

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**February 3, 2026**

Mayor Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Donald Monette, City Administrator took roll call.

Council members present at roll call:

- Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Deborah Dean
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Joe Gonzales
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- 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 February 3, 2026 City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
  - i. January 20, 2026

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

a. Breaking Bad Habits New Mexico Ambassador

Breanna Lucero is Socorro County's Land of Enchantment Young Ambassador. This is part of the statewide Youth Leadership Program supported by the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office, which focuses on preventing litter, promoting community pride, and encouraging youth involvement in service.

Ms. Lucero recently attended her first meeting and looks forward to supporting cleanup and beautification efforts throughout the county. The program is currently in the planning stages, and she requested any guidance from the Council that could benefit cleanup efforts or support ongoing initiatives.

Ms. Lucero hopes to organize community and roadside cleanups, youth outreach, educational literature, and partnerships with local schools and organizations. Mayor Bhasker suggested that Ms. Lucero assist with the City's Que Linda Beautification Grant. Chris Carrillo, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that representatives of the Que Linda Beautification Grant have met with Ms. Lucero to collaborate on various activities.

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**b. Save our Bosque Task Force**

Christy Smith, Vice President of the Save Our Bosque Task Force, spoke about the organization's efforts to clean up and help manage the five Socorro parks in the Bosque. The group arranges for the eradication of invasive species, plants native species, and organizes park cleanups on the second Saturdays of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Smith stated that her main objective was to find out who was overseeing the Que Linda Beautification Grant so they could collaborate and work on getting more people involved. At this time, only five to ten people volunteer for the cleanups.

Councilor Salome asked, since the landfill does not accept tires, what the City plans to do with the tires located around town. Daryl Ross, Que Linda Grant Coordinator, informed the Council what items can be dropped off in the dumpsters.

Michael Lucero, Landfill and Sanitation Director, stated that the landfill charges \$1.00 per tire and \$5.00 per semi-truck tire. He also stated that the city is currently getting the tire bailer machine repaired and is looking into purchasing a tire shredder.

Administrator Monette stated that the city is in the process of applying for a grant to purchase the tire shredder.

Mayor Bhasker suggested installing a game camera at the dumpsters to help prevent illegal dumping, along with signage notifying the public that the area is under video surveillance.

Ms. Smith stated that cameras have been installed along the Bosque, but they are often torn down, have their batteries removed, or simply disappear.

Administrator Monette explained that the landfill has stopped accepting tires because there are too many on site, which has become an EPA violation.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Little League Baseball Agreement**

Tracy Romero, Vice President of the Socorro Little League Baseball and Head Coach of the Socorro High School Softball Team, thanked Mayor Bhasker and Michael Padilla, Recreation Director, for helping bring Little League Baseball back to Socorro. Registration is open until February 27th, and practices will begin March 7th, with Opening Day scheduled for April 11th. There will be a parade with all the players during the second week of play.

Ms. Romero thanked the City for the use of the fields and mentioned that the Little League program also provides a softball division. A Challenger Division has also been added and is new to the Little League Baseball program. It is an adaptive baseball division so that individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities can participate.

Councilor Dean asked how much it will cost to register. Ms. Romero responded that the cost will be \$65 per child, and the Challenger Division is free of charge. Registration can be completed at [socorrolittleleague.org](http://socorrolittleleague.org) and has been advertised on social media. For those who

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do not have access to the internet, a date and time will be scheduled to assist with registration.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked about the age groups. Ms. Romero replied that the divisions range from ages 3 to 16.

Councilor Partridge thanked Ms. Romero for organizing the program and asked when the season will end. Ms. Romero replied that the season will run through the end of May, depending on how many participants register. There will also be an All-Star team that will travel out of town. The season schedule will be similar to the City of Socorro Baseball program. If there are not enough children to fill a team, they may choose to play on a Belen team. If a division has only enough players to field one team, they will play an interleague schedule, possibly with Belen and Los Lunas.

Councilor Partridge stated that it takes a strong program to achieve success at the next level and that it is critical for girls to have the opportunity to learn at a young age. He wished Ms. Romero the best of luck.

Ms. Romero stated that there is a T-Mobile grant and sponsors and donors available to assist families who cannot afford the registration fee. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will pay the insurance cost, which is approximately \$4,200, reducing the registration fee from \$90 to \$65.

Councilor Salome questioned if background checks are required for staff and coaches. Ms. Romero stated that coaches and volunteers are required to undergo background checks and complete a CPR course.

Councilor Partridge asked about security at the games. Ms. Romero replied that Augusta Amaro is the league's Safety Officer and has a safety plan in place.

Councilor Ocampo questioned if this program runs along side of the City of Socorro or replaces it. Ms. Romero stated that it replaces the city program. Councilor Ocampo stated that this is a great opportunity for the Recreation Committee to begin reconvening again.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve the Little League Baseball Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Partridge, motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Chavez-Lopez announced that a 4-H Livestock School will be held in Socorro, serving the southern half of the state and they request the use of a city tent. She also shared that an Invitational Archery Shoot is currently in the planning stages. Gas Department Isacc Angel questioned if we can get local restaurants to stay open during these events. It was suggested that a schedule of events be distributed to local restaurants so they can plan to remain open during those events.

Councilor Partridge announced that the Socorro High School Wrestling Team are five-time undefeated district champions and congratulated the coaching staff and the athletes. Their record

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over the last five years is 28-0-1. He noted that while the girls' team does not have a district championship, their regional competition is coming up. The Councilor also mentioned the teams will be holding a fundraiser raffle in April, 2026.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the city must repair the septic tank at the Veguita Senior Center at an estimated cost of approximately \$11,000, for design only. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, added that the city is seeking emergency funding for the project. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Veguita Senior Center will have to close if operational funding from the County is not received by the end of the month, which would affect approximately 66 families. Projections for the Veguita Senior Center show an expected loss of \$75,000.00. Councilor Partridge questioned if we could just copy another design from a different property. Lloyd Martinez, General Services Director, replied that the NMED is requiring a new design and the designer is not charging the City up-front.

Mayor Bhasker reported that he had a productive meeting with the Legislature and hopes to share positive news in March if everything proceeds as planned. The city continues to request legislative assistance for Finley Gym and the Police Station. He also reported that the Welcome Center at the RV Park has been completed and now includes televisions, washers and dryers, a small lounge area, and showers. Construction of a custodian's house at the rodeo complex is underway.

The Evergreen Wastewater Project has been completed, roads have been chip sealed and striped, and properties have been cleaned up along the entrance to the Fire Academy. Homes in the Peralta and Blue Canyon areas have been demolished, and road projects around the Courthouse have been completed. Otero Avenue will be the next project. Sewer service now extends throughout the entire city limits.

Mayor Bhasker also stated that he spoke with the Socorro Consolidated Schools Superintendent regarding plans for baseball. The City received a grant for sod at the softball field and is awaiting approval of a \$1,000,000 grant for turf at the hardball field. He will meet with New Mexico Tech on February 12 regarding the closure of their pool and the possibility of making the City's pool a year-round facility.

Mayor Bhasker congratulated City staff for securing millions of dollars in grant funding.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPOR**

**a. Personnel Changes**

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

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Darius Sliva	02/02/2026	Gas	Transfer to Landfill	A-39
Michael Alfonso	02/03/2026	Wastewater	New Hire	A-55

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Deanna Aragon	02/03/2026	Gas	Additional Job Duties	N-50 to N-52
Omar Quinonez	02/03/2026	Police	Completed Probation	A-59 to A-61
Adrian Jung	02/03/2026	Police	New Hire	A-59

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
DeHart Motor Company	C-2	1231 NW Frontage Rd	Casey A Spurgin	Towing Service

Seconded by Councilor Dean, 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, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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

  
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**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk**