

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 7, 2025

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

Council members absent at roll call:

- Councilor Deborah Dean

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of January 7, 2025 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. December 17, 2024

Mr. Pineda requested that item 6. f. Confined Space Program be removed from the agenda.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Danny Hicks, Socorro Consolidated Schools Transportation Director, reported that as a result from last year's Bus Safety Coloring Poster Contest the number of red light/stop arm runners has reduced from 56 violations to 14 during the first semester. Mr. Hicks thanked Angel Garcia, Police Chief, and his officers for his help keeping the children safe. Mr. Hicks announced the winners of this year's contest

- Catylena Giron - 5th Grade at San Antonio Elementary, 11 years old
- Emry Montoya - 4th Grade at Cottonwood Valley Charter School, 9 years old
- Samuel Patterson-Saiz - 5th Grade at Parkview Elementary, 11 years old
- Richard Finch - 4th Grade at Midway Elementary, 10 years old
- Sourina Esmaeilpour - 6th Grade at Sarracino Middle School, 11 years old

The winners received prizes from the City of Socorro and winning posters will be made into signs that will be placed around the school district.

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Jordan Robles informed the Council of the operations of his new business, Pride Detailing and Power Wash.

Christy Smith inquired about the progress of the housing development project mentioned a few meetings ago. Mayor Bhasker replied no progress has been made. He added the city has a realtor, a developer, and is waiting on a surveyor. The Mayor continued, financing is a major problem with the current interest rate so high.

Rhiannon Vieceli, Leah Tevis, and Connie Robnett voiced their concerns about the City of Socorro Animal Shelter. Mayor Bhasker stated that Councilor Chavez-Lopez is the chair of the Animal Shelter Committee and asked if they would like to serve on the committee. Councilor Partridge stated this is the first meeting since the holidays, the issues will be addressed and the Council will look for ways to make things better. Councilor Salome stated this is a symptom of inflation that's been brought upon our country. People can't afford to feed their animals, bringing on overpopulation of unwanted animals.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 24-12-17 – CWSRF Ordinance Amendment

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, explained the amendment is to receive an additional \$500,000.00 in grant funds and \$250,000.00 loan from Clean Water State Revolving Fund to complete the Evergreen Wastewater Collection Expansion Project. Mr. Monette also stated the ordinance would be up for vote at the January 21st Council meeting.

Lloyd Martinez, General Services Director, stated groundbreaking on the project will be January 26, 2025.

After hearing no comment from the public, Councilor Olguin made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 25-01-07a – Open Meetings 2025

c. Resolution No. 25-01-07b – Governing Body Rules of Procedure

d. Resolution No. 25-01-07c – Purchasing Policy Resolution

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-01-07a, b, and c. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution No. 25-01-07d – CDBG Certifications and Commitments

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-01-07d. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Monette stated once the grant agreement is received from the Department of Finance the Cuba Road Underpass Drainage Improvements CDBG project will be scheduled.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Partridge informed the Council the Sammy Vivian Wrestling Invite will be held January 10-12, 2025 at Socorro High School.

Lawrence Baca, Fire Chief, reported on the 8th Annual Matanza held on December 14, 2024. The event raised \$8,500.00 that provided 85 children with a shopping trip to Walmart to celebrate the holidays. The Socorro Consolidated Schools provided the list of needy children. Chief Baca thanked Mayor Bhasker, city employees, Walmart, John Brooks, Sophia's, Anton Salome, Jerry and Dana Gum, Mrs. Wolf from Magdalena, and all the firefighters for all their contributions.

Angel Garcia, Police Chief, reported on the 32nd year of Toys for Tots and the 5th year sponsored by the United States Marine Corps that was held during the holiday season. Chief Garcia stated this was the first year that personnel from the Marine Corps came in to help and had an entry in the Holiday Light Parade. The program collected 2,888 toys that served 698 underprivileged kids in the community and collected a total amount of \$6,773.00. The list of children comes from the Socorro Consolidated Schools and the National Toys for Tots organization. Besides the City of Socorro, the program served kids from Alamo, Magdalena, Veguita, Lemitar, and San Antonio.

Councilor Ocampo thanked the City of Socorro, John Brooks, The Store House, Jerry and Dana Gum, and the countless people that helped with the Annual Ocampo Food Drive. The program served 250 families for their holiday meal. Lastly, Councilor Ocampo thanked the Toby Jaramillo Family for their continued support on the program that Toby started over 50 years ago.

Gwen Valentino, South Central Council of Governments Grant Writer, reported on the first Town Hall meeting. Ms. Valentino stated seven people were in attendance and discussions consisted of Animal Shelter, zoning, grants, and what the city wants to pursue and what is going to be a priority. Town Halls will be on the first Tuesday of each month.

Linda Mares, Senior Center Director, reported the Veguita Senior Center is closed due to no heat service being available at the center. Repairs are being made, and the Center has processed an application for emergency Capital Outlay funds. The Center was audited recently and had zero findings.

Lloyd Martinez, General Services Director, reported city crews are trenching at Sedillo Park for the electrical supply for the new baseball field lights and will be completed before the first Socorro High School Warrior softball game. Mayor Bhasker requested Mr. Martinez meet with the new Superintendent of Schools to request help with funds for the use of the field. In addition, Mr. Martinez stated thirty additional horse stalls will be constructed at the Rodeo Complex, and the storm sewer is moving forward at Finley Gym.

Michael Padilla, Recreation Director, reported that city employees have free membership to use the gym equipment, and the facility has approximately 20 community members paying \$10 a month. Mr. Padilla added youth basketball started with 212 participants playing games on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturdays.

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Isaac Angel, Gas Superintendent, reported that all OSHA findings have been corrected, and the crew are currently doing line replacement on Park and Church Streets. They will move on to Otero and 6th Streets in preparation for new pavement on the streets

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that OSHA came three months ago and did inspections of each of the city departments. Fines were assessed and each department, along with the city attorney, are working on correcting each finding. Mayor also reported that he met with Socorro Electric Cooperative's Chairman Leroy Anaya and the new manager Manny Gonzales coming from Wilcox Arizona. The meeting was very positive.

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
Mykel Aragon	01/07/2025	Fire	Firefighter 1 & 2 Certification	B-60 to B-64
Dustin Moreland	01/07/2025	Fire	Firefighter 1 & 2 Certification	A-60 to A-64
Leo Petersen	01/07/2025	Fire	EMT Intermediate Certification	E-66 to E-68
Liam Chavez	01/07/2025	Police	New Hire	A-59
Jennalynn Gomez	01/03/2025	Senior Center	Resignation	
List Attached	01/07/2025			

Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
West of the Rio LLC	C-2	107 Calle de San Miguel Unit A	Wellington Woodward	Healthcare and Beauty
Sacred Sol Farm LLC	Out of Town	68 Schmittle Rd.	Joshua Walker	Integrated Micro Producer (Cannabis Production)

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, January 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk

Number	Name	Department	Hire Date	Primary Position	SS	SS	New SS
36931	SALDIVAR, VICTORIA	1100	06/12/2023	Cashier	A	40	42
23280	LEYVA-RODRIGUEZ, JOSE	1100	07/01/2023	Maintenance/Custodia	B	41	43
34740	REYES, CLARA	1100	07/10/2023	Deliquent Clerk	B	46	48
08535	CARRILLO, CHRISTOPHER	1100	04/16/2018	Code Enforcement Off	G	45	47
01025	ALVARADO, MARCELLA	1100	04/02/2018	UB Clerk	G	48	50
21650	JARAMILLO, MARIAH	1100	12/01/2018	Accts Payable Clerk	G	48	50
09909	CHAVEZ, LENA A	1100	01/01/2018	Asst City Admin	H	61	63
13060	FANNING, JACOB	1100	02/02/2016	Maintenance/Custodia	I	39	41
28400	MONETTE, DONALD F	1100	03/21/2016	City Administrator	I	103	105
00750	ALONZO, VALEN	1100	03/05/2013	GL Clerk	L	54	56
33410	PINEDA, LEOPOLDO	1100	06/17/2013	IT Director/Clerk	L	72	74
24125	LOPEZ, RUBY	1100	09/09/2009	Finance Director	O	80	82
12900	PADILLA, KRISTY	1100	10/24/2005	Payroll Administrato	T	60	62
05777	DIBARTOLOMEO, JEREMY	2101	09/04/2024	Police Officer	A	59	61
15900	GONZALES, ANTONIO	2101	02/06/2024	Police Officer	A	61	63
35201	ROMERO, JASON	2101	11/21/2023	PD Security	B	46	48
15597	GOMEZ, JAMES P	2101	06/06/2023	Grant Police Officer	B	63	65
42941	VERGARA, JUAN	2101	11/01/2022	Grant Police Officer	C	63	65
34401	RAMIREZ, SIMON	2101	11/01/2022	Grant Police Officer	C	63	65
17151	GONZALES , PETER JAMES	2101	12/20/2021	Police Officer	D	63	65
07602	BRANNAN, JOHN	2101	07/20/2020	PD Corporal	E	65	67
11235	COSLIN, DYLAN	2101	02/03/2020	PD Corporal	E	65	67
34385	RACKEY, RUSSELL	2101	07/16/2018	Evidence Custodian	G	59	61
07601	BRANNAN, WILLIAM	2101	10/17/2016	PD Corporal	I	65	67
10020	CHAVEZ, MICHAEL A	2101	10/20/2014	PD Corporal	K	65	67
17150	GONZALES, PETER	2101	02/04/2014	PD Lieutenant	K	71	73
10000	CHAVEZ, LUIS	2101	05/07/2002	PD Captain	U	73	75
14700	GARCIA, ANGEL A	2101	02/01/1999	Police Chief	Z	79	81
17600	GREENWOOD, KENNETH W	2101	05/16/1999	PD Asst Chief	Z	73	75
27990	MERCER, MARK	2115	10/21/2024	Dispatch	A	42	44
15041	GARZA, KAITLYNN	2115	09/05/2023	Dispatch	B	46	48
03127	ARCHIBEQUE, JANETTE	2115	11/15/2022	Dispatch	C	46	48
31480	PADILLA, JARED	2115	10/04/2021	Dispatch	D	46	48
36650	SAGER, CAMRYN	2115	08/17/2020	Dispatch	E	46	48
09735	CHAVEZ, DEVRIE K	2115	04/04/2016	Dispatch Supervisor	I	49	51
40250	TARANGO, GUADALUPE	2115	11/20/2006	Dispatch/Shelter Dir	S	63	65
03752	ARMIJO, JOSHUA	2131	11/20/2024	Animal Control Offic	A	42	44
20910	HURTGEN, JULIE	2131	02/01/2021	Kennel Assistant	D	39	41
23755	LOPEZ, JUSTIN	2131	07/02/2018	Kennel Assistant	G	39	41
31483	PADILLA, JASON P	2201	09/30/2024	Firefighter/EMT	A	56	58
25360	LUNA, GABRIEL	2201	10/02/2024	Firefighter/EMT	A	58	60
00640	AGUILAR, ASHLYN	2201	02/15/2024	Firefighter/EMT	A	60	62
30027	MORELAND, DUSTIN	2201	02/15/2024	Firefighter/EMT	A	60	62
31002	PACHECO, JUSTIN	2201	02/15/2024	Firefighter/EMT	A	60	62

22654	JULIAN, KYLE	2201	10/18/2023	Firefighter/EMT	B	56	58
02905	ARAGON, MYKEL	2201	10/18/2023	Firefighter/EMT	B	60	62
31670	PADILLA, THOMAS	2201	02/08/2023	Firefighter/EMT	B	66	68
40530	TIERNEY, CRISTHIAN	2201	10/18/2023	Firefighter/EMT	B	68	70
04800	BACA, LAWRENCE A	2201	03/10/1997	Fire Chief	BZ	84	86
33229	PETERSEN, LEO A	2201	06/16/2020	Firefighter/EMT	E	66	68
22295	JOJOLA, STEPHEN MATTHEW	2201	06/01/2018	FF Lieutenant	G	70	72
02101	ANGEL, JEDI	2201	11/16/2016	FF Lieutenant	I	70	72
39980	SOSA-ALVARADO, GABRIEL	2201	08/21/2013	FF Lieutenant	L	70	72
24601	LUCERO, HUMBERTO	2201	05/31/2013	FF Captain	L	72	74
00710	ALDRICH, DUSTIN	2201	10/01/2011	FF Captain	N	72	74
30950	PACHECO, DANIEL	2201	08/01/2018	FF Captain	R	74	76
40100	STIDSTONE, THOMAS A	3211	05/12/1997	Mechanic Director	BZ	59	61
30670	ORTEGA, DAMIAN	3211	05/22/2018	Mechanic	G	45	47
38640	SEIFERT, REYNA	3301	01/02/2024	Driver	A	37	39
00459	GONZALES, TIMOTHY	3301	01/01/2021	Driver	E	41	43
16105	GONZALES, CHRISTOPHER A	3301	06/22/2016	Driver	H	43	45
37976	SAVEDRA, CARLOS D	3301	07/22/2013	Transport Dir	L	60	62
06900	BENJAMIN, CASSANDRA	3301	08/08/2006	Driver/Asst	S	48	50
40153	SUSTAITA, JORGE	4001	10/15/2024	Street Crewman	A	35	37
16477	GONZALES, JOSEPH	4001	04/04/2024	Street Crewman	A	38	40
26720	MARTINEZ, JOSE L	4001	12/19/2023	Parks Crewman	B	39	41
24095	LUCERO, ABDENAGO	4001	07/18/2023	Parks Crewman	B	41	43
23613	LOPEZ, ADAM C	4001	07/25/2022	Parks Crewman	C	41	43
09897	CHAVEZ, KEVIN	4001	09/20/2021	Parks Crewman	D	41	43
00456	ALVARADO, ALVARO	4001	01/19/2021	Parks Crewman	E	41	43
16708	GONZALES, KEVIN R	4001	10/19/2015	Parks Foreman	J	46	48
39300	SILVA, JOHN P	4001	12/17/2001	Parks Foreman	X	48	50
28391	MONETTE, DAVID	4111	10/15/2024	Cataloger/Tech Serv	A	42	44
34389	RUIZ JR, JOSE I	4111	06/21/2022	Reference Services	B	41	43
35645	ROMERO, ROBIN	4111	07/14/2021	Library Circ Manager	D	44	46
25505	JONES, CHELSEA	4111	02/23/2015	Library Director	J	68	70
40255	TARANGO, MARIBEL	4111	12/29/2014	Youth Services	K	41	43
05785	BEASLEY, JAMES	5030	02/06/2024	Street Crewman	A	41	43
83001	CARRASCO, JULIO	5030	11/15/2022	Street Crewman	C	44	46
38555	SEDILLO, CHRISTOPHER	5030	10/19/2020	Street Operator I	E	44	46
00461	GONZALES, LEFTY WALLACE	5030	10/19/2020	Street Superintend	E	54	56
11395	CUEVAS, SERGIO	5030	12/07/2015	Driver II Street	J	46	48
27380	MCDANIEL, BRITTANY	5040	06/02/2014	Chief Clerk	K	53	55
31580	PADILLA, MICHAEL	5110	05/01/2019	Recreation Director	F	59	61
36925	SALDANA, GLO	5115	07/01/2023	Youth Center Aide	B	39	41
41950	VALENCIA, REGINA	5115	09/16/2015	Youth Center Aide	J	39	41
36125	ROSS, DARYL	5130	01/01/2022	Recreation Admin Ass	D	41	43
11223	CORTEZ, CHEYENNE	5130	01/06/2020	Tourism Conv Direct	F	55	57
39575	SILVA, STEVEN	5220	11/05/2024	SR Center Kitchen	A	37	39
20660	HILL, DANNY	5220	07/01/2023	SR Center Route Driv	B	41	43
31850	PARGAS, DICK	5220	07/01/2023	SR Center Route Driv	B	41	43

24065	LOWER, ASHLEY	5220	12/05/2023	SR Center Kitchen	B	43	45
39720	SMITH, DESIREE	5220	12/01/2023	Sr Ctr Off Asst	B	43	45
26260	MARES, VLINDA	5220	07/01/2023	SR Ctr Director	B	55	57
11190	CONTRERAS, RAUL L	5249	09/03/2024	Rodeo Crewman	A	39	41
00007	CONTRERAS, RAUL	5249	09/07/2023	Rodeo Operator	B	44	46
26895	MATHIEU, STEVEN	5249	10/11/2021	Rodeo Director	D	57	59
34386	RUIZ-TORRES, ALDO	6000	09/09/2024	Gas Crewman	A	37	39
34387	RUIZ-GOMEZ, ALDO	6000	03/01/2024	Gas Crewman	A	41	43
02100	ANGEL, ISACC H	6000	04/01/1998	Director Gas	AZ	67	69
29695	MONTOYA, RANDALL	6000	01/16/2024	Gas Leak Surveyor	B	46	48
36640	ARAGON, DEANNA	6000	08/01/2012	Gas Division Sec	M	48	50
31475	PADILLA, JAMES	6000	11/20/2012	Gas Foreman	M	48	50
33180	PEREZ, RENE	6000	05/24/2011	Gas Compliance	N	57	59
18500	GUTIERREZ, DAVID	6000	08/02/2011	Gas Superintendent	N	59	61
06800	BENAVIDEZ, MICHAEL	6000	07/16/2008	Gas Foreman	Q	48	50
13300	FLORES, JOE	6000	02/22/2007	Gas Customer Service	R	45	47
16398	GONZALES, JEREMIAH	6100	04/05/2021	Heavy Equip Oper II	D	45	47
00500	ACOSTA, OSCAR J	6100	05/09/1994	Water Dept Director	EZ	73	75
06820	BENAVIDEZ, RENA	6100	07/01/2019	Water Admin Asst	F	47	49
39301	SILVA, JOHN JR	6100	01/16/2018	Water Customer Servi	H	43	45
10101	CHAVEZ, PLACIDO	6100	01/16/2018	Heavy Equip Oper III	H	47	49
37200	SANCHEZ, COREY	6100	04/02/2012	Water Foreman	M	51	53
26700	MARTINEZ, JORDAN	6100	02/07/1985	General Services Dir	NZ	82	84
40075	STANDEFER, D BRIAN	6100	09/01/2009	Water Superintendent	P	60	62
01400	AMARO, MARTIN R	6100	03/18/2008	Water Asst Director	U	60	62
13891	GALLEGOS, JORGE	6200	12/20/2023	Production Labor	B	41	43
25630	MAGDALENO, MANUEL	6200	12/19/2023	Wastewater Apprentic	C	39	41
22200	JOJOLA, HENRY A	6200	02/01/1994	WW Foreman	EZ	58	60
09600	CHAVEZ, DAVID R	6200	10/07/2013	WW Technician II	N	45	47
36300	SAAVEDRA, FELIX L	6200	10/21/2003	Production Foreman	V	54	56
34100	POLSTON, CODY	6200	06/01/2003	Tech III Cheif Oper	V	65	67
27800	MELENDREZ, JOE	6200	06/19/2001	Prod & W/W Director	X	67	69
09500	CHAVEZ, DAVID	6301	01/01/2021	S/W Sanitation Labor	E	46	48
29375	MONTOYA, FRANCISCO	6301	06/18/2018	Sanitation Driver	G	46	48
32500	PEGUERO, JULIO	6301	09/19/2005	Sanitation Driver	T	51	53
14420	GANADONEGRO, LEROY	6303	07/01/2023	Landfill Laborer	B	39	41
34866	ROBLES, ENRIQUE	6303	02/21/2022	Landfill Laborer	C	39	41
38625	SEDILLO, JORGE	6303	09/18/2018	Operator I	G	42	44
29351	MONTOYA, DAVID M	6303	08/18/2014	Landfill Operator II	K	51	53
31135	GUERRO, BERT	6303	03/05/2013	Landfill Operator II	L	50	52
04830	BACA, ROY	6303	04/19/2010	Landfill Manager	O	62	64
24850	LUCERO, MICHAEL	6303	05/07/2008	Landfill Director	Q	70	72