

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**August 15, 2023**

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk, took roll call.

- Mayor Ravi Bhasker was absent.

Council members present at roll call:

- Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Deborah Dean
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Anton Salome

Councilor Members Remotely Present:

- Councilor Peter Romero

Councilor members absent:

- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Ocampo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of August 15, 2023 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. August 1, 2023

Councilor Salome requested the Voucher Run be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

**ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Voucher Run

Councilor Salome requested more information on payments made to MJS Consulting and SJR Consulting.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated MJS is Jay and Matejka Santillanes. Their firm performs lobbyist duties for the City and also manages the floodplain and levee certifications. SJR Consulting is Justin Reese, former New Mexico Department of Transportation Cabinet Undersecretary. Justin is helping the City move various City projects forward.

The Voucher Run included vouchers 159285 to 159515 in the amount of \$913,033.81 plus Payroll Transfers \$464,309.73 for a total of \$1,377,343.54.

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Councilor Salome made a motion to approve the Voucher Run. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**a. Socorro County Prevention Coalition**

Chris Rottman and Joel Partridge, Socorro County Prevention Coalition Coordinators, presented the highlights and outcomes of the 2023 Socorro County Community Survey Data, Strategies for Success Student Survey and Catch My Breath.

Councilor Fleming asked how many students or parents participated. Mr. Rottman stated the Community Survey is for individuals 18 and over and had 135 participants compared to 194 last year. The survey is extensively long and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Mr. Rottman stated that he will have all the rural water systems send it out in the bills to try to increase participation in the county. Administrator Monette informed Mr. Rottman that, at a previous City Council meeting, the Southern New Mexico Youth Advisory Board (SNMYAB) informed the Council they were not happy that the youth center shut down and their local president had emailed Mr. Monette stating they still want to provide services that are provided in the list that Jackie Muncy from the Socorro Office of the New Mexico Department of Health is compiling that my overlap with services provided by the Coalition. Mr. Rottman replied it will be available on a QR code that will be available on social media or a printed copy on request. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks asked who funds the program. Mr. Rottman replied the Office of Social Abuse and Prevention with the City as the fiscal agent. Mr. Rottman stated there was 570 respondents for the Strategies for Student Success Survey:

- Cottonwood Middle School – 49
- Sarracino Middle School – 167
- Socorro High School 229
- Magdalena Middle School – 61
- Magdalena High School – 64

Councilor Ocampo stated he would like to see some of the questions directed to cell phone usage and social web pages usages and tie that to mental health. Many of the issues that coaches and educators see stem from something on social media. Lastly, the Catch My Breath Survey providing students with informative information about the harmful effects of E-Cigarettes and Vaping, had 54 students participate aging in ages from 14-18. Mr. Rottman stated the full report of the surveys is posted on the Socorro County Prevention Coalition website.

**b. Chile Harvest Triathlon and Youth Triathlon**

Beth Cadol reported that 43 youth participated in the event and said it was an entire community effort involving the City of Socorro, New Mexico Tech, NRAO, local businesses, and over 60 volunteers. Ms. Cadol informed the Council that all 43 youth finished the course which included:

- 25 participants from Socorro County (58%)
- 25 had at least one relative racing in the adult triathlon or volunteering for the adult race.
- 18 participants from out of town had a relative in the adult race.

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Administrator Monette.

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Kayla Acosta	08/15/2023	Senior Center	Temporary to Part-Time Permanent	\$15.00
Joseph John Silva, Jr.	08/07/2023	Police	Completed Probation	A-58 to A-60
Cimarron Gonzles, Jr.	08/07/2023	Police	Completed Probation	A-58 to A-60
Juan Manzano	08/07/2023	Street Department	Job Abandonment	

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

Councilor Dean motioned to approve the Business Registrations as read by Administrator Monette.

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Grancor Environmental LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Ediberto Ramos	Asbestos Abatement & Demolition
Church Street, A Collective	C-2	301 S. California	Jeanie Johnston	Retail

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, 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, September 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk