

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 16, 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 Donald Monette, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Ernest Pargas. Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The “We the People” students from Zimmerly Elementary led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. November 2, 2015

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Zimmerly Elementary – “We the People” Students

Terri Saavedra and Matt O’Toole, fourth and fifth grade teachers from Zimmerly Elementary School, stated that they brought their students to the meeting as part of the “We the People” program which teaches students about constitutional knowledge. Ms. Saavedra stated that every year, the students attend a competition in Santa Fe where they are tested on their knowledge. Ms. Saavedra stated that this year’s competition will be held December 12th and that every year Zimmerly Elementary is the only elementary school in New Mexico at the competition (the rest of the students are of high school age). Each student introduced themselves to the Mayor and City Council. The mayor and City Council wished the students good luck at their competition.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

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

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 15-10-19. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, 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 also to comply with the City’s EPA-NPDES permit. Mr. Martinez 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. Salome stated that the ordinance establishes penalties and other actions the City may take if vendors do not have proper grease traps.

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

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Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-10-19. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Consideration of Zone Change – Scott Burton – 410 Center – R-4 to C-2

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that an application was made by Scott Burton for a zone change from R-4 to C-2 at 410 Center 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 October 15, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the zone change to the City Council. Mr. Czosnek stated that the property was originally zoned C-2 and a previous owner requested it be changed to R-4. Mr. Czosnek stated that there was no opposition to the change at the Planning and Zoning meeting.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the zone change. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

b. La Vega Road – Albino Gonzales - Discussion

Albino Gonzales, who lives at 101 La Vega Road, stated that he would like the City to continue to maintain La Vega Road when needed. Mr. Gonzales stated that the City has maintained the road in the past and last year he was told the City would not maintain the road as it is a private road. Mr. Gonzales stated that City sanitation trucks cause some of the damage on the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has not personally been approached regarding the road and has not refused to maintain the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City does not maintain private roads. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has been unable to find any minutes that reflect that the City has accepted La Vega Road. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration is willing to maintain the road as there are City easements and City sanitation services on the road, however, the City is not willing to accept the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the City accepts the road, there are certain responsibilities the City would have to meet by accepting the road. Mr. Salome stated that if the City accepted the road any time during its existence, the City would have only accepted the road “as is”. Mr. Salome stated that the Administration does not want to give the homeowners on that street false expectations. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are many private roads around the City that the City does not maintain.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to allow the City Administration to determine the best course of action as it relates to maintaining La Vega Road. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing – Liquor License Application – Restaurant Beer and Wine License for On-Premise Consumption Only – Yo Mama’s Grill LLC

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

Mayor Bhasker stated that Yo Mama’s Grill LLC has requested a Restaurant (Beer & Wine) License for On-Premise Consumption which has to be approved by the local Governing Body. There were no comments from the public. A representative from Yo Mama’s Grill LLC, Deidra Vinson, was present at the meeting. Ms. Vinson stated that the restaurant will be serving NM wines and domestic and imported beer.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Restaurant (Beer & Wine) License for On-Premise Consumption for Yo Mama's Grill LLC. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 15-11-16a – Application for Funding from NM Water Trust Board for Water Conveyance Project

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-11-16a which, if approved, supports the preparation and submittal of an application to the Water Trust Board for a water conveyance project. Mr. Martinez stated that the funds would allow the City to complete the Evergreen Road Waterline Replacement Project and replace the water lines from California Street along Bullock Avenue to NM Tech and from NM Tech along Lopezville Road

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-11-16a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution No. 15-11-16b – 2016 Regular Municipal Election

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-11-16b for the 2016 Regular Municipal Election. The resolution contains information regarding vacant elective offices, polling places, consolidated precincts, absentee and early voting information, filing day information, voter registration information, designates the method by which voters will cast their votes and how they will be counted. The resolution was presented and must be approved both in English and Spanish. Election day will be March 1, 2016.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-11-16b both in English and in Spanish. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution No. 15-11-16c – Application for Funding from NM Water Trust Board for Flood Prevention Project

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-11-16c which, if approved, supports the preparation and submittal of an application to the Water Trust Board for a flood prevention project. Mr. Santillanes stated that the funds will allow the City to continue work on drainage in the A Street/B Street area. Mr. Santillanes stated that there would be a 10% City match if the funds are awarded.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-11-16c. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

g. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 4 – Street Improvement Fund

Transfer from general Fund – Requirements are Local Street Projects – Amount is \$75,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for pothole repair.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 4. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that she attended election school from November 4th through 6th along with Stephanie Saavedra, Kristy Padilla and Polo Pineda.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City will be going out for RFP's for the design of the Texas Street Drainage Project and that the design will be complete by the time the CDBG applications are due. Mr. Santillanes stated that City crews have been grading the arena and practice area. Mr. Santillanes stated that Dicaperl has been giving the City perlite for use in the arenas. Mr. Santillanes stated that the panels for the corrals and bucking chutes as well as the fencing have been delivered. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department continues to do natural gas line replacement in the alleys along Short Street, Medley Street, Caine Street and Sunset Drive.

