

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 19, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Ernest Pargas. Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Donald Monette were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 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. October 5, 2015

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 15-10-19 – City of Socorro Grease Remediation Ordinance

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 15-10-19. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the Grease Remediation Ordinance is to maintain a healthy collection system that will not negatively affect the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant and to comply with the City's EPA-NPDES permit. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was inspected by the EPA in July 2015 and one of the recommendations was an ordinance that will regulate the discharge of grease oil and fat products that are put into the City's wastewater system. Mr. Martinez stated that the ordinance establishes penalties and other actions the City may take if vendors do not have proper grease traps.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-10-19 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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Genevie Baca, owner of Baca's Towing, stated that they have been in business since 1980 and constructing a trash enclosure would be costly for their small business. Ms. Baca stated that she would like the ordinance to apply to new businesses only and not existing businesses.

Michael Gabaldon stated that he is also a local business owner and to prevent others from dumping in his dumpster, he locked his dumpster and opens it on the day his trash is picked up and stated he is against making existing businesses build enclosures.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez expressed two concerns: if two businesses share a dumpster, who pays for the construction of the enclosure and who pays for a damaged enclosure if the City's garbage truck damages it. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would be responsible if City crews damage an enclosure.

Mayor Bhasker stated that locking the dumpster is a good idea to prevent illegal dumping provided that the business does not remove the lid, which he has seen businesses do. Mayor Bhasker stated that he is amenable to amending the ordinance to only require new businesses to construct a trash enclosure.

Councilor Romero asked about the specifications for the enclosure. Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that there are no detailed specifications. Mr. Czosnek stated that he asks the business owner to submit a design and he then works with the Sanitation Superintendent to decide what design works best for the business and City crews.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked if Mr. Czosnek cites business owners for trash to which Mr. Czosnek stated he is unable to cite as once the trash has blown out of the dumpster, it is hard to determine who the trash belongs to.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to remove all of Section 2 from the ordinance (requiring existing businesses to construct an enclosure with 18 months of the passing of the ordinance). Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Consideration of Zone Change – Los Tres y Cuatro LLC – Eaton/Long/Grant Street – R-2 to C-1

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that an application was made by Los Tres y Cuatro LLC for a zone change from R-2 to C-1 at their properties along Eaton/Long and Grant Street. Mr. Czosnek stated that property owners within 100 feet of the properties in question were notified of the proposed zone change. Mr. Czosnek stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission, after a public hearing at their September 17, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the zone change to the City Council. Mr. Czosnek stated that the landowner would like to construct luxury apartments on the property which would have been allowed in an R-2 zone and further stated that if changed to a C-1 zone, anything allowed in a C-1 zone would be allowed on the property.

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Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to postpone the matter as the property owner was not in attendance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. After some discussion regarding allowing the public to speak on the matter, Councilor Romero withdrew his second and motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission in order to allow for public discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pargas.

Steven Hook, a resident of 411 Eaton, stated that he was not notified of the proposed change (public hearing) and the property is adjacent to his on two sides. Mr. Hook stated that he is opposed to the zone change.

Mr. Czosnek stated that he was not sure why Mr. Hook was not notified of the change and would check into the matter. Mr. Czosnek stated that if, in fact, Mr. Hook was not notified, the matter would have to go back before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Tom Harper, a resident of 403 Eaton, stated that he is not within 100 feet of the property but he is opposed to the change as he would hate to see Eaton become vulnerable to commercial businesses. Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to postpone the item to the next City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jaramillo. Councilor Hicks opposed the motion and the remaining members of the City Council voted in favor of the motion. Motion to postpone passed.

