City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 5, 2026

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 Joe Gonzales
- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero
- Councilor Anton Salome

Council Members absent at roll call:
- Councilor Nick Fleming

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Ravi Bhasker forewent the Pledge of Allegiance, as it had already been recited during the public forum for the data center prior to the Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
a. **Approval of May 5, 2026 City Council Agenda**
b. **Consideration of Minutes**
   i. **April 21, 2026**
c. **Budget Resolution No. 24 – General Fund**
d. **Budget Resolution No. 25 – Enterprise Revolving Loan**

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

PUBLIC FORUM
None

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION
a. **ICIP Public Hearing #2**
Councilor Ocampo made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

After hearing no comment from the public, Councilor Romero made a motion to return to regular session. Seconded by Councilor Gonzales, motion passed unanimously.

b. **ICIP Public Hearing #2 – Socorro Senior Center(s)**
Councilor Romero made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Ocampo, motion passed unanimously.

Linda Mares, Senior Center Director, stated that the ICIP list includes windows, doors, flooring, ceiling tiles, and new vehicles. Mayor Ravi Bhasker asked whether any seniors had requested additional items. Ms. Mares replied that they requested an exercise room. Lena Chavez, Assistant City Administrator, stated that last year the Senior Center held a meeting to gather input from the seniors.

After hearing no comment from the public, Councilor Romero made a motion to return to regular session. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 26-05-05a – Disposition of Vehicles

Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, presented Resolution No. 26-05-05a, which, if approved, would authorize the disposal of three ambulances. Mayor Ravi Bhasker stated that two would be donated to Casa Grande, Mexico, and the other would be transferred to the Animal Shelter.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-05-05a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 26-05-05b – Acceptance and Approval of the FY25 Audit

Finance Director Lopez stated that Resolution No. 26-05-05b, if approved, would provide for the acceptance and approval of the FY25 audit that was presented to the Council at the April 21, 2026, Council meeting.

Councilor Ocampo made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-05-05a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chelsea Jones, Library Director, reported on the English Language Learning class and stated that there has been a high level of participation. She added that several participants have passed the United States Citizenship Preparation test and are awaiting their swearing-in ceremony. Ms. Jones stated that the Summer Reading Block Party will be held on June 4, 2026, and the Support the Library wine-tasting fundraiser will be held at the Capitol Bar and Brewery on May 15, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Partridge asked about the progress of the Smiths Building. Mayor Ravi Bhasker stated that the city is obtaining appraisals, reviewing the electrical system and roof, conducting an asbestos inspection, and having a Phase I assessment performed. He added that the City is putting together a lease arrangement that is equitable for both parties, and that Mr. Pearson will be at the Smiths Building for a meeting on May 14th at 10:00 a.m. The mayor also stated that he has approached Circle K to donate the small former Valero station building.

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
Kenneth Greenwood	05/17/2026	Police	Retirement	
Stephen Mathew Jojola, Jr.	06/14/2026	Fire	Resignation	

Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

None

c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Ravi Bhasker stated that the Public Forum for the Data Center at New Mexico Tech conflicts with the time of the next meeting and requested that the meeting time be changed to 12:00 noon. With the agreement of the Council, the next regular Socorro City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 12:00 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

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk