. Ms. Lopez stated that all the salary changes that went through are additional to the budget and will require a budget resolution, closer to the end of the fiscal year.

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as read by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Stephen Jojola	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	E-52 to E-55

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Leo Petersen	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	C-52 to C-55
Michael Padilla	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	D-52 to D-55
Joshua Armijo	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-43 to A-47
Ignacio Chavez	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	D-45 to D-51
Simon Costello	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-42 to A-49
Antonio Munoz	10/03/2022	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-43 to A-51
Angel Garcia	10/01/2022	Police	Promotion to Chief	X-62 to X-70
Kenneth Greenwood	10/01/2022	Police	Promotion to Asst. Chief	X-58 to X-63
James McNeil	10/01/2022	Tourism/Rec/Rodeo	Additional Job Duties	B-62 to B-64
Austin Smythe	10/03/2022	Rodeo	Temp to Full Time	A-35
Carlos Benavidez	10/03/2022	Rodeo	Temp to Full Time	A-35
Maureen Trujillo	09/30/2022	Cashier	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Cascade Drilling	Out of Town	Weatherford, TX	Ron Thalacker	Environmental Drilling

Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk