

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**January 3, 2023**

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks 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, Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks, Councilor Damian Ocampo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr., and Councilor Peter Romero.

Councilor Anton Salome was present remotely.

Mayor Ravi Bhasker was absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Romero led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Approval of January 3, 2023 City Council Agenda**
- b. **Consideration of Minutes**
  - i. **December 20, 2022**
- c. **Resolution No. 23-01-03a – Open Meetings Resolution**
- d. **Resolution No. 23-01-03b – Governing Body Rules of Procedure**
- e. **Resolution No. 23-01-03c – Purchasing Policy Resolution**
- f. **Resolution No. 23-01-03d – CDBG Certification and Commitments**
- g. **In-House Budget Resolution #102**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a. **Veronica Pound – Socorro General Hospital**

Veronica Pound, Hospital Chief Executive stated she was asked by a few Councilors to give the Council an update on Socorro General Hospital (SGH). Ms. Pound said the hospital is a 24-bed critical care hospital.

Ms. Pound informed the Council of the following statistics:

- 24 to 48 patients a day
- 11,000 visits per year
- Since there is no ICU at SGH all patients have to be transferred.
- In-Patient units see approximately 450 patients per year
- Approximately 250 observation patients per year
- The OB delivers approximately 80 to 100 babies per year
- Perform approximately 480 surgeries per year and have a board-certified surgeon available

Ms. Pound said the hospital is fortunate to have the City of Socorro Fire Department to transfer patients out and when they are unable to fly a patient out by helicopter or plane a nurse will accompany the ambulance on the transport. It can take from 6 to 24 hours to get a bed available for transport. Ms. Pound recognized Lawrence Baca, Fire Chief and

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Angel Garcia, Police Chief for their continued support and introduced Adrian Morris who is the Quality Manager for the hospital. Mr. Morris informed the Council that SGH hosted an EMT class last fall and there were 9 EMTs that completed the course that will be testing soon, all from within the county or community. Mr. Morris announced that from a generous donor within the community, they will be hosting a second Basic EMT class in March. There are three levels to become an EMT, Basic, Intermediate, and Paramedic level. Mr. Morris stated that January 9<sup>th</sup> is National Law Enforcement appreciation Day and SGH will be appreciating law enforcement from the City of Socorro, County of Socorro, State Police, and New Mexico Tech. Councilor Ocampo asked Mr. Morris how much it costs to run an EMT class. Mr. Morris responded that the course is taught through the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and if they send an instructor the cost is approximately \$15,000.00 for a 12-person class. Councilor Fleming reminded everyone how lucky we are to have Ms. Pound at the hospital. Councilor Romero asked Mr. Morris what the end goal is on having the EMT classes. Mr. Morris stated that the Socorro Fire Department needs a couple of employees to take the Basic Class and VLA is trying to build and reestablish their program. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks gave praise to SGH.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Side by Side Vehicle Discussion**

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks said he has been approached by several people to see if it was feasible to have side-by-side vehicles allowed to drive in the city limits. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks stated that many other municipalities have adopted an ordinance and would like to have the Council look into it. Councilor Dean asked for clarification if the vehicles would be allowed to drive on the streets or just cross the street to get to their recreation area. Joseph Gutierrez, Municipal Judge discussed the municipal code for vehicles. Donald Monette, City Administrator stated that this would be a good time as the City is in the process of updating the Municipal Driving Code that has been out of date for a few years and since this is an ordinance it would have to meet all the advertisement requirements. Angel Garcia, Police Chief stated that currently side by side vehicles are not allowed to drive with the flow of the traffic down California Street as it is a State-owned street and gave the Council the restrictions for different off-road vehicles. Councilor Olguin asked if a golf cart would be allowed. Chief Garcia replied that they must be able to travel at a rate of 35 miles per hour and would investigate what other communities are doing. Councilor Chavez-Lopez suggested that the Council read the Municipal Driving Code and bring it up at the future meeting. Administrator Monette stated that he would make sure all Councilors have a copy to be able to do their research.

**b. Resolution No. 23-01-03 – Acceptance and Approval of the FY22 Audit**

Geoff Mamerow CPA, Southwest Account Solutions, LLC presented the 2022 City of Socorro's annual audit. Mr. Mamerow reported that the City's opinion is unmodified, which is the highest level. The City has no findings for the fourth year in a row and because of no findings the City is very well respected in the state for the way it operates

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and is a financial success story. Mr. Mamerow went over the financial statements and stated the City has a strong statement of condition. Mr. Mamerow further stated the City has a solid statement of cash flow, but the City is not immune to inflation and suggested a rate increase that would affect the citizen in the most minimal matter, but keeps the City's utilities operating if something happens. Mr. Mamerow concluded the City also had a single audit on Federal Funds and received an unmodified opinion.

Mr. Mamerow gave congratulations to management, staff, and governance for a job well done.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-01-03. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Fleming thanked all the City workers for the wonderful job decorating around the City for the holiday season.

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks reported a streetlight on California Street across from Red Roof Inn that is arcing.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Job Descriptions**

**i. Custodian/Maintenance**

**ii. Economic Development Director**

Councilor Olguin motioned to approve the Job Descriptions as presented by Administrator Monette. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motioned passed unanimously.

**b. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Olguin motioned to approve the Personnel Changes.

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Lena Chavez	01/01/2023	Administration	Assistant Administrator	F-50 to F-55
Albert Olguin	01/01/2023	Gas/Crewman	Completed Probation	A-35 to A-37

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the Business Registrations as read by

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Administrator Monette.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ZOING</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Contreras Lawn Service and Landscaping	R-4	607 Bagley	Raul Contreras	Yard and Landscaping Service

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers – 111 School of Mines Road.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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

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/s/  
**Gordon Hicks, Mayor Pro Tem**

**ATTEST:**

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