

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**December 5, 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 December 5, 2023, City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. November 21, 2023

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

- a. **Small Business Saturday**

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring November 25, 2023, as Small Business Saturday.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

- a. Swearing in of newly elected Mayor and City Councilors

The City of Socorro regular municipal election was held on November 7, 2023. City Councilors Deborah Dean, Nicholas (Nick) Fleming, Joel D. Partridge, Jr., and Anton Salome were sworn in by Municipal Judge Joseph E. Gutierrez. Mayor Ravi Bhasker was sworn in by Probate Judge, Gilbert Peralta.

- b. Public Hearing – Restaurant A Liquor License – Sofia’s Kitchen LLC

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor Bhasker stated this is a Restaurant A Liquor License for beer and wine only.

After hearing no comment from the public, Councilor Olguin made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Council Action on a Restaurant A Liquor License**

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Restaurant A Liquor License – Sofia’s Kitchen LLC. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Resolution No. 23-12-05 – Disposition of Vehicles**

Mayor Bhasker stated the vehicle that appears on the resolution will be donated to the Veterans facility being constructed south of Socorro.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-12-05. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker stated that information about the City’s Electric Utility will hopefully be ready for the Council at the next meeting. Mr. Pineda stated that on November 7, 2023, John Lester of Finley Engineering, informed him by email that 75% of the design was complete. The Mayor has had a Facebook conversation with Jared Williams, the Public Relations person from Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. and extended an open invitation to Socorro Electric Cooperative to attend the next Council meeting to have a discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Dean stated at the last meeting the topic of cleaning the community came up and asked if the City still has a Socorro Beautification Committee. Mayor Bhasker stated the Socorro Beautification Committee is basically for beautification with landscaping. The Mayor stated Chris Carrillo, Code Enforcement Officer, has been working on burnt and abandoned buildings. Mr. Carrillo stated Code Enforcement has been helping people that can’t afford to clean up their properties and working on resolutions for abandoned property. Two properties have been completed and hauled away 17 tons of debris. Councilor Dean recommended that the City’s annual clean up be expanded to more than once a year. Councilor Fleming suggested that Senior Citizens get some help removing their trash. Councilor Salome suggested that the City place dumpsters in neighborhoods for a week at a time for cleanup. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that dumpsters have been used in the past and seemed to work well. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated the City has to follow ordinances and the City attorney wrote a form that would allow the residents to sign off giving the City access to their property and to be able to tag the items they would like the City to remove.

Mayor Bhasker spoke on the subject of Food Trucks in town, and opposed to a restaurant that pays property tax and building maintenance, would like the Council to look into a vendor fee. Councilor Hicks stated it is not fair for the Food Trucks not having to pay overhead whereas the restaurants do. Mayor Bhasker stated there needs to be more accountability for Food Trucks and vendors that set up in empty lots and tracking if they are paying gross receipts taxes. Councilor Dean stated that there are people who advertise delivery of food and do they have an approved

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kitchen to do the cooking.

**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
Desiree Smith	12/01/2023	Senior Center	Temporary to Part time Permanent	A-37
Ashley Lower	12/05/2023	Senior Center	Temporary to Permanent	A-37
Kayla Acosta	11/28/2023	Senior Center	Resignation	
Audrey Romero	11/22/2023	Senior Center	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
WNM Communications	M-1	1315 Enterprise Rd	Daniel Meszler	Internet and Phone Services
United Parcel Service, Inc.	C-2	South Airport Frontage Rd.	Rick Bishop	Package Transportation Business
Clocks & Stuff	C-2	511 Parks St.	Felipe Rivas	Clocks on Pictures & 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, December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

  
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Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk