

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 17, 2015

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. August 3, 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. Mr. Mann stated that he is still concerned that someone could get hurt. Mr. Mann presented a petition with signatures from his neighbors. Mr. Mann stated that he does not feel the City needs a feasibility study. Mr. Salome stated that he did not recommend a feasibility study rather a way of collecting 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 in order to assist the City in choosing the proper solution. Mr. Salome stated that there are traffic devices available to the City which can provide such information. Mr. Mann stated that there are several streets that have speed bumps including Doc Holiday Lane which is next to a hotel owned by Mayor Bhasker. Mayor Bhasker stated that he appreciates the petition. Mayor Bhasker stated that he owns and maintains Doc Holiday Lane and that he paid for the street to be paved. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are speed bumps that have been requested in others areas and complaints of speeding have been received from other areas as well. Mayor Bhasker stated that he is willing to continue to accept information from Mr. Mann but he would appreciate receiving it in a more civil manner. Mr. Salome stated that with all of the requests for speed bumps, it is hard to decide who needs them the most without having good data from the area.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Mr. Salome stated that a complaint was received from Shawn Still, who could not be at the meeting, and that he would be reading the complaint into the minutes on Mr. Still's behalf. Mr. Salome stated that Mr. Still was filing a complaint regarding the Socorro Electric Cooperative for the following reasons (words are directly from the complaint): 1) Socorro Electric Co-op built a barbed wire fence behind my property. The fence was outsourced to another party. 2) No permit was issued. 3) Residential area and this barbed wire fence was not grandfathered in. 4) Electric Co-op manager refused to talk to me. 5) Fence builder came onto property and stole family pet cat and kittens and 6 month old baby goat.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 15-08-17 – Amending the Zoning Code Ordinance

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 15-15-08-17 which, if approved, will require new commercial and manufacturing buildings, as well as existing commercial and manufacturing buildings (within 18 months), to construct a trash enclosure to prevent trash from becoming windborne. Mayor Bhasker stated that operations that do not use a dumpster will not be required to construct the enclosure.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

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Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-08-17 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Socorro County Prevention Coalition - Presentation

Councilor Pargas introduced Savannah Morris, the project director for the Socorro County Prevention Coalition. Ms. Morris provided a handout to the Mayor and City Council. Ms. Morris stated that the mission of the coalition is to work collectively to reduce alcohol and other drug use through collaboration, education and policy change. Ms. Morris stated that some of the ways the coalition is helping the community are by presentations and media advertising. Ms. Morris stated that two of the upcoming campaigns include "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" and "A Dose of Reality". Ms. Morris reviewed the 2015 community survey results. Ms. Morris stated that the Socorro Police Department will be hosting a "drug take-back day" on September 26th so that people can turn in unused and expired medications which will then be disposed of properly. Mayor Bhasker thanked Ms. Morris for her presentation.

b. RFQ Award – Electricity Utility Feasibility Study

Mayor Bhasker stated that the committee created to review RFQ's for the electric utility feasibility study met with two firms and is recommending that the study be conducted by Forsgren Associates Inc. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study will include how much it would cost to construct the substation, how much revenue will be generated from the substation and who will supply the electricity. Mayor Bhasker introduced Sam Senn from Forsgren Associates Inc. Mr. Senn stated that it will take several months to complete the study which will include five tasks: 1) Identify the service area. 2) Determine who is using power and how much power they are using. 3) Analyze available power supplies. 4) Map the existing SEC infrastructure. 5) Do a financial analysis study. Mr. Senn stated that the study will have to be realistic. Mr. Senn stated that the study will also look at alternatives like solar power and a co-gen system. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study will cost approximately \$38,000 and that NM Tech will also be considered in the service area. Mr. Senn stated that work on the study will start this week. Mr. Senn stated that it will be an uphill battle as electric cooperatives are not always cooperative when asked to provide information. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study will also show the possibilities of taking over the SEC's entire service area.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the recommendation that the electricity utility feasibility study be conducted by Forsgren Associates Inc. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Amendment to the Agreement between the City of Socorro & Socorro County (Property for Jail Site)

Mayor Bhasker presented an amendment to the agreement between the City of Socorro and Socorro County which changes the language pertaining to the improvement of the road leading to the new jail site. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration is recommending that the City not accept the amendment as written. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City gave the County, at no cost, 13.161 (at a cost of \$247,426.80) acres of City property for the jail site. Mayor Bhasker stated that the original contract called for asphalt to be placed on Enterprise Road and Grefco Road and the County is now suggesting a double-penetration chip seal. Mayor Bhasker stated that the County no longer has the funds to move forward with the original agreement at this time. Mayor Bhasker stated that the County has the funds to do part of the road with asphalt and that he would prefer the rest of the road be done with asphalt when the County receives more funds rather than move forward with the chip seal.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to allow Mayor Bhasker to request a new amendment from Socorro County which states they will asphalt Enterprise Road and Grefco Road. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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d. Resolution No. 15-08-17a – Final 2017-2021 ICIP Approval

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-08-17a which, if approved, authorizes the submittal of the City's 2017-2021 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Mr. Salome stated that the top five priorities listed were based on the information that was turned in by the City Council. Mr. Salome read the top five projects from the resolution as well as the list of completed and pending projects which were also listed on the resolution. Mr. Salome stated that the culvert under the railroad crossing was added to the Cuba Road Drainage Project and the left-hand turn lane onto Michigan Avenue was added to the Highway 60 Improvements Project.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-08-17a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

e. Weed and Yard Waste Pick Up - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that he has seen piles of weeds piled along many City streets. Mayor Bhasker stated that while the City appreciates residents cleaning up their weeds, the piles are just sitting there for long periods of time. Mayor Bhasker reminded the public that there is not a charge at the landfill to take the weeds. Mayor Bhasker stated that in order to provide an immediate fix to the problem, City crews have a plan to go to each section of the City and pick up the weeds. Mayor Bhasker stated that from this point forward, the City either needs to add \$1.00 to the charge for sanitation pick up or strictly enforce the City's ordinance which provides a charge for these types of pickups. Mayor Bhasker asked the City Council to consider an efficient way to handle this problem as the City is expending a lot of personnel and equipment to keep up with this issue. Some discussion followed.

f. Bid Award – Panels and Chutes for Rodeo Arena

Mayor Bhasker stated that there was originally one bid received but that there was some confusion over another bid that was possibly received by City staff. Mayor Bhasker asked the City Council to postpone the item to the next City Council meeting in order to straighten out the matter.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to postpone the item to the next City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

g. Rodeo Arena Welding Contract

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that written quotes were received from three companies for the welding of the rodeo arena and horse stalls. Mr. Santillanes stated that the low bidder was Diamond J, LLC and that the company has started work at the rodeo arena. Mr. Santillanes stated that the low bid was for \$14.00 per foot for the arena and \$10.00 per foot for the horse stalls. Mr. Santillanes stated that the item was on the agenda in order to keep everyone updated as to the status of the project. For the record, the City will provide the pipe and concrete at its own cost for this project.

h. Memorandum of Understanding – City of Socorro & Village of Magdalena – Animal Control

Victoria Murphy, the Animal Shelter Director, stated that she presented a memorandum of understanding to Socorro County for animal control services. Ms. Murphy stated that the County is considering the MOU but did not want to pay for fees associated with the Village of Magdalena. Ms. Murphy stated the Village of Magdalena provided her with a proposed MOU and that she concurs with the MOU provided by the Village of Magdalena for animal control services. Ms. Murphy stated that the City animal shelter has been housing animals from the Village of Magdalena and Socorro County for years without being compensated. Ms. Murphy stated that the MOU outlines a fee schedule for boarding, quarantine, euthanasia and lab fees. Councilor Monette stated that there was a clerical item (in the agreement) that needed to be clarified/corrected.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between the City of Socorro and the Village of Magdalena for animal shelter services as amended. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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i. Resolution No. 15-08-17b – Surplus Equipment

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-08-17b which, if approved, deems a 2004 Ford Ambulance (VIN 2119) as surplus equipment. Mayor Bhasker stated that the ambulance will be allocated to the Socorro County Department of Emergency Management.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-08-17b. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Dave Finley and Mike Worley to the Airport Committee. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Dave Finley and Mike Worley to the Airport Committee. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Donald Padilla, Library Director, stated that due to a partial separation of the south wall, the wall will be bolted in a manner that prevents future movement. Mr. Padilla stated that he has received a proposal from Queston Construction to install a new roof in the south east corner room. Mr. Padilla stated that he received estimates for painting several rooms at the library which will be done in the next few weeks. Mr. Padilla stated that Lisa Beinhoff resigned from the Library Board. Mr. Padilla stated that the library received three passes from the Office of Cultural Affairs for any of the State-operated museums. Mr. Padilla stated that patrons can check out the passes for one week and the pass allows six people free admittance. Mr. Padilla reviewed the status of the 2012 and 2014 GO Bonds.

Councilor Hicks left the meeting.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from July 2015 (189 ambulance runs, 16 fire calls, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that all autos/equipment are up and running and personnel continue to attend training. Chief Gonzales stated that the Fire Department will once again host a barbecue for the annual Expo.

Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations are normal in the Landfill, Sanitation and Recycling departments. Mr. Lucero stated that Landfill crews have been grinding tree limbs which are spread on the slopes of the closed cell. Mr. Lucero stated that the residential sanitation truck was repaired and is back on the route.

Victoria Murphy, the Animal Shelter Director, stated that the number of animals being adopted has increased. Ms. Murphy stated that the dirt dog runs have been replaced with cement. Ms. Murphy stated that she is working in getting bids for the quarantine kennels. Ms. Murphy invited everyone to come and visit the shelter and see the improvements.

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that a letter was received in June from FEMA accrediting the diversion channel levy. Mr. Czosnek stated that FEMA's letter of final determination will come out in November and the new maps will be effective in May 2016. Mr. Czosnek stated that a year after reconstruction is complete on the Rio Grande levy, FEMA will come in to certify that levy. Mr. Czosnek stated that construction of the new dialysis center is underway. Mr. Czosnek stated that he is working with landowners to cut their weeds and he is making progress.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from July 2015 (88 arrests, 455 citations, 2 DWI arrests, 244 police reports filed, 27 traffic accidents, etc.). Chief Winders stated that Officer Joseph Reichenbach completed his recertification and Officer Michael Chavez is currently at the academy. Chief Winders stated that school has started and police officers are monitoring speed in the school zones. Chief Winders stated that he will be conducting interviews for vacant police officer positions. Mayor Bhasker asked Chief Winders to utilize the radar gun for speed on El Camino Real where Mr. Mann stated people were speeding.

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Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, stated that due to issues with the CAD system, he was unable to provide stats for last month. Mr. Tarango stated that he has not seen any calls through dispatch regarding speeding on El Camino Real. Mr. Tarango stated that the new 911 equipment as well as a new air conditioning unit are installed and operational. Mr. Tarango stated that he is waiting on the State to finish work on the data link server so that he can utilize the mapping system.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the Road Department has been working at the rodeo arena on a retaining wall and sidewalks. Mr. Santillanes stated that he will be ordering fencing for the perimeter and that crews will be working on the earth work on the north side of the arena. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Street, Water and Landfill departments will be working together to do City-wide weed cleanup. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department has been replacing natural gas lines on College Avenue. Mr. Santillanes stated that the fuel system reconstruction is in the design phase and once complete, will be put out for bid. Mr. Santillanes stated that members of the Civil Air Patrol have been assisting with cleaning weeds at the airport.

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that on August 21st at 7:00 p.m. on the Travel Channel, "Mysteries of the Monument" will be aired which is a story about the UFO sighting by Lonnie Zamora. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Utility Billing Department is doing the annual review of budget billing accounts and urged the public to come in if they are interested in getting on budget billing.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero asked if the City is going to allow dogs at the new recreation facility. Mr. Salome stated that the Administration is currently working on a policy for each of the City's parks. Mayor Bhasker stated that if dogs are allowed, at a minimum, owners will be required to have their dog leashed and must remove their dog's waste.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker presented a job description for the position of Youth Center Aide, which will be a permanent, full-time position for the City's Youth Center. Mayor Bhasker stated that the position is currently being filled by temporary workers.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the Youth Center Aide job description. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

a. Personnel Changes

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

Michael Contreras – 7-31-15 – Police – Resignation

Rick Silva – 8-16-15 – Completed Probation – A-20 to A-22

Chelsea Lyons – 8-23-15 – Library – Completed Probation and Merit – A-31 to A-35

Toby Jaramillo – 8-16-15 – Fire – Certification (Fire Inspection) – B-31 to B-33

Temporary New Hires: John Silva Jr., Manny Padilla, Robert Salazar

Temporary Renewals: Tony Montoya, 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 Crespin, Chris Carrillo

Student Workers: Samantha Maldonado, Mariah Jaramillo, Erik Boeck, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley Mauldin, Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova

Referees (3), Zumba (1)

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Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously with Councilor Jaramillo abstaining because his son is on the list.

b. Business Registrations

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

3JP Farm and Ranch LLC – Out of Town – Luis Lopez, NM – Janell Gallegos & Jamin Hutchens – Sale of Chile

A & J Equipment LLC – C-2 – 315 Spring Street – Alfred & Lori Fernandez – Used Cars & ATV Dealership

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 134625 to 134864 in the amount of \$505,039.28, plus Payroll Transfers (\$362,150.73), for a total of \$867,190.01. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – September 8, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 (due to the Labor Day holiday) at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:06 p.m., Councilor Monette motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk