

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
July 20, 2015

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Jaramillo led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 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. July 6, 2015

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Doug Scott, a resident of 108 Stallion Circle, provided a petition to the City Council in which he and his neighbors request the City post a sign stating that Garden Circle Park is closed from sunset to sunrise, pass a City ordinance to enforce the closing and close the pathway leading to the park on the southern end. Mr. Scott stated that there have been some burglaries in the area as well as park patrons parking in and/or blocking private driveways. Mr. Salome stated that the City is already working towards closing the southern end of the park. Mr. Salome stated that an ordinance would be needed in order to enforce the park being closed during certain hours. Mr. Salome stated that the City is working on City-wide park policies and there will be specific policies for each park. Mr. Salome stated that once the policies are complete, an ordinance will be presented for approval which will allow law enforcement to enforce the rules.

Floyd Hewitt, a resident of 806 Sunset Drive, provided a petition to the City Council in which he and his neighbors request the City create an all-way stop at the intersection of Sunset Drive and College Avenue. Mr. Hewitt stated that the request is due to increased traffic in the area and drivers violating the speed limit on both streets. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that a speed bump is also an option. Mr. Salome stated that both options also require enforcement of traffic laws. Mr. Salome stated that information such as how many cars travel in the area, what times the road is being traveled and how far over the speed limit they are going would assist the City in choosing the proper solution.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Dennis Engineering – Fairgrounds Road – Engineering Amendment #1 – Task Order 14-03

Mr. Salome stated that Task Order 14-03 accounts for the development of design drawings for Fairgrounds Road (3500 feet - from the entrance to the Rodeo/Recreation Facility to Raychester Road) as well as environmental and any other clearances needed. Mr. Salome stated that the amount of the task order is \$29,200.00. Mr. Salome stated that the balance left for construction on the project would be \$278,353.81. Mr. Salome stated that the project is funded through the NM DOT MAP program.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Task Order 14-03 for Fairgrounds Road. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. 2016 CDBG Project Selection

Mr. Salome stated that during three CDBG public hearings (7/8/15, 7/9/15, 7/14/15), there were two projects presented by the public:

1. Paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the Texas Street area (Texas Street, B Street, Vermont Street and C Street) to include any necessary drainage work in areas affected downstream.

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2. Paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the “A” Street area (A Street, B Street, C Street, Park Street and Kentucky Street).

Mr. Salome stated that the City Council may choose one of the projects presented by the public or a project of their own choice. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the Administration recommends choosing the first project (paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the Texas Street area to include any necessary drainage work in areas affected downstream.

Councilor Monette made a motion to select the paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks and drainage for the Texas Street area as the 2016 CDBG project application. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Salome 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 provided a ranking sheet and asked the City Council to rate their top five priorities as they would like to see them appear on the list. Mr. Salome asked the Council to provide their ranking sheet by July 31st. Councilor Monette stated that the left hand turn lane from Highway 60 onto “High School Road” should actually read “left hand turn lane from Highway 60 onto Michigan Avenue”. Councilor Chavez-Lopez suggested including the left hand turn lane from Highway 60 onto Michigan Avenue with the “Highway 60 Improvements” project that is already listed on the ICIP.

d. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 11 – Recreation Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Special Events, Telephone & Utilities and Building Maintenance – Amount is \$20,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2015.

2. No. 12 – Substance Abuse Prevention Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Amount is \$15,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant reimbursement.

3. No. 13 – General Fund

Resources are Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Telephone & Utilities, Legal/Other Professional and Building Maintenance – Amount is \$41,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2015.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 11, 12 and 13. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Monette stated that he recently attended a ribbon-cutting for RiskSense in Albuquerque. Councilor Monette stated that the security technology was developed at NM Tech.

Councilor Jaramillo stated that one of the sanitation trucks is smoking. Michael Lucero, Sanitation Director, stated that the truck is old and he is currently getting prices on a new truck.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

There were no Department Director reports.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she has received complaints about a house on Ake Street that appears to be abandoned. Chief Winders stated that he would have officers check the house. Mr. Salome stated that the City has tried to work with the homeowner who has only been doing minimal upkeep.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there are weeds growing in to the street on Hannah Place.

Councilor Romero stated that he attended the neighborhood watch meeting held by the Police Department. Chief Winders stated that there were approximately 25 people at the meeting and he is waiting to hear back to see who wants to actively participate. Councilor Romero stated that one of the topics of discussion was street lights. Mr. Salome stated that the matter of street lights is a difficult one. Mr. Salome stated that the City would have to pay for the installation of the light and the lights cannot be used for one household but rather must benefit the area in whole. Mr. Salome stated that the City would not be able to place a lights for everyone who wants one and not all residents want a light by their home. Mr. Salome stated that individuals can contact the Socorro Electric Cooperative and add their own light if they would like one. Mr. Salome stated that street lights are more for assisting traffic and pedestrians and not really for security purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks asked if the City was spraying for mosquitos. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that City staff has been spraying for mosquitos and placing “biscuits” in standing water. Mr. Martinez stated that if residents call about a specific area, City staff will go out and spray but the spraying is usually done in the evenings when there are less people around.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

a. Library Board Reappointments

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that on behalf of Mayor Bhasker, he would like to reappoint Kay Krehbiel and Gilbert Apps to the Library Board.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Mayor’s reappointment of Kay Krehbiel and Gilbert Apps to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

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

Katy Weaver – 7-20-15 – Tourism – Completed Probation – B-16 to B-18

Elvires Otero – 7-1-15 – Fire – Completed Probation – A-27 to A-28

James Padilla – 7-1-15 – Finance – Salary Adjustment – C-25 to C-28

Joseph Reichenbach – 7-20-15 – Completed Probation – A-37 to A-40

Kevin Vega – 7-20-15 – Police – Completed Probation – A-35 to A-37

Chris Vega – 7-20-15 – Production – Pool Operator Certification/Additional Pool Duties/New Title Operator I – G-25 to G-29

Temporary New Hires: Robert Salazar

Temporary Renewals: Tony Montoya, Paul Marquez, Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Regina Valencia, Sergio Cuevas, Angelica Vega, Michael Padilla, Jeremy Chavez, Kevin Gonzales, Felipe Romero, John Ferguson, Billy Romero, Brad Winton, Cindy Saiz, Loretta Tolliver, Angelica Rael, Jenny Crespín, Brent Gallagher, Chris Carrillo, Jared Marquez, Theresa Chavez

Student Workers: Samantha Maldonado

Referees (3), Zumba (1), Summer Youth (104), Lifeguards (14)

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Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

7-Eleven #732 – C-2 – 1104 California Street – Corporation – Convenience Store with Gas

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 134208 to 134335 and 134341 to 134497 in the amount of \$791,330.63, plus Payroll Transfers (\$190,916.21), for a total of \$982,246.84. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 134336 to 134340 and 134498 to 134624 in the amount of \$401,143.61, plus Payroll Transfers (\$186,616.84), for a total of \$587,760.45. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – August 3, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mable Gonzales, Treasurer, requested that the City Council hold a special meeting at noon on July 29, 2015 to approve the FY 2015-2016 final budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on August 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers and that there would be a special meeting of the City Council on July 29, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., Councilor Romero motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk