

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 3, 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 Ernest Pargas and Councilor Donald Monette. Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Olguin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 3, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. July 20, 2015

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

b. July 29, 2015

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Mann, a local resident, stated that he has presented his concerns to the City Council regarding traffic on El Camino Real and feels the City is not adequately responding to his concerns (speeding, no speed limit signs and no “children playing” signs). Mr. Mann stated that he is still concerned that someone is going to get hurt. Mr. Mann stated that he is getting signatures on a petition that he will present at a future City Council meeting. 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. Mr. Salome stated that there is technology available to the City which can provide such information. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that he can have a speed limit sign placed in the area.

Mr. Mann also stated that he was injured at the City’s landfill by another patron using the landfill. Mr. Mann stated that the City’s insurance would not cover the cost of his injuries and that he feels the City should assist him in filing a claim for damages from the party who injured him. Mr. Salome stated that the City can resubmit the claim to the City’s insurance (if Mr. Mann chooses) to see if they will reconsider based on the fact that the City owns the property where the incident occurred.

a. Battle of the Badge Blood Drive – Cindy Rivera

Theresa Chavez, an employee of the City’s youth center, stated that there will be a Battle of the Badges Blood Drive on August 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Finley Gym. Ms. Chavez stated that anyone can donate and dedicate their contribution to either the City (police and fire), County or State and the winners will receive a traveling trophy for the year.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Consideration of Zone Change – David Gaytan Jr. – Corner of US Highway 60 and Grant Avenue – R-2 to C-2

Mr. Salome recommended that the item be postponed until the first City Council meeting in September in order to meet the advertising requirements outlined in the Zoning Code.

Councilor Monette made a motion to postpone the item until the first City Council meeting in September. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Healthy Kids Socorro - Presentation

Councilor Pargas introduced James McNeil, the coordinator for Socorro County Healthy Kids. Mr. McNeil provided a handout to the City Council. Mr. McNeil stated that the Socorro County Healthy Kids grant is a grant aimed at mitigating the problem of obesity. Mr. McNeil stated that some of the things that have been done through the grant include: bike to school challenges, gardens in Socorro schools, the 5210 program for students in third grade, the construction of a pump track and the Eat Well, Play Hard program for students in fourth and fifth grade. Mr. Salome stated that the City has tried to promote healthy activities by keeping the costs of participation down which helps keep enrollment up. Mr. McNeil stated that there will be a health fair on August 7th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Finley Gym where various vendors will give backpacks with school supplies away and provide haircuts for students.

c. Resolution No. 15-08-03 – 5311 Rural 7 Small Urban Public Transportation Program

Mr. Salome presented Resolution No. 15-08-03 which, if approved, allows the City to request funding for a public transportation system through the 5311 Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Program. Mr. Salome stated that in making the request, the City will commit and have a funding match which will be funded either in-kind or through the City's general fund. Mr. Salome stated that the amount of matching funds to the City is \$130,380.00.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-08-03. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. 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 recommended that the City Council place the "Addition of an Electricity Substation at the Industrial Park" on the ICIP as the City is currently doing a feasibility study and if the City decides to move forward with the project, the placement on the ICIP may help the City get the project funded. Mr. Salome stated that the final ICIP will be presented at the next City Council meeting for approval.

Councilor Pargas made a motion to add "Addition of an Electricity Substation at the Industrial Park" to the ICIP. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks requested an Airport Committee meeting on August 14th at 12:00 noon at the airport.

NEW BUSINESS

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None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero asked about the status of the street lights on California Street. Mr. Santillanes stated that Ross Electric is waiting on a breaker and will install the breaker when it is delivered.

Councilor Romero asked about the status of road repairs (Otero, 5th Street) to the damage done by the large trucks working on the levy reconstruction project. Mr. Santillanes stated that temporary repairs will start this week and the permanent repairs will be done once the levy project is complete.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there are overgrown weeds on Hannah Street and in the alleys in that area. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there is a large pothole on Western Avenue. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City has a contractor that assists with weed cleanup and he will let him know about the weeds on and around Hannah Street. Mr. Santillanes stated that there are plans to repair the road on Western Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks:

Valen Alonzo – 7-16-15 – Recreation – Additional Job Duties – C-19 to C-21

Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks:

Jim Dixon Construction – Out of Town – Bosque Farms, NM – Jim Dixon – General Contractor
Mud Puddle Music LLC – C-2 – 202 McCutcheon – Emily Brindle – Teaching Early Childhood Music Classes

Matt's Haus of Tech – R-2 (Approved by P&Z) – 303 B Park Street – Matthew Garcia – Electronics Repair (Phones, Tablets, PC's)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – August 17, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on August 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:49 p.m., Councilor Monette motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

