

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**July 6, 2015**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Donald Monette, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Nick Fleming were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker, along with kids from the City's youth center and AAU basketball team, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 6, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. June 15, 2015**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. Certificate of Appreciation – First State Bank**

Mayor Bhasker presented a Certificate of Appreciation to First State Bank for contributing to the City of Socorro's summer youth program. Mayor Bhasker stated that First State Bank's contribution of \$1,200 allowed the participants of the program (80 kids and 24 staff) to go to Cliff's Amusement Park in Albuquerque. Holm Bursum IV accepted the certificate on behalf of First State Bank. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked First State Bank for their contribution.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the Socorro Elite Basketball team presented the Mayor and City Council with photos of the team in appreciation of the City's support of the basketball team. Josh Kerns, the City's Recreation Director, stated that the team, comprised of 25 boys and girls, participated in four tournaments. Mayor Bhasker congratulated the kids on their achievements. Mayor Bhasker commended Mr. Kerns for expanding the City's recreational programs. Mr. Salome stated that the City has been able to offer affordable activities to keep costs down for families.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Vacation of a Portion of South California Street**

Mayor Bhasker stated that CVS Pharmacy is interested in constructing a new building on the northeast corner of California Street and Spring Street and will need a certain amount of land in order to move forward. Mayor Bhasker stated that in order to provide the appropriate amount of land, the City could vacate a portion of south California Street (.23 acres) to the owners on both sides of the street. Steve Williams, from Dennis Engineering, presented a drawing showing what portion could be vacated. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are two houses that would still need access on south California Street. Mr. Salome stated that the item was up for discussion only and that a formal process would be followed should the City Council decide to vacate the property. Mayor Bhasker stated that the homeowners and emergency vehicles still need to be able to have access to the two homes. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the City should consider the vacation as the new business will benefit the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration would be happy to answer any questions the homeowners may have. Mr. Salome stated that additional engineering may yield other options as far as access to the two homes. Mayor Bhasker stated that the next step would be to inform the two homeowners and see how they feel about the change and talk to the police and fire departments to see how access will be affected. Some discussion followed.

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**d. Budget Resolutions**

**1. No. 9 – Judicial Fund**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Salaries, PERA, Retiree Health Care, Telephone & Utilities, Building Maintenance and Office Expense – Amount is \$6,500.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2015.

**2. No. 10 – Municipal Street Fund**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Vehicle Fuel, Vehicle Maintenance, Telephone & Utilities and Repair & System Maintenance for the Street Department and Equipment and Capital Outlay for the Road Department – Amount is \$15,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2015.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 9 and 10. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) – Public Input**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City was currently working on its ICIP and asked anyone who would like a project added to the ICIP to present their information to the City for consideration. Mr. Salome explained what type of items could be placed on the ICIP. Mr. Salome stated that three items that have been previously discussed and that will be added to the ICIP are: a left hand turn lane from Highway 60 onto High School Road (brought forth by a local resident), improvements to the City's lift stations (from the City Administration) and a culvert which crosses the railroad tracks at the Socorro C Drain to eliminate storm water backup (from the City Administration). Mr. Salome stated that at the next City Council meeting, he will provide the Mayor and Council with the ICIP from last year and request that each person list their top 5 priorities for the new ICIP.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to add the City's Administration's two requests to the ICIP. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Pargas introduced Stephanie O'Toole who is the new SCOPE Coordinator. Ms. O'Toole stated that she was a teacher for Socorro Schools and is looking forward to serving the community in the new position.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Monette stated that he was asked about the legality of floating lanterns that were seen over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and concerned that a fire might start when they land. Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that all fireworks stands were inspected for illegal fireworks and if the lanterns are deemed legal, there is little the City can do to stop the use of the lanterns.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the motor on Evergreen Well stopped working and an outside source believes it was due to either a power surge or lightening. Mayor Bhasker stated that due to the motor malfunctioning, the well stopped working and some people experienced low water pressure. Mayor Bhasker stated that City crews have been checking the water levels at the well every four hours. Lloyd Martinez, Water Department Superintendent, stated that the motor is being rebuilt and a new motor has been ordered so that there is a backup motor available. Mr. Martinez stated that the rebuilt motor will cost \$13,000 and the new motor will cost \$20,000. Mayor Bhasker stated that the area most affected was around NM Tech. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is looking into putting an alarm which will notify crews when the pump does not turn on. Mayor Bhasker commended the City crews for their work during the incident.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Hicks stated that there are a large amount of weeds growing along the street on Fatima Road. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that he would send a crew out to clean the weeds.

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Councilor Olguin stated that he recently attended the National Association of Latino Election Officials conference. Councilor Olguin stated that he attended three sessions including: “ethical decision making for policy makers”, “strategic planning for policy makers - moving you priorities forward” and “local threats and emergencies - preventing, preparing and responding”.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she attended the Municipal Officials Leadership Institute and enjoyed the conference.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Penelope Lommen to fill the vacancy left by Ruth White on the Library Board. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the appointment of Penelope Lommen to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Council previously discussed preparing an RFP for an electricity feasibility study. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has been told that State Purchasing would take 7 to 9 months to approve the proposed RFP. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has had three inquiries regarding the study. Mayor Bhasker stated that since the amount for the study will be under the State procurement amount for RFP’s, he feels the City may not have to do an RFP. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to invite the three companies who have inquired about the study to meet with the Administration and the committee to see what their qualifications are and then choose one of those companies for the study.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that there would be a meeting on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall for anyone who is interested in creating a “neighborhood watch” in the neighborhood.

**a. Preliminary Budget Approval by DFA – FY 2015-2016**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City’s FY 2015-2016 preliminary budget was approved by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

**b. Liquor License Renewal Dates – License Expiration Dates**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the NM Alcohol and Gaming Division has changed the expiration dates for certain types of liquor licenses. Mr. Salome stated that the City will need to update the City ordinance pertaining to liquor licenses to comply with the changes.

**c. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

David Richard Chavez – 6-30-15 – Airport – Resignation

Freddie Martinez – 6-26-15 – Parks – Resignation

Victor Savedra – 6-12-15 – Police – Police Officer Certification – B-37 to B-40

Elvires Otero – 6-16-15 – Fire – Certification (EMT-B License) – A-25 to A-27

Jenelle Partridge – 7-20-15 – Water – New Hire (Division Secretary) – A-32

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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**d. Business Registrations**

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Progressive Services Inc. dba Progressive Roofing – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Corporation – Roofing Construction

American Promotional Events dba TNT Fireworks – C-2 – 700N 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Corporation – Retails Sales/Fireworks Fundraiser

Upper Cuts Hair and Nail Salon – C-2 – 216 S California Street – Yvonne Davila – Hair and Nail Salon

Luna Tire – C-2 – 402 S Hwy 85 – Higinio Estrada – Tire Sales and Repairs

Fat Man and Little Boy Grill – Out of Town – Lemitar, NM – Richard Ulibarri – Concession and Catering Food Trailer

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:05 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

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

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Pat Salome, City Clerk**