

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
July 23, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez 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:

- Mayor Pro Tem Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

Council members absent at roll call:

- Councilor Deborah Dean
- Councilor Damien Ocampo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Approval of July 23, 2024, City Council Agenda**
- b. **Consideration of Minutes**
 - i. **June 18, 2024**
- c. **Voucher Run**

The Voucher Run included vouchers 161856 to 162125 in the amount of \$2,768,385.19 plus Payroll Transfers \$612,998.22 for a total of \$3,381,383.41.
- d. **Budget Resolution No. 39 – Fire Department**
- e. **Budget Resolution No. 40 - Recreation**
- f. **Budget Resolution No. 41 – Senior Center**
- g. **Budget Resolution No. 42 – Municipal Street Fund**
- h. **Budget Resolution No. 43 – CDBG**
- i. **Budget Resolution No. 44 – Road Improvement**
- j. **Budget Resolution No. 45 – Correctional Fund**
- k. **Budget Resolution No. 46 – Lodger Tax Fund**
- l. **Budget Resolution No. 47 – Lodgers Tax Fund**
- m. **Budget Resolution No. 48 – Rodeo Arena Sports Complex**
- n. **Budget Resolution No. 49 – Municipal Street Fund**
- o. **Budget Resolution No. 50 – Fire Fund**
- p. **Budget Resolution No. 51 – Special Utility Replacement**
- q. **Budget Resolution No. 52 – USDA Wastewater Facility**
- r. **Budget Resolution No. 53 – USDA Wastewater Facility**
- s. **In-House Budget Resolution No. 105**
- t. **In-House Budget Resolution No. 106**
- u. **In-House Budget Resolution No. 107**

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Councilor Olguin made a motion to remove items m, s, and u from the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Partridge, motion passed unanimously.

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

ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

a. Budget Resolution No. 48 – Rodeo Arena Sports Complex

Councilor Olguin inquired about what the quality-of-life amount pertains to. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director stated it is a grant in the amount of \$923,000.00 that a portion was expensed in FY24 and needed to be budgeted for. Donald Monette, City Administrator added the grant is to wrap the facility to keep the wind out and if any funds are remaining it will be used to install a heating system.

Councilor Dean arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 48. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Ocampo arrived at 6:03 p.m.

b. In-House Budget Resolution No. 105

Councilor Olguin questioned the amount for Economic Development. Ms. Lopez explained the amount of \$12,500.00 from Economic Development to Contractual Services was for lobbying services.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve In-House Resolution No. 105. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. In-House Budget Resolution No. 107

Councilor Olguin stated that Ms. Lopez's answer to Budget Resolution No. 48 that dealt with the Quality-of-Life grant answered his question.

Ms. Lopez explained to the Council that In-House Budget Resolutions are not required to report to the Council but do so for transparency.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve In-House Resolution No. 107. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Andy Lotrich, Socorro County Manager

Newly appointed Socorro County Manager Andy Lotrich addressed the Council. Mr. Lotrich reported that in his brief tenure in the last three weeks a lot has happened to bring back cooperation between the city and county, a new partnership with the new president at New Mexico Tech and the school district. Mr. Lotrich stated working directly with Administrator Monette has opened the lines of communication with the city on how the county shares its funds and making sure the ambulance service is up and running.

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b. Mary Baca

Mary Baca reported that she has filed a complaint with the City of Socorro Police Oversight Commission over an issue she had with an officer.

d. Dennis Vicente

Dennis Vicente of 605 Coulsen Drive reported that when there is heavy rain the water backs up to his garage and would like the city to investigate the problem of drainage. Administrator Monette stated he would have Lloyd Martinez, General Services Director, look into the matter.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. RFP Award – RFP 062424 – Magdalena Mountains Trail Plan

Mr. Pineda stated that three proposals were received and opened on June 24, 2024.

- Rock Solid Trail Contracting, LLC
- Applied Trails Research
- Avid Trails

Mr. Pineda recommended the RFP be awarded to Applied Trails Research.

Administrator Monette stated this a for a grant to design a trail from Baldy to Box Canyon.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve RFP 062424. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

b. NMML Voting Delegate and Alternative

Administrator Monette stated that NMML request that the delegate and alternate be in attendance at the annual conference. Councilor Salome motioned to nominate Councilor Olguin as the voting delegate and Councilor Romero as alternate. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 001A – Final Budget

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

d. Resolution No. 24-07-23a – DFA 4th Quarter Report

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23a. Seconded by Councilor Partridge, motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution No. 24-07-23b – South Central Council of Governments 24-25 Participation

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23b and appoints Councilor Dean as the designated representative and Councilor Olguin as alternate. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution No. 24-07-23c – LGRF – Park St., Church St., and Center St.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23c. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

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g. Resolution No. 24-07-23d – MAP – Otero Avenue

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23d. Seconded by Councilor Dean.

Councilor Romero asked if this would complete the paving of Otero Avenue. Administrator Monette stated this if for the design of the completion and the project will be a 1.2-to-1.7-million-dollar project.

Motion passed unanimously.

h. Resolution No. 24-07-23e – Condemning 104 Pinon St.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23e. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo.

Administrator Monette stated that Resolution No. 24-07-23e and the following resolution follows the city's condemnation process in the Ordinance.

Councilor Salome stated he drove by the properties and did not see anything that would justify condemnation. Administrator Monette stated by following the ordinance, this allows the city to help with the clean-up, give the property owners a bill, and put a lien on their house.

Councilor Romero added that in the future it would be helpful to enclose a photo of the property before and after and a history of what has been done.

Councilor Olguin asked if this resolution just starts a process. Administrator Monette stated this is to put a lien on the property and the next step would be condemnation.

Motion passed unanimously.

i. Resolution No. 24-07-23f – Condemning 1100 Sean St.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23f. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Monette stated that both condemnation resolutions will be published in the newspaper and posted at the properties.

j. Special Use Permit – Hanna Cooper

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit for Hanna Cooper. Seconded by Councilor Romero.

Hanna Cooper addressed the Council and stated the Special Use Permit will be used to allow food trucks on her property at the corner of California and Spring St.

Motion passed unanimously.

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k. Resolution No. 24-07-23g – NMDOT – Landscaping I-25 Exits 147 & 150

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-07-23g. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

l. Oath of Animal Control Officer

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez administered the Oath of Office to Jason Padilla to become a City of Socorro Animal Control Officer.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Ocampo let the Council know he had received calls from residents on Cuba Road pertaining to the recent rainstorm. Administrator Monette stated the city has applied for additional funds to complete Cuba Road and can address any issues when we get the grant. Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez asked if the city maintains the concrete ditch on Meek St. Administrator replied the city does maintain the ditch and also the new holding pond that was formally Markland Road.

Councilor Partridge stated a constituent reached out to him regarding concrete dumped in a drainage ditch behind Cottonwood Schools. Mr. Pineda responded that he also received a complaint and Mr. Martinez has been notified and is aware of the situation.

Councilor Romero gave praise to the wrestling event that was held at the Rodeo Complex. Councilor Partridge stated it was the 5th annual tournament that has been held in Socorro with over 800 wrestlers participating. Councilor Partridge praised city staff at the Rodeo Arena for their hard work.

Councilor Ocampo questioned when the construction of the enclosures at the Rodeo Arena will begin. Administrator Monette stated that work has begun.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

Councilor Salome motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as presented by Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez.

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Christian Tierney	07/23/2024	Fire	FF1 & 2 Certification	A-58 to A-62
Dustin Moreland	07/23/2024	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-50 to A-52
Justin Pacheco	07/23/2024	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-50 to A-52
Ashlyn Aguilar	07/23/2024	Fire	Salary Adjustment	A-50 to A-52
Randall Montoya	07/23/2024	Gas	Completed Probation	A-37 to A-39
James Beasley	07/23/2024	Street	Completed Probation	A-35 to A-37
Jason Romero	08/01/2024	Police	Transfer to Facility Security Officer	A-60 to A-44
Antonio Gonzales	08/01/2024	Police	Promotion to Police Officer	A-44 to A-59

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Jacob Raley	06/25/2024	Fire	Resignation	
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Seconded by Councilor Ocampo.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Fleming motioned to approve the Business Registrations as presented by Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez.

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
CB Power LLC	R-4	818 Lucero	Clarence Barreras	Electrical Contractor
NM Gold LLC	C-2	110 Willow St	Ernest McBride	Manufacturing
AJ's Professional Contracting, LLC	Out of Town	Veguita, NM	Ana Gutierrez	Roofing
US LBM Operating Co. dba Raks Building Supply	C-2	501 Otero Ave	Denise Obrochta	Retail Lumber and Building Materials Supply
Va Va Voom Beauty Boutique, LLC	Out of Town	Bernalillo, NM	Alicia Romero	Clothing & Accessories
A'viands, LLC	Schools	700 Franklin St	Maximilien Pellegrini	Contract Food Service
Prohibition 37	C-2	101 W Manzanares	Charles Lee Caperton II	Retail Cannabis Dispensary
Dani's Fireworks	C-2	401 Spring St	Patrick Miller	Fireworks
Loopita Fashion	R-4	614 honey Suckle Ave	Guadalupe Flores	Fashion & Accessories Online
Pollo Real LLC	R-1	108 Hope Farm Rd	Tom Delehanty	Farming Crops & Cannabis (No Sales)
The New Mexico Landscaping Co.	R-1	803 Liles	Eric Sandoval	Sale of Landscaping Art & Materials
Socorro Trail Running Series LLC	R-3	629 Nicholas Ave	Luis Contreras-Vidal	Sport Event Organizer

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez-Lopez stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Salome made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk