

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**March 5, 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 Deborah Dean
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Anton Salome

Councilor members absent:

- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Micheal Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of March 5, 2024 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. February 20, 2024

Councilor Partridge made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Dean, the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a. **Daun Medaris, Forget Me Not Thrift Store, Veterans Park, and Veterans Center**

Mr. Medaris informed the Council that a grant to build tiny homes and provide vocational training in framing, electrical, and plumbing was recently denied. Mr. Medaris stated the vocational training would have helped the community fix the problem of homelessness. Mr. Medaris said the grant denial was a setback, but they will continue building houses number 7, 8, and 9 with their own funding. With the closure of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter, Forget Me Not has picked up many of the services they provided including the city's sponsored Community Fishing Derby. Mayor Bhasker stated that the city will try to help with the tiny homes if legally possible.
- b. **Kari Powell, Festival of the Cranes Manager**

Ms. Powell introduced herself to the Council as the new Festival of the Cranes Manager. She informed the Council this year's event will be using the City's Convention Center and has started its advertising campaign for the event to be held starting Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> and will run through Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Powell thanked the city for the \$15,000.00 it received for last year's event.

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Councilor Romero arrived at 6:14 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

a. **Socorro High School Wrestling Team**

Joel Partridge, Socorro High School Wrestling Coach, thanked the city for honoring and supporting the wrestling team throughout the years. Coach Partridge gave the history of the wrestling program that began seven years ago and detailed the accomplishments they have obtained over those years. Over the years the boys have had 20 top three state placers, 11 state champions, and for the girls, 11 state placers, and one state champion. Coach Partridge introduced all the wrestlers and coaches in attendance and highlighted their individual accomplishments.

b. **Lego League**

Savanna Morris, Lego League Coach, had each member of the Rock and Red-Hot Chili Peppers introduce themselves. Ms. Morris informed the Council they are the only Lego team in Socorro, New Mexico and the only team from New Mexico that will be attending the Florida Sunshine Invitational international competition. The competition will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, June 19<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$18,000.00. Mayor Bhasker stated the city will help in the form of advertisement. Ms. Morris stated last year the city covered the registration fee and the City of Socorro logo was featured on their banners. The team gave the Council a demonstration of their robot.

c. **Resolution No. 24-03-05 – Local Government Road Fund Program for Street and Drainage Improvements**

Donald Monette, City Administrator, presented Resolution No. 24-03-05, and if approved would show the city's support for applying for funds to improve Fitch Street, Hayden Place, Douglas Place, Gurdon Place, Houghton Place, and Nelson Place.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-03-05. Seconded by Councilor Romero, the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker Stated the city will be putting in speed bumps around town but the City has limited funds to meet all of the requested locations. Administrator Monette stated that there is a list of approximately twenty requests and available funds for five and the Council and Administration will need to prioritize them.

Mr. Monette continued, there is supplemental funding available from the CDBG program because only seven applications were received this year. The city's quoted cost was approximately \$400,000.00 more than what the CDBG application was approved for so the city will apply for additional funding. The supplemental funding application is due March 21<sup>st</sup>.

He also informed the Council that this year's application for the MAP project will be for Otero Street and the TPF will be for additional funding for Manzanares Avenue and streets around the County Courthouse.

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Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated Neal Avenue next to the Hammel Museum off 6<sup>th</sup> Street is still a dirt road and would like to see it paved. Mayor Bhasker replied that it could possibly be chip sealed.

Mayor Bhasker is requesting the Budget Committee to set aside funds for a landscaping engineer to landscape the exterior entrances of the Pythias, Catholic and Masons cemeteries. Councilor Salome stated he would like to see a partnership between the churches to have a cemetery placed in the Industrial Park. Administrator Monette informed the Council in the 1950's the city deeded land to the different organizations to build their cemeteries, so they own the land where their current cemeteries are located.

Administrator Monette is working on getting the land at the Industrial Park, near the rodeo and sports complex, surveyed. The area was part of the land grant and does not have parcel ID numbers or legal descriptions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Job Descriptions**

**i. Wastewater – Chief Operator**

**ii. Wastewater – Laboratory Technician III**

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

**b. Personnel Changes**

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Aldo Ruiz-Gomez	03/01/2024	Gas	Temp to Permanent	A-37
Albert Olguin	03/01/2024	Gas	Promotion to Operator	B-39 to B-43
Michael Benavidez	03/01/2024	Gas	Promotion to Foreman	P-41 to P-46
James Padilla	03/01/2024	Gas	Promotion to Foreman	L-44 to L-46
Luis Chavez	03/01/2024	Police	New Hire/Captain	U-71
Raul Contreras	03/01/2024	Rodeo	Completed Probation	A-40 to A-42
Cody Polston	03/05/2024	Wastewater	Reclassify Job Description/Adjust Pay	U-53 to U-59
Fabian Silva	02/23/2024	Gas	Resignation	
Antonio Munoz	03/15/2024	Fire	Resignation	
Andrew Garcia-Vigil	02/27/2024	Dispatch	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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**c. Business Registrations**

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Bustamante Farms	Out of Town	Polvadera, NM	Shaina Bustamante	Retail Produce Market
RJ's Chick-Inn LLC	C-2	400 California St.	Mark Martin	Restaurant
Hair It Iz and Nail's Too	C-2	106 East Baca St.	Samry Wilkinson	Hair and Nail Salon
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

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, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

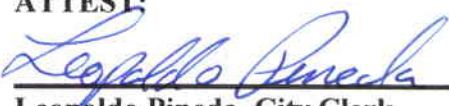
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk**