

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 7, 2023

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. via the Zoom application.

ROLL CALL

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk, took roll call.

Council members present at roll call:

- Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Deborah Dean
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Gordy Hicks
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of March 7, 2023 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. February 21, 2023

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- a. Public Hearing – Transfer of Ownership of Dispenser Liquor License No. 0035 to Bodega Burger Co. and Lounge, LLC

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

Amy Kimball asked where the license is being transferred from. Donald Monette, City Administrator, replied that the owner of record is Lander Enterprises and is transferring to the Bodega Burger Co. and Lounge.

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

- b. Council Action on Transfer of Ownership of Dispenser Liquor License No. 0035

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Transfer of Ownership of Dispenser Liquor License No. 0035 to Bodega Burger Co. and Lounge, LLC. Seconded by Councilor

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Ocampo. Motion passed with Councilor Dean abstaining due to her ownership in the Bodega Burger Co. and Lounge, LLC.

c. Resolution No. 23-03-07 – Disposition of Vehicle

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-03-07. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated the City has been approached by the State to be responsible for the City of Socorro Senior Center. They will make a presentation of the possibility of the City taking the center over at the next City Council Meeting. The Councilors will be provided with budget information, expenditures, and what needs to be done prior to the meeting. The Mayor stated that the City needs to make sure there is a senior center located in the City and told the state that he believed the City is capable of running the center and will not pledge anymore than the \$15,000.00 and the use of the building the City currently provides to the center.

Councilor Fleming asked if it is only the Socorro location or does it also include the two outside locations. Mayor Bhasker replied that Veguita center will be run by Valencia County and Magdalena location there was a question if the City of Socorro would take on the Magdalena center, but the Mayor encouraged that the City would not want to be responsible for the Magdalena site.

Mayor Bhasker gave the Council additional information. The senior centers serve approximal 160 home lunch meals, 60 congregate meals, totaling 220 meals daily.

Councilor Hicks asked what's the average cost to prepare a meal. Mayor Bhasker replied the average cost for the 220 meals is approximately \$300.00 a year per senior. Currently the budget to run the centers is \$660,000.00 and the Mayor feels the City could run the center well within our means. The City could also provide activities that were not provided, such as, working with the youth, and recreational activities such as swimming and exercise. Councilor Hicks also stated that the City provides the building and we need to take care of the seniors.

Maryann Keller stated that she was very grateful for the City considering taking on the center and said she attends the center daily for the meal and that for some of the folks this is the only hot meal and maybe the only meal they receive for the day. She believes the County does not realize the impact it will have on the seniors and for a lot of the seniors this is their social day. Being very proud the City is considering the take over, she stated she has been advocating for the center for the six years since moving to Socorro and could never get anyone to listen to her.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she would really like the City to consider helping the Magdalena center and see if there is a possibility of joining forces as well.

Administrator Monette stated besides the cash donation the City provides it is also rent free and insured.

Councilor Hicks stated that he and his wife attend the center daily and that it is a place where

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seniors can socialize and it is very important it remains open, and thanked the Mayor for his efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Monette noticed Amy Kimball in attendance who spoke during public forum at the January 17, 2023 Council Meeting and asked if her concern about posting the agenda was addressed to her satisfaction. Ms. Kimball stated that her concern was resolved and there is now a link directly to the agenda and gave thanks for a quick resolution.

Mayor Bhasker stated that a citizen also spoke at the February 7, 2023 Council Meeting pertaining to animal neglect, abuse, and loose dogs, and reported that since the meeting Guadalupe Tarango, Animal Control Director has been working with the citizen and has picked up a few dogs in that area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Steven Mathieu	03/07/2023	Rodeo/Sports complex	Facilities Manager	B-39 to B-44
Antonio Munoz	03/07/2023	Fire	Completed Probation	A-51 to A-57
Simon Costello	03/07/2023	Fire	Completed Probation	A-49 to A-55
Austin Smythe	03/09/2023	Rodeo	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZOING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Empower health Services LLC	C-2	500 US Hwy 85	Karan Manajan	Opioid Treatment Program
Jenkins Co.	Out of Town	Tijeras, NM	George Jenkins	General/Retail/Advertising
E-Z-I Construction LLC	Out of Town	Lemitar, NM	Joshua Lopez	Construction
Meraki Installers LLC	Out of Town	Pensacola, L	Meaghan Beatty	Solar Installation Co.
Hair by Lyndsay	C-2	110 Plaza	Lyndsay Compton	Cosmetology
Mother's Love LLC	C-1	1184 NE Frontage Rd.	Robyn Mattison & Bradley Albright	Agricultural (Indoor Only)
C-Stand Production Inc	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Natalie Renfro	Film Production
Jobsite Sentry LLC	Out of Town	Goodyear, AZ	Nikki Kintz	Security Monitoring

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Bradley Albright and Robyn Mattison of Mother’s Love LLC address the Council and stated they are a multi-state cultivator and plan to purchase land in the future and make Socorro their hub. Ms. Mattison said their long-term plan is to bring food back to the building and restore the El Sombrero sign and the artifacts inside the building.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that a Disney production will come to Socorro in April featuring George Lopez and Ava Longoria. Administrator Monette added that Manzanares Avenue will be shut down for approximately five days and evenings from 5th Street to 6th Street for filming and will also be looking for approximately 150 extras.

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk