

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
December 17, 2024**

Mayor Ravi 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 Anton Salome

Council members absent at roll call:

- Councilor Peter Romero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Voucher Run included vouchers 163142 to 163352 in the amount of \$1,664,297.89 plus Payroll Transfers \$544,678.67 for a total of \$2,208,976.56.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None

ORDINANCES

- a. Ordinance No. 24-12-17 CWSRF Ordinance Amendment – For Publication Only
Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 24-12-17 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- a. Longevity Stipend
Councilor Partridge made a motion to approve the Longevity Stipend. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution No. 24-12-174 – Acceptance and Approval of the FY24 Audit
Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-12-17. Seconded by

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Councilor Chavez-Lopez.

Robert Peixotto CPA, Southwest Account Solutions, LLC, presented the 2024 City of Socorro's annual audit. Mr. Peixotto reported that the City's opinion is unmodified, which is the highest level. The City has no findings for the sixth year in a row. Mr. Peixotto went over the financial statements and stated the City has a strong statement of condition. Mr. Peixotto further stated the city has a solid statement of cash flow, but the city is not immune to inflation. Councilor Salome stated that the city's Budget Committee amended the utility rate changes from a consistent multi-year percentage increase to a process that includes the City Administration together with the Budget Committee, re-evaluate utility rates on a yearly basis. This process is to use current consumer economic indicators as the driving factor for establishing these rates.

Mr. Peixotto gave congratulations to Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, management, and staff for a job well done.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Capital Outlay Reauthorization – Eagle Picher Building

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that if approved would allow Senator Crystal Diamond Brantley to carry a bill to reauthorize the \$700,000.00 FY24 State Appropriation from the Eagle Picher Superfund Site to the City of Socorro Industrial Park for the construction of a spec building.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the Capital Outlay Reauthorization. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council the city settled a case where a citizen was injured exiting a city owned building at an event an outside organization had rented. The building was still under construction. Mayor Bhasker stated the city will require insurance from anyone using any city facilities for a non-city event in the future.

Cheyenne Cortez, Convention Center/Tourism Director, reported on the Festival of the Cranes and the Holiday Light Parade. Ms. Cortez stated the Socorro High School Girls Basketball Team set up the luminarias around the Plaza.

Angel Garcia, Police Chief, reported on the Toys for Tots. This year marks the 26th year the event has been held and will serve approximately 800 families.

Michael Padilla, Recreation Director, stated the annual Turkey Bingo was a success, 212 kids are enrolled in youth basketball, and 20 to 30 individuals are using the weight room at Finley Gym.

Chris Carrillo, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that he still visits schools as a security officer in the mornings, he is working on cleaning up yards, and working on the Main Street Ordinance.

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council he will be meeting with the new Socorro Electric

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Cooperative General Manager on December 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and invited Councilors to attend.

Kristy Padilla, Payroll and Planning and Zoning Manager, informed the Council that at this point there is no increase in insurance premiums for employees. Ms. Padilla stated she needs three replacements to the Planning and Zoning Committee after Sefie Anaya resigned via text message. Mayor Bhasker asked the Council for recommendations.

Councilor Salome thanked the city employees for the beautiful Christmas decorations around the city.

Administrator Monette informed the Council that at the New Mexico State Legislature Session the Tri-County Day (Socorro, Catron & Sierra) will be held at the La Fonda in Santa Fe on February 25, 2025, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Municipal Day is on February 28, 2025.

Councilor Ocampo announced that the Annual Ocampo Food Drive will take place on Saturday December 21, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. behind the San Miguel Church. Operation Saint Nick will take place at 6:00 p.m. featuring the San Miguel youth choir.

Councilor Partridge thanked Mayor Bhasker and the Council for the use of Zimmerly School for the Socorro High School Wrestling Team use while their facility was in construction after the fire that destroyed it.

Wanda Moeller, Defensor Chieftain Editor, announced her retirement after 46 years in the newspaper business.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Christopher Vega	12/10/2024	Production	Job Abandonment	

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Intraworks, Inc.	Out of Town	Albuquerque, NM	Kevin L. Mayer	Low Voltage Security

Seconded by Councilor Partridge, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk