

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 8, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Gordy Hicks was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. August 17, 2015

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – National Manufacturing Day

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation which proclaimed October 1, 2015 as National Manufacturing Day in the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that residents will be able to tour the Solaro facility on Manufacturing Day.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon - Update

Howard Udseth stated that the 20th Annual Chile Harvest Triathlon was held and had 204 adult participants. Mr. Udseth stated that the participants were mainly from New Mexico with a few being from other states. Mr. Udseth thanked the City for their support of the event. Lynette Napier stated that the children's triathlon was held in conjunction with the adult triathlon and had 59 participants. Ms. Napier also thanked the City for supporting the triathlon.

Councilor Gordy Hicks arrived at the meeting.

Larry Cowan, along with Michael Hawkes and Gene Steele, stated that they recently participated in the Senior Olympics. Mr. Cowan stated that he has been participating in the Senior Olympics for ten years and has earned 23 medals. Mr. Cowan stated that the events include archery, horseshoes, track, softball, etc. Mr. Cowan thanked the City of Socorro for supporting their participation in the event.

Savannah Morris, from the Socorro County Prevention Coalition, provided a handout regarding "Prescription Drug Take Back Day" which will be held September 26, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Socorro Police Department. Ms. Morris stated that residents can take and dispose of unused or expired prescription/over the counter drugs and it is free and anonymous. Ms. Morris stated that the drugs will then be disposed of properly by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
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September 8, 2015

Pablo Lopez requested police traffic enforcement or a speed bump on Calle de San Miguel due to drivers speeding on the street. Mr. Lopez stated that he feels drivers are trying to get to the traffic light on California Street before it changes to red. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the traffic devices that will monitor speed have been ordered. Mr. Santillanes stated that he has spoken to the NM Department of Transportation regarding the timing of the lights but they've stated changing the lights would interrupt the timing of the other lights on California Street. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would look into the matter.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 15-09-08 – Economic Development Plan (LEDA)

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 15-09-08. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the Economic Development Plan Ordinance is to allow public support of economic development projects to foster, promote and enhance local economic development efforts while continuing to protect against the unauthorized use of public money and other public resources. Further, the purpose of the ordinance is to allow the City to enter into one or more joint powers agreement with other local governments to plan and support regional economic development projects. Mayor Bhasker stated that the State has funding for Solaro but the City cannot be the fiscal agent for the funds unless it has this ordinance in place. Mayor Bhasker stated that this ordinance does not involve increasing taxes. Councilor Olguin stated that the State has funds to assist private industry but the City has to have this ordinance in place in order for the funds to be awarded. Mr. Salome stated that the ordinance is more than the City being a fiscal agent but the City will also have to follow requirements to make sure deliverables and the content of the agreement are met. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City attorney will assist the City with making sure the City meets all the criteria outlined in the ordinance.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-09-08 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Consideration of Zone Change – David Gaytan Jr. – Corner of US Hwy 60 & Grant Street – R-2 to C-2

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that an application was made by David Gaytan Jr. for a zone change from R-2 to C-2 at the corner of US Hwy 60 and Grant Street. Mr. Czosnek stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission, after a public hearing at their July 23, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the zone change to the City Council. Mr. Gaytan attended the meeting and stated that he would like to start a business there, possibly a music recording studio. Mr. Czosnek stated that there was one objection at the Planning and Zoning meeting due to the fact that there are differing zones on each side of the property (one side residential, one side commercial). Mr. Gaytan stated that access to the property will be from Grant Street.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the zone change for David Gaytan Jr. at the corner of US Hwy 60 and Grant Street from R-2 to C-2. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 8, 2015

b. SCOPE Coordinator Presentation

Stephanie O'Toole, Socorro County Options, Prevention and Education (SCOPE) Coordinator, provided a handout to the Mayor and City Council. Ms. O'Toole stated that the purpose of a health council is to identify local health needs and coordinate solutions to those needs. Ms. O'Toole stated that the priorities of SCOPE are fitness & nutrition, substance abuse & misuse and education. Ms. O'Toole stated that SCOPE is in stage 3 of the Health System Innovation Grant which includes a community input session on September 17, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at the SGH Community-Based Programs Building. Mayor Bhasker thanked Ms. O'Toole for her presentation and congratulated SCOPE on their accomplishments.

c. Resolution No. 15-09-08a – Participation in the South Central Council of Governments

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-09-08a which, if approved, would allow the City to participate in the South Central Council of Governments for FY 15-16 along with payment of membership dues of \$2,663. Mayor Bhasker stated that the resolution requests a voting delegate and alternate be named and that in the past, Councilor Hicks was the voting delegate and the Mayor was the alternate. Mayor Bhasker stated that funding agencies look to see if an entity is a part of a Council of Governments when considering funding. Jay Armijo (Director of the SCCOG) and Angela Rael (Transportation Coordinator for the SCCOG) also attended the meeting. Mr. Armijo stated that among other things, the SCCOG would like to assist the City in getting funding for the convention center, rodeo arena and electricity substation. Mr. Armijo stated that there are other programs available to the City such as the Transportation Planning Program and EDA Program. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG also works closely with the legislative committees. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG also assists with CDBG projects. Mayor Bhasker stated that for clarification, there were issues with the SCCOG and the CDBG project two years ago to which Mr. Armijo replied there were personnel issues at that time which are now resolved. Councilor Olguin requested that the SCCOG provide a quarterly report of services to the City Council to which Mr. Armijo replied he would provide a quarterly report.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-09-08a. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 15-09-08b – Surplus Equipment

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-09-08b which, if approved, deems 10 autos as surplus equipment. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will attempt to sell the autos at an auction or as salvage.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-09-08b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Bid Award – Panels and Chutes for Rodeo Arena

Mr. Santillanes stated that on August 13, 2015, bids were opened for the panels and chutes for the rodeo arena. Mr. Santillanes stated that there were three bids received. Mr. Santillanes stated that one bidder was lower on the chutes and one bidder was lower on the panels. Mr. Santillanes stated that he would like to recommend that Priefert Rodeo and Ranch Equipment be awarded the bid for the bucking/roping chutes (\$26,132.38) and Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment be awarded the bid for the corral panels (\$77,572.49).

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 8, 2015

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for the bucking/roping chutes to Priefert Rodeo and Ranch Equipment and award the bid for the corral panels to Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

f. Memorandum of Agreement – City of Socorro & County of Socorro – Animal Control Services

Mayor Bhasker presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Socorro and Socorro County which, if approved, outlines a fee schedule for boarding, quarantine, euthanasia and lab fees. Ms. Murphy stated that the City animal shelter has been housing animals from Socorro County for years without being compensated. Ms. Murphy stated that the City's attorney recommended some minor typographical changes. Ms. Murphy briefly reviewed the changes. Ms. Murphy stated that the County has agreed to the changes and will sign a corrected copy of the MOA.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Socorro and Socorro County to include the changes suggested by the City's attorney. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Hicks stated that the FAA would like the weeds to be cleared at the airport. Mr. Santillanes stated that City crews will clear the areas further out from the runway and taxi lane. Councilor Hicks stated that he believes the FAA will have funds available next year for a mower for the airport. Councilor Hicks asked if the City could place crusher fines along the sides to prevent the weeds. Mr. Santillanes stated that he would look into the possibility of the crusher fines.

Councilor Olguin stated that the SET application was approved. Councilor Olguin stated that several modules will happen over the next 6 to 7 months which will require several volunteers. Councilor Olguin stated that he would update the Mayor and Council as the program moves along.

Mayor Bhasker asked what the City's relationship with the Chamber of Commerce is now that the Chamber's director position is vacant. Mr. Salome stated that the contract contains a list of services and is paid according to that list rather than one lump sum. Mr. Salome stated that the Chamber should be looking for someone who is capable of performing those duties or the contract will have to be modified to reflect what services the Chamber can provide.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Olguin asked about the status of Enterprise Road. Mayor Bhasker stated that the County has been informed of the City's position on the matter and has not yet received a response.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 8, 2015

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has put together a map of potholes along heavily traveled City streets. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will put the pothole repair project out to bid and spend approximately \$40,000 on the project. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will spend an additional \$20,000 on pothole repairs on potholes that are reported by the public. Mayor Bhasker stated the public can call City Hall and report potholes and they will be added to the list for repairs.

a. Final Budget Approval by DFA – FY 2015-2016

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve DFA's acknowledgement of approval. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Library Board Appointment

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Rita Steinnerd to fill a vacancy on the Library Board (Lisa Beinhoff resigned from the Library Board). Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the appointment of Rita Steinnerd to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Margaret Gonzales – 8-24-15 – Dispatch – Resignation
Earl Monte – 9-8-15 – Water – Additional Job Duties – J-18 to J-20
Corey Sanchez – 9-8-15 – Water – Additional Job Duties – D-20 to D-23
David Gutierrez – 7-1-15 – Gas – Additional Job Duties & Transfer from Truck Driver to Backhoe Operator – E-25 to E-30
James Padilla – 7-1-15 – Finance – Salary Adjustment – C-28 to C-30

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

EPNM, Inc. dba Zeon Signs – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Corporation – Sign Manufacturing & Installation
Montoya Farm 7 Ranch – Out of Town – Luis Lopez, NM – Robert Montoya – Cattle Geochemical, LLC – R-4 (Approved by P&Z) – 1711-G El Camino Real – Gregory Miller – Consulting
Ink Underground – R-R (Approved by P&Z) – 613 Dolores – Jacalyn Lesperance & Geneva Escarsega – Clothing & Jewelry

Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

e. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk