

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
July 18, 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 Deborah Dean
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

Councilor members absent:

- Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Gordy Hicks
- Councilor Damien Ocampo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of July 18, 2023 City Council Agenda

b. Consideration of Minutes

i. July 5, 2023

c. Voucher Run

i. June 30, 2023

The Voucher Run included vouchers 159024 to 159214 in the amount of \$1,113,417.83 plus Payroll Transfers \$293,324.08 for a total of \$1,406,741.91.

ii. July 12, 2023

The Voucher Run included vouchers 159215 to 159284 in the amount of \$436,817.44 plus Payroll Transfers \$268,605.10 for a total of \$708,422.54.

d. Budget Resolution No. 31 – CDBG

e. Budget Resolution No. 32 – Street Fund

f. Budget Resolution No. 33 – Rodeo Sports Complex

g. Budget Resolution No. 34 – Landfill Compactor

h. Budget Resolution No. 35 – Landfill Scrapper Payoff

i. Budget Resolution No. 36 – R & R Fund

j. Budget Resolution No. 37 – Senior Center

k. Budget Resolution No. 38 – State Appropriation

l. Budget Resolution No. 39 – Substance Abuse

m. In-House Resolution No. 105

n. In-House Resolution No. 106

o. In-House Resolution No. 107

Mr. Pineda requested item 6. c. RFP Award No. 062623 – Wastewater Treatment

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Plant – Replace Belt Filter Press be removed from the agenda. Interviews need to take place before the RFP can be awarded.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Maya Fern, Representative from Southern Youth Advisory Board of New Mexico (SYABNM)

Ms. Fern presented to the Council the mission of SYABNM is to advocate for unhoused young people by educating the community, dismantling stigma, and providing insight to youth serving agencies. Ms. Fern stated that as a part of their advocacy efforts they request the City's support and reopen the Socorro Teen Center located at 1002 Ake Avenue. Shay Kelly, SYABNM member gave examples of what programs they would like offered. Jace Wayland gave his experiences of being a youth in Socorro. Chelsea Jones, Library Director stated the Socorro Library offers many of the programs that SYABNM is requesting. Mayor Bhasker stated the City needs to do a better job of getting information out to the public of what the City has to offer the community.

Mayor Bhasker thanked the group for their input.

b. Bridget O'Neill

Bridget O'Neill 1203 Sean Avenue addressed the Council regarding a new water meter and billing problems. Mayor Bhasker stated it was a budgeting problem and ensured her she would receive a new meter.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Public Hearing – ICIP #4

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Police facilities at the Finley Complex is becoming decrepit and would like the Council to support adding a new facility that would include an evidence room, holding cell, interrogation room, and office space. Mayor Bhasker asked Kenneth Greenwood, Assistant Chief, what his thoughts were of the proposed Police Substation. Mr. Greenwood stated that he and Angel Garcia, Police Chief, looked at the Youth Center on Ake Avenue and stated it would be more than sufficient for a Police Substation. Mayor Bhasker stated he is trying to find emergency funds and would like the Council to move to number one on the ICIP. Councilor Romero stated he would move his priority to the relocation. Mayor Bhasker stated the current location is becoming hazardous with black mold in the restrooms that is spreading, the City's insurance has denied the claim to repair, and the air conditioning system is no longer working.

Donald Monette, City Administrator advised the Council he had distributed the ranking sheets and if the Council could return the forms by the end of the meeting. Mr. Monette also attached an email from Frances Deters where she made two request.

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Councilor Olguin, after seeing no further public input, made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. NMML Voting Delegate and Alternate

Mayor Bhasker nominated Councilor Hicks to be the voting delegate. Administrator Monette stated that NMML request that the alternate be in attendance at the annual conference. Mayor Bhasker nominated Councilor Olguin as alternate after he stated he would be attending.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Councilor Hicks as voting delegate and Councilor Olguin as alternate. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 23-07-18a – DFA 4th Quarter Report

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director presented Resolution No. 23-07-18a and if approved will send in the 4th quarter report, reporting \$10,335,000 beginning cash balance, \$31,904,000 revenue, \$31,989,000 expenditures, and ending balance \$10,191,000.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-07-18a. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 001A – Final Budget

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A, seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution No. 23-07-18b – South Central Council of Governments 23-24 Participation

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 22-07-18b and if approved would allow the City to participate in the South-Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) for FY23-24.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-07-18b. Seconded by Councilor Romero.

Councilor Olguin asked if the City gets a lot of support from SCCOG for writing grants. Mayor Bhasker stated that Gwen Valentino is doing a great job. The mayor added that with her help the City has received \$2,000,000 for natural gas trucks and is currently working on an electric garbage truck and police cars.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated there would be an online meeting concerning the Highway 60 project at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow if any of the Councilors would like to join.

Councilor Salome stated he has talked to seniors attending the Senior Center and was told the food has drastically improved since the City has taken over. Councilor Romero asked Linda

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Mares, Senior Center Site Manager, if meals were dropped off in the Veguita area for a week. Ms. Mares replied that the seniors receive one hot meal, and the remaining four are prepared box meals.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Olguin stated the Council had received information on the Open Meetings Act and the City's governing rules of procedures and if the Council wanted to make a change it would be under attendance. Administrator Monette confirmed that is correct.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that Finley Engineering is moving ahead with the contract for the design of the Municipal Electric Substation. A presentation is planned in September to discuss the City's Municipal Electric to the Socorro Consolidated School Board and possibly Socorro General Hospital that will possibly include Nann Winter (Stelzner, Winter, Warburton, Flores & Dawes, P.A.), Ed Reyes (Enchantment Energy Consulting, LLC), Jeffrey Heit, Principal Managing Director (Guzman Energy), Luis Reyes (CEO Kit Carson Electric Cooperative), and a representative of Finley Engineering.

Mayor Bhasker announced Finley Gym is open and the Finley Complex Committee had its first meeting to decide on what direction the City will take on the remodel.

Councilor Dean asked how did the Wrestling Under the Lights event go. Mayor Bhasker stated the event was a success and praised Joel Partridge and James McNeil for growing the wrestling program from nothing and, with the City's support, hopefully it continues to grow.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council the City made available \$400 worth of fans to the public and the inventory depleted within an hour and will make available another \$600 worth of fans. Because of the extremely hot weather, Mayor Bhasker invited the public to use Finley Gym or the Socorro Public Library as a cooling station.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Descriptions

i. Rodeo & Sports Complex Facilities Director

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Job Description. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion pass unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Felix Saavedra	07/18/2023	Production	Competitive Salary & Additional Duties	T-44 to T-50
Steven Mathieu	07/19/2023	Rodeo Complex	Promoted to Director	B-44 to B-55
Abdenago Lucero	07/18/2023	Parks	New Hire	A-35
Carlos D. Benavidez	07/14/2023	Rodeo Complex	Resignation	

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Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
A Peaceful Tree Man LLC	Out of Town	Bosque, NM	Joshua Peace Stropnick	Arboricultural Services

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk