

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 6, 2024

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 Nick Fleming
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

Councilor members absent:

- Councilor Deborah Dean

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of February 6, 2024 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. January 16, 2024

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Romero.

Mr. Pineda requested item 7. b. Resolution No. 24-02-06a – Vacation of a portion of South California Street be removed from the agenda.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Partridge stated he would like an explanation for the reason of the removal. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City should receive some sort of compensation for the property.

PUBLIC FORUM

John Walker addressed the Council with additional ideas for the Smith's Supermarket building as discussed at the January 16, 2024, Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker scheduled a meeting for February 7, 2024, at City Hall with Mr. Walker for further discussion.

Don Medeiros, Forget Me Not Veterans Services, thanked the Mayor and Council for the donation of the ten-passenger van. The van will make two trips weekly to take veterans to appointments in Albuquerque. Mayor Bhasker recommended Mr. Medeiros put together a budget and present it to the Budget Committee to help support the program financially.

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Jerrid Williams, Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc., Director of Communications & Public Affairs, apologized to the Mayor and City Council for his post on social media. Mr. Williams invited the Council and Mayor to a special meeting of the SEC board on February 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the SEC board room.

Gregory Miller, 1711 El Camino Real suggested the city stop using the gun range that the city operates north of the Florida community. Mr. Miller also would like the City to consider a resolution to prohibit the use of city property for a gun range due to environmental, zoning code violations, and other liability reasons.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS

Mayor Bhasker presented a plaque to Mario Amaro, who retired from the Socorro Fire Department as a Captain on December 30, 2023, with 25 years and one month of service. Fire Chief Lawrence Baca thanked Mr. Amaro for his dedication and hard work throughout the years. There were several employees from the Socorro Fire Department in attendance.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Discussion - SEC RFI-Letter Requesting Information to Consider the Extension of the SEC Franchise Agreement

Mayor Bhasker stated he has responded to Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. since the last Council meeting in the form of a letter addressed to SEC board president Leroy Anaya. The letter outlined questions to be answered to be able to move forward on a possible franchise agreement extension.

b. Resolution No. 24-02-06b – Application for the 2024-2025 – NMDOT MAP Funds

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-02-06b. Seconded by Councilor Romero.

Councilor Olguin asked for an overview of the resolution. Mayor Bhasker stated it would be for reconstruction of Otero Street that has a tremendous amount of traffic.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Ecliptix Proposal

Mayor Bhasker stated the city has been working with Damian Banks, CEO and Co-Founder of Ecliptix Gaming, on a proposal that would allow the city to support scholarships in the amount of approximately \$20,000 per year. New Mexico Tech is in the process of offering a degree in e-gaming and this would allow students to get a start on enrolling in the program.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated that the city is looking into purchasing a snowplow. If the city gets any snow the city is hopeful that the New Mexico Department of Transportation will still help in plowing. The road projects have been halted until March. The mayor stated he has attended the

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New Mexico State Legislature and it looks like the City may receive funds for Finley Complex, the moving of the monument from the Heritage Center, and landscaping the interstate entrances. Hopefully \$250,000 will come from the State Historical Preservation Office for the museum at the City of Socorro Convention Center.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Description

i. Police – Evidence Custodian

ii. Water, Parks and Streets – Assistant Director

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the job descriptions, Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Lena Chavez	02/06/2024	Administration	Certification & Associate Degree	G-57 to G-61
Dustin Moreland	02/15/2024	Fire	New Hire	A-50
Ashlyn Aguilar	02/15/2024	Fire	New Hire	A-50
Justin Pacheco	02/15/2024	Fire	New Hire	A-50
Thomas Padilla	01/16/2024	Fire	EMT-Basic Certification	A-54 to A-56
Russell Rackey	02/06/2024	Police	Additional Job Duties	F-46 to F-59
Antonio Gonzales	01/22/2024	Police	New Hire	A-44
James Beasley	02/06/2023	Street	New Hire	A-35

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Daylight Electric & HVAC	Out of Town	Los Lunas, NM	Matt Thomas	Electric, HVAC & Plumbing
Herron Solutions LLC	C-2	218 California	Michelle Herron	Behavioral Health
Los Vistor's Mexican Food	C-2	1001 N. California	Yavaira Luna	Restaurant
Guzman Construction Solutions LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Rudy Guzman	Construction
Xtreme Control	Out of Town	Magdalena, NM	Miguel Castillo	Pest Control
Rosie's Burgers	Out of Town	Magdalena, NM	Marosi Rael	Food Truck
Advanced Tower Services LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Cliff Barbien	Tower Construction

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Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, 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, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk