

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 17, 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 Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of September 17, 2024, City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. September 3, 2024
- c. Voucher Run

The Voucher Run included vouchers 162374 to 162594 in the amount of \$1,476,059.06 plus Payroll Transfers \$528,525.36 for a total of \$2,004,584.42.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Caleb Kerr, Socorro County Fair Board reported on the Socorro County Fair and PRCA rodeo. Mr. Kerr stated that both the fair and rodeo went very well and estimated the attendance at the rodeo for Friday and Saturday at 2,000. Vendors were happy and liquor sales were at \$10,400.00 profiting \$5,800.00 and stall rentals at approximately \$2,900.00. Mr. Kerr thanked Steve Mathieu, Rodeo and Sports Complex Director and Daryl Ross for their hard work and stated the fair was a boost to the local economy. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Kerr if there were any complaints about the new enclosures. Mr. Kerr replied it was an excellent addition and the sound for the first time was too loud and had no echo. Councilor Chavez-Lopez also thanked Mr. Mathieu for his hard work during the Queen Contestants Contest and Councilor Fleming's help with the sound system.

Dana Chavez-Baca, PAS Director, Dezirae Armijo, Tourism Director, and Cheynne Cortez, Asst. Tourism Director reported on a successful Socorrofest event. Ms. Chavez-Baca thanked the following:

- Mayor Ravi Bhasker and City Council
- City of Socorro Streets & Parks Departments

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- City of Socorro Rodeo & Sports Complex Department
- New Mexico Tech
- NMT President Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar
- New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series
- Macy Center Crew
- Striders and Riders
- Socorro Police Department
- All the vendors and performers

Councilor Fleming thanked the Socorrofest committee, City employees, and all that contributed to a very successful event. Councilor Olguin also commended everyone who worked on Socorrofest for a job well done.

Councilor Ocampo thanked the city for help with the Socorro High School homecoming dance.

Mr. Mathieu reported on the High School Rodeo that it went very well and will return in April 2025. All the stalls, RV spots, and dry camping were full during the event. Councilor Ocampo asked about the field painting robot. Mr. Mathieu stated that the fields are painted with AYSO and Warriors on the sidelines and is working very well.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Senior Expo

Wanda Moeller, Vice President of Number Nine Media informed the Council of the 2024 Senior Expo. Ms. Moeller stated that 300 free Flu, Shingles, and Pneumonia Shots will be available while supplies last, blood pressure checks, and hearing checks. There will be a variety of speakers on various topics. The event will be held October 3, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the City of Socorro Convention Center.

b. Resolution No. 24-09-17a – FY26 Funding of a Public Transportation System

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-09-17a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez.

Carlos Savedra, Transportation Director gave the Councilors an overview of the Transportation Department. The resolution if approved will allow the City of Socorro's Transportation Department to operate for the fiscal year 2026.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 24-09-17b – NMDOT TPF – Manzanares Avenue

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-09-17b. Seconded by Councilor Olguin.

Mr. Pineda stated that if approved the city will be funded through the New Mexico Department of Transportation \$1,067,800.00 with the city's match of \$56,200.00 for a total of \$1,124,000.00 for Manzanares Avenue Improvements Phase II.

Motion passed unanimously.

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d. Resolution No. 24-09-17c – No Minor Sale

Mayor Bhasker stated the resolution is a result of the No Minor Sale presentation at the last Council meeting showing the city’s support.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-09-17c. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Guadalupe Tarango, Animal Control Director reported on the excessive dog problem that is occurring in the city. Mayor Bhasker stated the city is working on the problem, but the department is currently understaffed.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Salome asked Kenneth Greenwood, Asst. Police Chief if the Police Department has had any engagements with any type of international gang members. Mr. Greenwood replied there has been no activity at all. Mayor Bhasker and the Councilors discussed the problem with homelessness in the city.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the city has taken ownership of Zimmerly School. The city will present to the legislators on October 11th to ask for a large amount of funds to make Zimmerly School into a model police station.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR’S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Jason Padilla	09/17/2024	Fire	New Hire	A-56 (\$17.60)
Gabriel Luna	09/17/2024	Fire	New Hire	A-58 (\$18.44)
Aldo Ruiz Gomez	09/17/2024	Gas	Completed Probation	A-39 to A-41 (\$16.50)
Luis Chavez	09/18/2024	Police	Completed Probation	U-71 to U-73 (\$42.68)

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Socorro Smoke & Vape LLC	C-2	705 N California	Yaser Alshayef	Vape & Tabacco Shop
Gabby N Dereks	Transient Vendor	618 Bagley St.	Derek Chavez	Snack Bar (Food Truck)
Argentum Crystallum	Transient Vendor	604 Neel Ave.	Antonio Chavez	Arts & Crafts
Gilbert’s Auto & Glass	Out of Town	San Antonio, NM	Gilbert Trujillo	Repair Automotive Cars and Trucks

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A & M Business Interior Services, LLC	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Timothy Anderson	Commercial Furniture Installation
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Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk