

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 21, 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 and Councilor Ernest Pargas. Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Donald Monette were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. September 8, 2015

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Don Boyd stated that he wanted to give an update on the El Camino Real Run and Auto Rally. Mr. Boyd stated that the event was cancelled due to low registration. Mr. Boyd stated that Labor Day weekend had been chosen as there are no other scheduled auto rallies that weekend, however, it was unknown that Labor Day weekend is used by car clubs to prep their cars for upcoming events. Mr. Boyd stated that the Jaguar Car Club agreed to come to Socorro and look at the routes and potentially run the routes in the fall or spring. Mr. Boyd thanked the City for their support of the event.

Cindy Rivera stated that the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive was held in August which is a competition to see who can get more votes (donations) between the fire departments and law enforcement departments (each person who donates a pint of blood can vote for a department). Ms. Rivera stated that the Socorro County Sheriff's Department won with 14 pints, followed by the Socorro Fire Department with 13 pints, State Police with 7 pints and the Socorro Police Department with 5 pints. Mayor Bhasker presented Sheriff William Armijo and Undersheriff Ed Sweeney with the winner's plaque. Sheriff Armijo urged everyone to donate blood and stated that his department was happy to participate in the blood drive. Ms. Rivera stated that the next blood drive will be on October 5th from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Youth Center.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

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.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public. Councilor Olguin asked if letters were sent to the businesses informing them about the proposed ordinance. Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, was not at the meeting to answer that question.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to postpone the vote until such time as letters can be sent informing businesses of the change. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Bid for Pothole Repairs

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has put together a map of potholes along heavily traveled City streets. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would like to put the pothole repair project out to bid and spend approximately \$50,000-60,000 on the project. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that he is creating a bid packet to advertise for a contractor to do the repairs. Mr. Santillanes stated that the bid will advertise for ten days and a recommendation will be made to award the bid to the low bidder. Mr. Santillanes stated that the contractor will be given a list of potholes to repair along with a map of their location.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to advertise the bid for pothole repairs. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 1 – R & R General Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Acquisitions – Amount is \$115,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for vehicle purchases for various departments.

2. No. 2 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Gas Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Acquisitions – Amount is \$70,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for vehicle purchases.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 1 and 2. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker stated that the M Mountain Fly-In is this weekend and asked Mr. Santillanes to give more detail about the event in his department director report.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the fly-in will start at 8:00 a.m. on September 26th and will consist of a full day of activities including skydivers and a memorial dedication for Laura Haines. Mr. Santillanes stated that the rodeo arena welding is near completion and the corrals and chutes have been ordered. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department is continuing work on natural gas line replacement near College Avenue and surrounding alleys. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Street Department has been putting up street signs, cleaning weeds and erecting the tent for special events.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the Parks Department has been getting the fields ready for AYSO soccer, high school soccer and flag football. Mr. Martinez stated that they are also working on cleaning weeds throughout the City. Mr. Martinez stated that a concrete sidewalk was poured at the rodeo facility and that the concession stand is near completion. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been working on issues at the lift stations and answering sewer calls. Mr. Martinez stated that repairs (pump, control panel, bar screen) at the wastewater treatment plant are ongoing. Mr. Martinez stated that the Water Department has finished the Dicaperl bore and is installing water lines near Highway 60. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects employees are working on landscaping along Highway 60 at the recreation facility (rock baskets).

Mayor Bhasker stated that he attended a statewide mayor's meeting where there was a discussion regarding one billion dollars in unspent appropriations and that Socorro was on the list with unspent funds for the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City needs to complete the documentation to receive the funds.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from August 2015 (total calls were 2,444). Mr. Tarango stated that dispatch employees have been scheduled for training between now and December as all dispatchers are required to have 20 hours of additional training each year.

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Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from August 2015 (80 arrests, 243 citations, 2 DWI arrests, 234 police reports filed, 18 traffic accidents, etc.). Chief Winders stated that the department has been busy with events including several parades, school events, the County Fair and the San Miguel fiestas. Chief Winders stated that the department will be open on September 26th for “Drug Take-Back Day” and will accept unused and expired medications which will be disposed of properly. Chief Winders stated that there has been a decrease in the number of burglaries.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from August 2015 (174 ambulance runs, 11 fire calls, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that all autos/equipment are up and running. Chief Gonzales stated that the department is conducting its semi-annual hose testing. Chief Gonzales stated that the department once again sponsored a barbecue for the Fire and EMS Expo and fed 280 people. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Fire and EMS Expo is a great event for Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that he attended the 9/11 memorial service at the Fire Academy and it was an exceptional service.

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that the separation of the south wall at the library has been repaired. Mr. Padilla stated that he approached the library board for funds to repair the roof in the southeast corner room and the board agreed to pay half the cost (\$6,469.50). Mr. Padilla stated that he also requested funds from the board to paint inside the library and the request was denied. Mr. Padilla stated that the library has several upcoming events including Halloween, Dia de los Muertos and Christmas/Holiday. Mr. Padilla stated that Aerojet has donated \$1,000.00 to the library’s Makerspace Program. Mr. Padilla reviewed the 2012 and 2014 GO Bonds and the State Grant in Aid. Mr. Padilla stated that library staff assisted the Recreation Department with creating a website and is willing to assist any other department if needed.

Councilor Hicks arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to commend all of the City departments for working together.

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, gave a report on behalf of the Senior Hunger Initiative Program (Susie Welch & Camille Scielzi). Ms. Gonzales stated that to date, 19,552 pounds of food have been distributed to 100 seniors. Ms. Gonzales stated that the program receives approximately 5 applications per month and is open to seniors ages 55 and over. Ms. Gonzales stated that the distribution takes 4 to 5 hours with 4 to 8 volunteers. Ms. Gonzales stated that the program would like to thank City staff for assisting with the distributions and housing the food at the Youth Center. Ms. Gonzales stated that the City’s 2014-2015 audit has begun.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked if the City is prepared for rain/flooding. Mr. Santillanes stated that City crews keep pumps ready and go out and pump water when needed. Mr. Santillanes stated that City crews regularly clean drains and ditches.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

- Victoria Murphy – 9-1-15 – Animal Shelter – Completed Probation – A-43 to A-45
- Gonzalo Gonzales – 9-21-15 – Police – New Hire (Police Officer) – A-35
- Regina Valencia – 9-16-15 – Youth Center – New Hire (Youth Center Aide) – A-16

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Temporary New Hires: Candice Melendrez, Michael Silva

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, Loretta Tolliver, Angelica Rael, Chris Carrillo, John Silva Jr., Manny Padilla, Robert Salazar

Student Workers: Camryn Sager, Mariah Jaramillo, Erik Boeck, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley Mauldin, Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova, Evelyn Gomez

Referees (1), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Hustled Construction LLC – Out of Town – Belen, NM – Jesus Serrano – General Construction

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 134865 to 135211 in the amount of \$1,091,808.79, plus Payroll Transfers (\$303,999.08), for a total of \$1,395,807.87. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – October 5, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk