

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 6, 2015**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Donald Monette, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. March 16, 2015**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Catherine Stewart-Roache asked if the City had procedures in place relating to the screening of dogs prior to adoption to determine whether or not a dog is safe to adopt. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's new Animal Shelter Director assures him that the shelter does have these screenings in place. Mayor Bhasker stated that later during the meeting, a job description would be considered which includes additional duties at the animal shelter. Mayor Bhasker stated that the person filling the new position will have the ability to give citations for violations of the City's animal control ordinance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that regarding changes to proposed Socorro Electric Cooperative bylaws, he feels that there are three important issues: 1) He feels there should be three representatives for the City of Socorro. 2) He feels the SEC elections should be at-large and all positions should be voted on by the entire membership. 3) He feels the SEC should allow customers to generate alternative energy and the SEC should pay the going rate for electricity that is put back into the SEC system.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District – CEO/Chief Engineer – Mike Hamman**

Mike Hamman introduced himself as the new CEO/Chief Engineer for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Mr. Hamman stated that he feels it is important to have partnerships with local governments and that the two entities have mutual interest in the levy reconstruction project. Mr. Hamman stated that he would like to work with the City of Socorro in addressing issues such as fires in the Bosque, flooding and land use. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City of Socorro appreciates the partnership with the MRGCD and he hopes that the MRGCD continues to protect the farmers. Mayor Bhasker asked if the Legislative Session affected the levy reconstruction project. Mr. Hamman stated that the capital outlay in question was for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the project and that the MRGCD has applied for funding from the Water Trust Board. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Hamman for introducing himself and attending the meeting. Also in attendance was Tom Thorpe from the Albuquerque office and Lorenzo Benavidez, Mike Lopez and Julian Avalos from the local MRGCD office.

**b. Library Board Recommendation**

Patrick Sylvester, Library Board President, stated that the Library Board met on March 25, 2015 to review the one in-house applicant for the position of Library Director. Mr. Sylvester stated that the Board is recommending that the City post the position publicly. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to meet with the Library Board to discuss the City's hiring process and explain to the Board the policies that are in place. Mayor Bhasker stated that there must be due process for in-house employees who apply for positions and that employees must be treated fairly. Mayor Bhasker provided Mr. Sylvester with a copy of the hiring procedures. Mayor Bhasker asked what specifically the Library Board is looking for in a library director. Mr. Sylvester stated that the Library Board feels the public library is a valuable asset and should have a full-

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time director. Mayor Bhasker stated that there seems to be some conflict regarding the duties of the Library Board and State Statute and that the Library Board ordinance may have to be reviewed. Mayor Bhasker provided Mr. Sylvester with a copy of a letter from the City's attorney regarding the possible conflicts. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to meet with the Library Board and try to come to an understanding regarding the Library Director position. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would also like to discuss the legal opinion, the City's hiring procedures and the personnel policy. A meeting was scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**c. SCOPE Presentation**

Councilor Pargask requested that this item be postponed to the next City Council meeting.

**d. Waterline Replacement Project – Project Acceptance, Final Payment & Project Closeout**

Tappan Mahoney, from Dennis Engineering, explained that the Waterline Replacement Project has been completed. Mr. Mahoney stated that Dennis Engineering is recommending that the City Council accept the project as complete and issue the final payment to J & D Contracting Inc.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to accept the Waterline Replacement Project as complete and issue the final payment to J & D Contracting Inc. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution No. 15-04-06a – Water Trust Board Asset Management Plan**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-04-06a which, if approved, supports the preparation of an asset management plan by the City of Socorro which is needed in order to apply for Water Trust Board water project funds.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-04-06a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution No. 15-04-06b – Water Trust Board Application**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-04-06ba which, if approved, supports the preparation and submittal of an application to the Water Trust Board for water project funds. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to continue with the drainage projects the City has already started.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-04-06b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that the Budget Committee would meet April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Victoria Murphy, Animal Shelter Director, stated that she has enjoyed her first month as the City's new Animal Shelter Director. Ms. Murphy stated that the new expanded hours at the shelter will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bhasker stated that Ms. Murphy will be looking into a State Statute which states that "a County shall support an animal shelter". Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the County should assist the City with funding as the County does not have an animal shelter and the City's shelter takes in animals from all over the County. Ms. Murphy stated that she will be looking into funding for quarantine pens.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there is a speeding issue on Harold Drive. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Police Department can do more patrols and place their speed limit sign in the area.

Councilor Romero stated that the fishing derby went well and complimented the Recreation Department for their work on the event.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Chavez-Lopez about the status of the housing grant. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she is still looking into funding.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Job Description – Facilities Security Guard**

Mayor Bhasker presented a job description for a Facilities Security Guard. Mayor Bhasker stated that the security guard will have duties with the animal shelter, including issuing citations for violations of the City's animal control ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated that the guard will also have duties securing City facilities including the swimming pool, Sedillo Park, Clarke Field, rodeo grounds, etc. Mr. Salome stated that the Administration is developing a route for the security guard.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the job description for Facilities Security Guard. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Kevin Vigil – 3-24-15 – Fire – Resignation

Dominic Montano – 4-6-15 – Police – New Hire (Police Officer) – A-35

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

C & K Hunting Adventures – Out of Town – Magdalena, NM – Ryan Montoya – Hunting Guides

Ocampo Insurance & Financial Services – C-2 – 1004 N California Street – Damien Ocampo – Insurance & Financial Services

A & E Services LLC – R-4 (Approved by P&Z) – 1108 Texas – Elaine Briggs – Automotive Roadside Service & Repair

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:00 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Monetter, motion passed unanimously.

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

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Pat Salome, City Clerk**

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