

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 15, 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 Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Anton Salome

Council members remotely present at roll call:

- Councilor Peter Romero

Council members absent at roll call:

- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of October 15, 2024, City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. October 1, 2024
- c. Voucher Run

The Voucher Run included vouchers 162595 to 162837 in the amount of \$2,029,172.43 plus Payroll Transfers \$512,058.00 for a total of \$2,541,230.43.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Beth Cadol

Beth Cadol, Socorro High School Cross Country Coach, reported on the Socorro Stampede Cross Country Meet held October 4, 2024, at the City of Socorro Sports Complex. Ms. Cadol thanked Steve Mathieu, Rodeo Arena Director, and Raul Contreras for their hard work preparing the course for the event. 11 teams were in attendance, 5 races ran, 198 runners competed with 3 Socorro High School runners Abby Cadol, Makenzie Smith, and Sasha Zagrai placing in the top ten.

Ms. Cadol also thanked the Socorro Fire Department for their quick response to the three heat-related calls.

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b. Wanda Moeller

Wanda Moeller, Vice-President of Number Nine Media, reported on the 2024 Senior Expo. Ms. Moeller thanked the city and staff at the Convention Center for hosting a great event. 250 people attended and over 150 received vaccinations.

d. Dezira Armijo

Dezira Armijo read a prepared letter announcing her resignation as Tourism/Convention Center Director effective October 30, 2024. Mayor Bhasker and Council members thanked Ms. Armijo for her service.

ORDINANCES

a. Ordinance No. 24-10-15 – Amending the Rate Schedule for Solid Waste Refuse Collection, Water, Sewer, Gas, Gas Meter, and Other Utility Related Charges

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Ordinance No. 24-10-15 and informed the Council a public hearing was held on September 26, 2024. Ms. Lopez stated no public attended the meeting and if any members of the public would like to view the presentation, they are welcome to come by City Hall.

Councilor Salome stated the ingredients that are used to provide these services over the last four years have gone up tremendously. Councilor Salome further stated that it is difficult for the Utility Committee and the Council to raise rates but based on the audit and inflation that left no choice but to raise rates. Work has been done to minimize the effect and minimize the hardship on the residents. The ordinance will be reviewed annually to determine the appropriate courses of action.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 24-10-15. Seconded by Councilor Fleming. Mr. Pineda took a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 24-10-15 – Disposition of Ambulance

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 24-10-15 and if approved it would allow the city to donate an ambulance. The ambulance has been inactive for more than ten years.

Councilor Partridge made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-10-15. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker mentioned that a comment was made that a solar field may be proposed south of Socorro.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that a representative of Senator Ben Lujan's office will be at City Hall on October 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed the Council to attend.

Mayor Bhasker stated the city received a thank you letter from the Hammel Museum for the work done by city crews making their Ocktoberfest event a success.

Mayor Bhasker announced the city will advertise to the public to accept sealed bids for 180-acre

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feet of water rights. Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked if the city is selling or leasing the water rights. Mayor Bhasker replied they will be leased for a term of 5 years. Administrator Monette added the city would be able to call the lease at any time.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Ocampo stated he is still receiving calls about dogs. Mayor Bhasker stated he has personally been addressing complaints. The shelter is full and unfortunately are having to start to euthanize animals even though animals have been taken to Utah for adoption.

Councilor Dean was approached by Bruce and Delphine Burnett and was asked about the Evergreen Wastewater project. Donald Monette, City Administrator, replied the city received two bids and both were over budgeted amount by approximately \$750,000.00. The city met with legislators to ask for funds to complete the project because the scope of work cannot be decreased. Mayor Bhasker stated the city will move forward and it is the last piece in the city that is not covered and now serves the entire city with sewer services.

Councilor Dean asked if any progress has been made with the Home Occupation Permit for Tom Delehany of Pollo Real LLC. Mayor Bhasker replied no and will have it placed on the next Council meetings agenda for the Councilors to decide.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Description

Administrator Monette presented the job description of Safety Coordinator and if approved it would be added as a component to the Code Enforcement job duties.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve the Job Description as read by Administrator Monette. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as presented by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Chris Carrillo	10/15/2024	Code Enforcement	Certification/Safety Coordinator	G-41 to G-45
David Monette	10/15/2024	Library	New Hire	A-42
Joseph Gonzales	10/15/2024	Street	New Hire	A-38
Jorge Sustaita	10/15/2024	Street	New Hire	A-35
Mark Mercer	10/21/2024	Dispatch	New Hire	A-42
Dezirae Armijo	10/30/2024	Tourism/Convention Ctr	Resignation	

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

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c. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Thunder Ridge Diesel	C-2	209 South California St.	Kory Britton	Diesel Mechanics, Welding, Tires

Seconded by Councilor Salome, 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, November 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk