

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 2, 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 Nick Fleming
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero

Councilor members remotely present:

- Councilor Anton Salome

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of April 2, 2024 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. March 19, 2024
- c. Budget Resolution No. 22 – Senior Center
- d. Budget Resolution No. 23 – Lodgers Tax
- e. Budget Resolution No. 24 – Recreation Healthy Kids
- f. Budget Resolution No. 25 – Recreation
- g. Budget Resolution No. 26 – Manzanares Avenue
- h. Budget Resolution No. 27 - Airport

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

- a. **Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium – Louisa Lopez**

Louisa Lopez informed the Council that she has been a member of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC) for approximately ten years and the goal is to include New Mexico in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). New Mexico was the first to experience an atomic explosion and New Mexico has never been included in the RECA. Ms. Lopez stated a documentary, “First We Bombed New Mexico”, by Lois Lipman, will be aired at the Las Cruces International Film Festival April 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. TBDC is offering a free bus ride to the festival on April 7, 2024. Tickets can be purchased online from Cineport 10 Allen Theaters. Ms. Lopez gave an update on the RECA act and thanked Mayor Bhasker and the City Council for their support over the years.

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 2, 2024**

Ms. Lopez stated that U.S. Representative Gabriel Vasquez is working on erecting a monument at the test site. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the two open houses at the site has been cancelled by the Army and these events attracts people from all over the world to see a very important part of history.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Inaugural City of Socorro eSports Scholarship Recipients**

Damian Banks, of Ecliptic Gaming, informed the council that his company is educational, eSports program that is provided across the state with partnerships with Bernalillo County, City of Socorro, and New Mexico Tech. Ecliptic Gaming is working on a program with the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Tech to build collegiate courses and a certificate program. The program includes grades 6th through 12th. Mr. Banks thanked the City as a partner to fund scholarships for residents of Socorro to be able to come to the Academy for free. The program is for a three-month period at a discounted rate for the City of Socorro at \$1,500.00 per student in which each student will build a video resume and a esports portfolio. Mr. Banks introduced each recipient of the City of Socorro Scholarship.

- Derek Grain – 6th grade – eSports Athlete/Content Creator
- Aaron Pias – 7th grade – eSports Athlete/Content Creator
- Eduardo Mijares – 9th grade – eSports Athlete/Coach
- Sason Sturgis – 9th grade – eSports Athlete/Content Creator
- Nate Phillips – 10 grade – eSports Athlete/Coach
- Benjamin Baca – 11th grade – eSports Athlete/Coach
- Damion Phillips – 11th grade – eSports Athlete/Manager
- Kyle Siefert – 12th grade – eSports Athlete/Content Creator

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that La Plata Electric Association Inc. has voted to exit Tri-State G & T and also announced Fitch Ratings has downgraded Tri-State G & T debt to BBB+/'F1, Outlook Negative. The mayor also stated the city is moving ahead with its project at the Industrial Park.

Mayor Bhasker discussed Animal Control and the Police Department on damages that have occurred with dogs around the city. The Mayor added that Animal Control and Socorro Police Department have followed the ordinances in place and are working on a weekend drop off location for the Police Department when Animal Control is not on duty. Assistant Police Chief Kenneth Greenwood discussed the process the police officers would take on dropping off animals on the weekend. Councilor Chavez-Lopez voiced her concern about dogs that are running at large.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the City received an IPRA request from Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. requesting records from 2016 to current pertaining to Guzman Energy. Mr. Pineda stated that Guzman Energy was awarded RFP 100518 for wholesale power supply, but negotiations are ongoing and until a contract is signed those records are not public.

Councilor Partridge inquired about the status of the Food Truck Ordinance. Mayor Bhasker replied that the city is still working on it and with Councilor Dean's help will try to organize a

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 2, 2024**

Food Truck Plaza, hopefully in the Smiths parking lot. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated the current ordinance could be updated to include transient vendors and could make his changes as a draft available to the councilors.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Business Registrations**

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Rick's Munch Box	Transient Vendor	1101 Gwendolyn Ct.	Richard Otero	Food Truck
High Maintenance NM LLC	Out of Town	339 Harold Dr.	Matthew Kennicott	Cannabis Production & Wholesale

Seconded by Councilor Dean, 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, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

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