Mr. Salome stated that Mr. Czosnek should check and see if Mr. Hook was sent a notification. Mr. Salome stated that if Mr. Hook was not sent a letter, Mr. Czosnek should submit a letter to the City Council notifying them of the procedural error. Mr. Salome stated that the City Council could then send the matter back to the Planning and Zoning Commission who would hear the proposed change again. Mr. Salome stated that if Mr. Czosnek did send Mr. Hook a letter, the City Council may hear the matter at the next City Council meeting.

b. City of Socorro Social Services Grant Wrap-Up – Councilor Pargas

Councilor Pargas stated that the City Council recently heard presentations from the Mayor's Drug Task Force, Juvenile Justice Continuum, Teen Court Diversion Program, Socorro Teen Center, Healthy Kids New Mexico, Socorro County Prevention Coalition and SCOPE. Councilor Pargas stated that these presentations were done to inform the City Council and the public about the progress of each of the grants. Councilor Pargas provided a handout summarizing the presentations. Councilor Pargas stated that there are many programs for youth in Socorro. Councilor Pargas invited anyone interested to attend meetings for the different programs. Also at the meeting were Savannah Morris (Project Director), Victoria Salazar (Coordinator) and Stephanie O'Toole (Grant Monitor/SCOPE Coordinator).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that upcoming upgrades to the library will include a partial new roof, painting the interior and new carpeting. Mr. Padilla stated that the library will host a discussion regarding the “Serving: Standing Down” program which offers veterans opportunities for humanities-based discussions. Mr. Padilla reviewed recent donations made to the library (Holiday Inn Express, Alice Sanford and Makerspace Program). Mr. Padilla reviewed the GO Bond 2012, GO Bond 2014 and State Grants in Aid. Mr. Padilla invited everyone to participate in the Dia de Los Muertos activities on November 2nd at the library. Mr. Padilla provided an example of the new library cards.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from September 2015 (total calls were 2,183). Mr. Tarango stated that the new dispatcher will attend training for her certification in March. Mr. Tarango stated that the new 911 equipment is running properly and all employees have been trained on the system. Mr. Tarango stated that the mapping system is still receiving updates from the State system. Mr. Tarango stated that the old system will be removed from the office and stored. Mr. Tarango stated that he would be advertising for one dispatcher position.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from September 2015 (77 arrests, 184 citations, 2 DWI arrests, 196 police reports filed, 19 traffic accidents, etc.). Chief Winders stated that the department is considering reactivating the tip hotline. There was some discussion regarding the anonymity of the calls. Chief Winders stated that officers have been busy providing security at special events including Socorrofest, parades, etc.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from September 2015 (170 ambulance runs, 27 fire calls, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that all autos/equipment are up and running. Chief Gonzales stated that the department’s annual testing has been completed (pump, hose, ladder, SCBA, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that the department will host the 2nd annual matanza in conjunction with the City’s Christmas Lights Parade. Chief Gonzales stated that AMR may be interested in taking over service in northern Socorro County within the next year which would help the department. Chief Gonzales stated that later on the agenda, there are proposed updates to the department’s job descriptions. Chief Gonzales stated that he researched pay in ten other comparable departments and he feels the changes will help retain employees.

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that construction of the dialysis center and the Positive Outcomes building is ongoing. Mr. Czosnek stated that he issued a building permit for a new house.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the high school and AYSO have been using the soccer fields at the new recreation facility. Mr. Martinez stated that the Turkey Tune-Up soccer event would be held from November 21st through December 1st at the soccer fields. Mr. Martinez stated that there will be a baseball tournament at Sedillo Park at the end of October. Mr. Martinez stated that Parks Department crews are doing maintenance on all of the City parks (fence repairs, winterizing water lines, etc.). Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been checking/ winterizing storm pumps, winterizing the swimming pool and cleaning the lift stations. Mr. Martinez stated that crews at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been wrapping CO₂ and SO₂ lines and placing heat lamps on their injection points to prevent freezing. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews have been placing decorative poles around the Plaza, continuing with dirt work at the rodeo arena and doing utility work at the Charter School. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew has been doing landscaping along the rodeo/recreation facility on Highway 60.

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Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that Street Department crews have been cleaning drainage structures and placing signage/crosswalks near the Parish Hall for the Charter School students who are temporarily housed there. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City recently hosted a dinner for the NMDOT Commission. Mr. Santillanes stated that during their meeting the next day, Mayor Bhasker made a presentation regarding reconstruction of Highway 60 near the rodeo/recreation facility. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City received bids for City-wide pothole repairs and the low bidder was Calderon Paving in the amount of \$36,110.25. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Road Crew has been grading the grandstand and practice area at the rodeo arena. Mr. Santillanes stated that due to the weather, Gas Department crews are doing in-house training and once the weather clears up, they will continue natural gas line replacement along College Avenue.

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that the City's FY 2014-2015 audit will begin October 30th and will last 1 to 2 weeks. Ms. Gonzales stated that her department has been busy with grant reimbursements. Ms. Gonzales encouraged residents to apply for LIHEAP which is financial help for natural gas customers in the winter.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Highway 60 and Spring Street – Street Light - ICIP

Mayor Bhasker stated that with the new rodeo arena/recreation facility being almost complete, traffic to that area will increase. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration feels the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Highway 60 and Spring Street would assist in the flow of traffic through that area. Mayor Bhasker suggested that the traffic light be placed on the City's ICIP list of projects.

Councilor Romero made a motion to place a traffic light at the intersection of Highway 60 and Spring Street on the City's ICIP. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Updated Job Descriptions – Fire Department

Mayor Bhasker presented updated job descriptions for the Fire Department.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updated job descriptions for the Fire Department. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

c. Personnel Changes

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

Bobby Aragon - 10-16-15 – Police - Resignation

Elvires Otero - 8-14-15 – Fire - Certification (FFI) - A-28 to A-29

Scott Crespin - 10-1-15 – Fire - Certification (EMTB) - A-25 to A-27

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Resen Messer - 8-14-15 – Fire - Certification (FFI) - A-29 to A-30

Charles Contreras - 10-13-15 – Police - Transfer from Facilities Security Guard to Police Officer - B-30 to B-37

Kevin Gonzales - 10-19-15 – Parks - New Hire (Parks Crewman) - A-19

Dustin Aldrich - 10-16-15 - Fire - Job Description Updated - E-40 to E-42

Mario Amaro - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - Q-44 to Q-46

Lawrence Baca - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - S-44 to S-46

Matthew Brannan - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - O-44 to O-46

Raymond Calkins - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - L-40 to L-42

Andrew Crespín - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - A-27 to A-29

Luis Espino - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - B-28 to B-30

Tim Gutierrez - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - F-36 to F-38

Toby Jaramillo - 10-16-15 - Fire - Job Description Updated - B-33 to B-35

Humberto Lucero - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - C-31 to C-33

Orlando Martinez - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - B-31 to B-33

Resen Messer - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - A-30 to A-32

Elvires Otero - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - A-29 to A-31

Daniel Pacheco - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - I-38 to I-40

Gabe Sosa - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - C-31 to C-33

Rick Silva - 10-16-15 – Fire - Job Description Updated - A-22 to A-24

Emena Gonzales - 10-16-15 - Fire/Finance - Job Description Updated - \$13.50 ph to \$14.18 ph

Temporary New Hires: Paul Foulfont

Temporary Renewals: Tony Montoya, Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Sergio Cuevas, Angelica Vega, Michael Padilla, Kevin Gonzales, Felipe Romero, John Ferguson, Billy Romero, Loretta Tolliver, Chris Carrillo, John Silva Jr., Manny Padilla, Michael Silva

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

Referees (2), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously with Councilor Jaramillo abstaining as his son is on the list.

d. Business Registrations

None.

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 135212 to 135525 in the amount of \$813,599.56, plus Payroll Transfers (\$155,757.27), for a total of \$969,356.83. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – November 2, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 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