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that upcoming renovations at the library include new roofing in the southeast room, painting in several rooms and new carpet in the southeast room. Mr. Padilla stated that the library is currently hosting the "Serving: Standing Down" program for fall/winter 2015. Mr. Padilla stated that the Dia de los Muertos event was very successful. Mr. Padilla stated that the library's Christmas festivities are scheduled for December 17th. Mr. Padilla reviewed GO Bond 2012, GO Bond 2014 and State Grants-in-Aid. Mr. Padilla stated that he presented a draft of the library policies to the Library Board for their review and input.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from October 2015 (total calls were 2,180). Mr. Tarango stated that he is reviewing applications for the open dispatcher position. Mr. Tarango stated that dispatch employees will be doing State-mandated training over the next 2 months. Mr. Tarango stated that all of the new dispatch equipment is running properly and that he is working on getting the plotting system operational.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from October 2015 (76 arrests, 147 citations, 4 DWI arrests, 196 police reports filed, 17 traffic accidents, etc.). Chief Winders also provided a handout with data from the traffic survey that was performed on El Camino Real (where the City had received complaints of speeding). Mayor Bhasker stated that the traffic monitoring device is a great tool and the Police Department needs to review the data and decide how to best monitor traffic in the area. Chief Winders stated that the department recently completed their bi-annual firearms training. Chief Winders stated that Officer Michael Chavez will graduate from the Police Academy on November 25, 2015. Chief Winders stated that the Socorro Police Department, along with other agencies, recently participated in a drug raid that was very successful.

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that the diversion channel levy was accredited by FEMA and the updated flood maps will be effective May 2, 2016. Mr. Czosnek stated that the diversion channel levy is the only accredited levy system in the State of NM. Mr. Czosnek stated that construction on the dialysis center is slightly behind schedule, the construction at Positive Outcomes is on schedule and the construction of apartments on College Avenue is moving slowly. Mr. Czosnek stated that there will possibly be a new 20,000 square foot retail center.

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Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations are normal in the Landfill, Sanitation and Recycling departments. Mr. Lucero stated that crews at the landfill are currently working on the new cell. Mr. Lucero stated that the City received a letter from the NMED stating that the closure of the old cell was accepted. Mr. Lucero stated that there is one residential and one commercial sanitation truck in for repairs. Mr. Lucero stated that City crews replaced residential garbage cans in need of repair with new cans. Mr. Lucero stated that sanitation pickup days will remain the same throughout the holidays.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from October 2015 (170 ambulance runs, 15 fire calls, etc.). Chief Gonzales stated that all autos/equipment are up and running. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing. Chief Gonzales stated that the Fire Department will host a matanza on December 5th at the Plaza starting at 4:00 p.m.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the Parks Department has been getting the soccer fields ready for the Turkey Tune-Up. Mr. Martinez stated that the rodeo concession stand passed inspection. Mr. Martinez stated that City crews will begin decorating the Plaza and Veteran's Park for the Christmas holiday. Mr. Martinez stated that the Plaza will feature Christmas trees donated by local businesses. Mr. Martinez stated that the Water Department has been working on the water and sewer utilities at the Charter School. Mr. Martinez stated that the bar screen for the Wastewater Treatment Plant has arrived and that the City will solicit bids for a contractor to install the screen. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew has finished landscaping along Highway 60 in front of the rodeo arena.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Romero stated that there are some traffic issues on El Camino Real (Middle Road) now that the Charter School students are temporarily using Parish Hall. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is working with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Socorro Schools to address those issues.

Councilor Monette asked about the water leak in the roof over the City Council Chambers. Mayor Bhasker stated that a contractor has been hired but the contractor has not performed the repairs yet.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that Turkey Bingo will be held at Finley Gym on Friday (November 20th).

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Veteran's Day event was very successful and well-attended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

Resen Messer – 11-16-15 – Fire – Completed Probation – A-32 to A-33

Scott Crespin – 11-16-15 – Fire – Completed Probation – A-29 to A-30

Alma Leon – 11-11-15 – Dispatch – Completed Probation – A-20 to A-21

Reyes Rosas – 12-1-15 – Auto Maintenance – Additional Job Duties – Z-44 to Z-46

Temporary New Hires: Michael Carrillo, Jerry Griego, Gilbert Gonzales, Rondall Sauls

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

Student Workers: Camryn Sager, Mariah Jaramillo, Erik Boeck, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley Mauldin, Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova, Evelyn Gomez, Stephen Kutu, Ricky Silva, Dennis Woods

Referees (2), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

None.

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 135526 to 135793 in the amount of \$1,085,303.46, plus Payroll Transfers (\$161,702.05), for a total of \$1,247,005.51. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – December 7, 2015 @ 6:00

p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:39 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk