

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting  
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801  
September 19, 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 Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Anton Salome

Councilor members absent:

- Councilor Gordy Hicks
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of September 19, 2023 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. September 5, 2023
- c. Voucher Run

The Voucher Run included vouchers 159517 to 159779 in the amount of \$1,187,497.67 plus Payroll Transfers \$459,034.55 for a total of \$1,646,532.22.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

- a. Resolution No. 23-09-19a – CDBG – Cuba Road Underpass Street and Drainage Application

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-09-19a. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that this will finish up Cuba Road, but does not take care of the drainage coming off the frontage road and the city will eventually have to work with the highway department.

- b. Resolution No. 23-09-19b – TPF – Fowler Street

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-09-19b. Seconded by

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Councilor Chavez-Lopez.

Donald Monette, City Administrator stated that Fowler Street is located off of Highway 60 and last year the City repaved Lucero, Padilla, and Granada Streets and are trying to get all the streets up to speed before the Highway 60 project begins.

Motion passed unanimously.

**c. Lease Agreement – Hydromanage LLC**

Administrator Monette explained this is the lease previously approved by the Council for Peak Holdings, LLC, a cannabis company that is currently in the old Gambles building. There was a change in management and a change in the name and would like to make the Council aware of the change. It is four acres (two lots) on the east side of Enterprise Road in the Industrial Park with the option to purchase within the five years for future growth.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Hydromanage, LLC. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks arrived at 6:04 p.m.

**d. Socorro Consolidated Schools Campus Security Officer MOU**

Mayor Bhasker stated that Lawarncce Montano and Chris Carrillo, Code enforcement officers, alternate at Sarracino Middle School as campus security. The City will receive a total of three modules that are now located where the new Middle School will be built. One will be moved to the Rodeo and Sports Complex and make it into a shower, bathroom, and kitchen for the RV Park, and one will be moved to the Youth Center for the future Police Department, and undecided on the location of the third. This is what the City is getting in return for the MOU.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve the Socorro Consolidated Schools Campus Security Officer MOU. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution No. 23-09-19c – FY25 Funding of a Public Transportation System**

Administrator Monette stated this is the annual resolution of the Council's supporting the City's application for the Transportation Department which is partially funded by the Federal Government.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-09-19c. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez informed the Council that the Recreation Committee met Monday September 18, 2023, and discussed Sedillo Park and other items. Councilor Ocampo stated they had a session where they talked about different ideas for Sedillo Park and would like to sit down with administration to discuss what came up in the committee meeting. Mayor Bhasker scheduled a meeting for Wednesday September 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

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Administrator Monette stated that Council Olguin would like to recognize Dezirae Armijo, Convention Center/Tourism Director, Cheyenne Cortez, Asst. Convention Center/Tourism Director, and all the City employees that helped with making Socorrofest a great success. Mayor Bhasker stated that the event was packed. Councilor Fleming stated he heard nothing but praise and wanted to thank all the volunteers, City employees, and New Mexico Tech personnel that put on a fantastic event. Mayor Bhasker displayed the Socorrofest T-Shirt designed by Bobbi Jo Lesperance.

Mayor Bhasker commended Ms. Armijo and Ms. Cortez for a job well done at the Socorro Consolidated School Board meeting held at the City of Socorro Convention Center. Councilor Chavez-Lopez gave praise to Ms. Cortez for her work at Socorrofest. Mayor Bhasker thanked Kevin Gonzales and Adam Lopez from the Parks Department for maintaining the Plaza during the event.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council the City will finally receive the three natural gas dump trucks and the two natural gas garbage trucks after waiting approximately a year. They should be arriving soon. The vehicles were purchased under the VW Grant.

Michael Lucero, Landfill/Sanitation Director stated that the new cell at the landfill will open soon.

Isacc Angel, Gas Superintendent reported the gas department is installing new gas lines on Walkway and Cassidy Steets prior to the roads repaving project. Administrator Monette stated the grant agreement for the re-pavement of those streets had an error and was returned to Santa Fe and the city should be receiving the corrected copy soon.

Chris Carrillo, Code Enforcement Officer reported he has three cases in court and working with people to clean their properties.

Michael Chavez, Police Department Corporal stated he was present if any questions need to be answered.

Shaye Lee, Recreation Facilitator reported that youth volleyball season has begun with practice on Tuesdays and Wednesday, and games on Thursdays and possibly adding an adult volleyball season. Ms. Lee and Linda Mares, Senior Center Manager, met to discuss adding activities for seniors.

Councilor Hicks stated he had been approached by Food Vendors and asked if they could park where Sands Motel used to be. Mayor Bhasker replied that he would be interested in talking to the Food Vendors and the restaurants because restaurants have a big investment in fixed property and would not want them to lose business. Councilor Dean asked if they are not happy where they are now located. Councilor Hicks replied that they have to change locations too much. Kristy Padilla, Planning and Zoning Manager stated that currently there are only two locations that transient vendors can park, which are the Red Roof Inn and the empty lot between the Bodega Restaurant and Radio Shack. Mayor Bhasker stated this is done in other communities, but the question is, would it take away business from restaurants that pay property tax, have a building, and a fixed restaurant business. Councilor Dean's concern is if transient vendors are located on City property the City would be liable for insurance rather than the food vendor.

Lawrence Baca, Fire Chief reported that testing occurred for seven applicants, and he will interview

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five of the seven next Thursday for three open positions. The Muscular Dystrophy Fill the Boot event will take place at the 49ers parade on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the upcoming Annual Matanza on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director informed the Council that the City's Tyler core software moved from the in-house server to the Cloud. The EV charging stations are ready to go as soon as they are powered up.

Linda Mares, Senior Center Manager, reported the flags at the center were stolen and they are having a problem with homeless hanging around and leaving a mess. Police have been notified and will patrol the area. The number of people eating lunch at the center is approximately 33 a day, with approximately 125 home deliveries, and 50 deliveries in the Veguita area. Mayor Bhasker stated \$21,000 was coming to the senior centers from Socorro County, but the County split it between Magdalena and Socorro, and the funds should have been split \$16,000 to the City and \$5,000 to Magdalena because the City serves the Veguita area which is in the County.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Salome motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as presented by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Shaye Lee	09/21/2023	Recreation	Completed Probation	A-42 to A-44

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

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

ATTEST:

  
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Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk