

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 1, 2023

Mayor Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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 August 1, 2023 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. July 18, 2023
- c. Budget Resolution No. 40. – CNG Garbage Trucks

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

PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Socorro Stingrays Swim Team

Cody Johnston, Head Coach and Pool Manager thanked the City for its support, a place to swim, and paying for the coaches and lifeguards. Mr. Johnston recognized members of the Stingrays Swim Team that were able to be present. Mr. Johnston stated at the home meet they served 50 plus kids in Socorro, around 120 from around New Mexico and well over 200 including parents and coaches. Members of the team presented the Mayor and Council with a thank you card, photo of the team and a plastic duck.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- a. Municipal Judge Joseph Gutierrez

Joseph Gutierrez, Municipal Judge, addressed the Council in reference to the custodial duties provided by the City. Judge Gutierrez, through email, requested background checks on the City employees that would be performing custodial services because of the personal information stored at the courts and he does not want anybody to gain access to personal information. Mayor Bhasker informed Judge Gutierrez he was in the wrong place to discuss this matter as City Council has no input on personnel matters. Mayor Bhasker invited Judge Gutierrez to discuss the issue in his office.

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b. Finley Complex Remodel Discussion

Dave Puritz, of NCA Architects, presented a slide show presentation of potential options for renovating the Finley Complex after meeting with the Finley Complex Remodel Committee (Councilor Dean, Councilor Olguin, and Councilor Romero). Mr. Puritz stated that approximately 7200 square feet of the Complex would be demolished and turned into a parking lot and an entry into the courtyard. The parking lot would serve Finley and the Socorro Public Library located across the street. Councilor Salome questioned Mr. Puritz and General Services Director Lloyd Martinez if any of the items recovered from the demolition would be salvaged. Mr. Puritz responded that the roof joists and wood deck are in good enough condition to salvage. Mr. Puritz thought Councilor Salome's idea to find an outside company to salvage items was a good idea and the City could find out what they may be willing to pay for such items. Mayor Bhasker reminded the Council of the presence of asbestos in the building and the City would have to get bids for the abatement.

There will be a covered portal, an ornamental fence with a gate leading into the courtyard which can be landscaped for different purposes. The remaining parts of the building will be renovated, the hallways sheet rocked, new lighting, new windows, the exterior walls covered with new stucco and some additional landscaping.

After additional discussion Councilor Dean made a motion allowing NCA Architects to move forward with the project. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

c. ONM AMP Grant Application – Airport Layout Plan with Narrative Report

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Airport Layout Plan with Narrative Report. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 23-08-01 – ICIP Priorities

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 23-08-01 and stated the Police Department needs have been moved up to number 1 and with Representative Tara Jaramillo's recommendation increased the amount to one million dollars. Donald Monette, City Administrator read the list of priorities.

- Police Substation
- Old High School Remodel
- Sedillo Park Improvements
- Cuba Road Repave and Drainage-Railroad Culvert
- Gianera, Skylark, Otero, Fisher Repaving
- EMRTC Bridge Reconstruction
- Lopezville Road Repaving
- 6th Street and Bullock Stormwater Solution

Administrator Monette requested that after meeting with the New Mexico Environment Department and EPA, Eagle Pitcher cleanup should be added as the ICIP is due on August 18, 2023. Mayor Bhasker informed the Council the NMED/EPA received \$20 million to clean up Eagle Pitcher over the next decade starting with dirt work at the building site. A proposed solution is to have a well located on the corner of Newberry and Lopezville pump the water from the plume into a filtration system to remove the TCE and then pumped back into Newberry Pond and the NMED/EPA would help the City develop the property as a

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recreational site.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-08-01 with the addition of Eagle Pitcher Cleanup Solution. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker reported a zoom meeting was held with the engineers concerning the Highway 60, Spring Street Project. A public hearing will be held is planned for late August to hear input from the public.

Mayor Bhasker asked for patience with the TDS project and if anyone has any complaints or questions contact Mr. Pineda.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council of upcoming events:

- Chile Taste Off
- Socorro County Fair
- School Board meeting will be held at the Convention Center September 18th at 5:30 where the City will give a presentation of the Municipal Electric Utility.

Ruby Lopez informed the Mayor and Council when a radio read meter goes out the meter still runs and will need to be read manually.

Mayor Bhasker stated that gross receipts are at the \$500 thousand mark compared to \$300 thousand previously.

Dezaire Armijo, Tourism/Convention Center Director informed the Council of additional upcoming events:

- Community Yard Sale
- Hot August Nights
- County Fair and Chile Taste Off Parades
- Chile Harvest Triathlon

Councilor Chavez-Lopez praised Ms. Armijo, Shaye Lee, Recreation Director, Steve Mathieu, Rodeo & Sports Complex Director for their hard work.

Mayor Bhasker stated discussions are still ongoing with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for an entrance into the RV Park from Highway 60.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Michael Lucero	08/01/2023	Landfill	Increase in Salary	P-66 to P-68
Roy Baca	08/01/2023	Landfill	Increase in Salary	N-56 to N-60
Julio Peguero	08/01/2023	Landfill	Increase in Salary	R-45 to R-49
David Montoya	08/01/2023	Landfill	Increase in Salary	I-45 to I-49
Bert Guerra	08/01/2023	Landfill	Increase in Salary	K-44 to K-48

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Double Bubble	C-2	1201 South Hwy 85	Randy & Kay Torres	Car Wash
Herron Solutions, LLC	C-2	1445 NW Frontage Rd.	Michelle Herron	Mental/Behavioral Health
Hot Dogs Y'All, LLC	Out of Town	Veguita, NM	Jason/Jeff Powell	Food Services
MFL Inc. d/b/a Melloy Ford	C-2	1 Rodeo Drive	Patrick Melloy	Automotive Sales, Parts, & Service
MFL Inc. d/b/a Melloy Chevrolet	C-2	1 Rodeo Drive	Patrick Melloy	Automotive Sales, Parts, & Service
MFL Inc. d/b/a Melloy Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge Ram	C-2	1 Rodeo Drive	Patrick Melloy	Automotive Sales, Parts, & Service
Koselig Bjorn	Transient Vendor	In Person Vendor Events	Trisha Teran	Crafts

Seconded by Councilor Dean, 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, August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

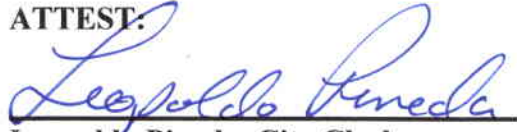
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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Gordon Hicks, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk