

City of Socorro
Special City Council Meeting
December 15, 2015

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Olguin arrived.

APPROVAL December 15, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 15-12-15a – Closure of Smith’s Food and Drug Store #499

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 15-12-15a

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Resolution 15-12-15a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 15-12-15 will be sent to the main public affairs office for Smith’s.

Councilor Monette asked if it should be put in the newspapers and Mayor Bhasker stated that the newspapers that are being considered are the Defensor Chieftain in Socorro, the Albuquerque Journal and a newspaper in Utah. The price for an ad in the Albuquerque journal is \$7,300 for a full page and \$3,500 for a half page so Mayor Bhasker said that we will look into it, a decision has not yet been made if the ad will run.

b. Resolution No. 15-12-15b – Disposition of Surplus City Vehicle

Mayor Bhasker presented resolution No. 15-12-15b. The vehicle is a 2002 Dodge Ram 2500.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve resolution 15-12-15b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker said that he has put out feelers for other stores that might want to come to Socorro. Haven’t heard back from independent pharmacists. Mayor Bhasker stated that he spoke to the Pharmacy Board and they stated that if Smith’s doesn’t sell files then the patients are “on their own”. Doctors will have to rewrite all the prescriptions. Mayor Bhasker stated that Smith’s could internally pass the prescriptions to the other drug stores if they choose. It was stated that John Brooks gets their produce through Affiliated.

Glen Duggins, local farmer stated that he is just as heartbroken as anyone else about Smith’s leaving, however, we turn the blame to elected officials but we need to look at ourselves. We need to spend our money here, it’s not big, bad corporate America causing our problems. “This horse is dead, we need to bury it” referring to Smith’s. If you have 2000 signatures to save Smith’s, why don’t you take them to a new place and try to attract them. If we get a new store we need to buy from them and keep our money at home.

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Mayor Bhasker stated that he will be out tomorrow at Smith's at noon with the resolution.

Stephanie O'Toole stated that the Socorro Storehouse really did benefit from the generosity of Smith's, they were wonderful with food drives and stated she could not say the same thing about Wal Mart. Please keep it in mind when talking to new stores. Storehouse in Albuquerque has gone up 400%. Food distribution on Tuesdays is going well.

Mayor Bhasker stated that we need to try to work with Wal Mart and John Brooks. Mayor Bhasker stated that as an option you may try a mail order pharmacy, it may be cheaper and more convenient for some people.

Councilor Jaramillo stated that they are giving out Christmas food baskets Saturday, December 19, 2015 at Finley Gym.

Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a legislative listening session on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 9:30 am at City Hall. Speaker Tripp and Senator Morales will see how the State may be able to help.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:14 p.m., Councilor Monette 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