

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 16, 2016**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks called the meeting to order. Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Donald Monette. Mayor Ravi Bhasker was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kristy Padilla led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016 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. February 1, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that Mayor Bhasker was unable to attend the meeting as he was currently with his son Jeff who had just won two Grammy awards the previous night. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that Jeff won in the categories of Producer of the Year and Record of the Year. There was a small slideshow of Mayor Bhasker and his son at the Grammys. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks congratulated Jeff on his accomplishment. Councilor Fleming stated that it was an honor to teach Jeff when he attended school in Socorro. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks suggested that the City do a proclamation creating a “Jeff Bhasker Day” in Socorro.

Councilor Fleming stated, on behalf of MRGCD Board Member Glen Duggins, that there will be a Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District meeting on February 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at the Garcia Opera House and everyone is invited to attend.

Rob Lopez presented a petition on behalf of some of the residents on Giles Lane requesting reconstruction of Giles Lane and the upgrade of sewer lines.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 16-02-16 – Amending the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 16-02-16. Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt an updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Mr. Czosnek stated that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has made updates to the ordinance including a new Flood Insurance Study, new flood insurance rate maps and accreditation of the Diversion Channel Levee. Mr. Czosnek stated that the new FEMA maps will go into effect on May 2, 2016.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-02-16 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 16, 2016

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association – Prescott Grey

Prescott Grey, from the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association (MRGEDA), stated that MRGEDA is comprised of Socorro, Valencia, Catron and Sierra counties. Mr. Grey stated that the counties have taken a regional approach in order to take advantage of the USDA's SET (Stronger Economies Together) Program. Mr. Grey stated that among other economic development opportunities, there may be an opportunity to promote tourism, agribusiness, forest products and health care. Mr. Grey stated that he was asking the City of Socorro to join as a governmental body with an annual membership fee of \$1,000. Mr. Grey also encouraged the City Council to serve on the board. Councilor Olguin stated that as the City does not have an Economic Development Department or Director, it would be beneficial for the City to participate in a regional effort. Councilor Olguin stated that when looking for funding, it will be helpful to be a part of a regional effort which can have a larger presence. Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, requested that the City be provided with a written request for the membership fees.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the City of Socorro joining MRGEDA as a governmental body along with the \$1,000 annual membership fee. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Socorro Literacy Program & Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program – Linda Murillo & Maggie Olguin

Linda Murillo, from the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program, provided a certificate of appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for supporting the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program. Ms. Murillo stated that the program provides services to the seniors in our community. Ms. Murillo stated that the program is requesting from the City \$1,436 in funding for computers or \$2,789 in funding for training for the seniors in the program. Ms. Murillo stated that she would provide her request in writing if needed.

Maggie Olguin, from the Literacy Volunteers of Socorro County, thanked the Mayor and City Council for continuing to support the Literacy Program. Ms. Olguin gave a power point presentation on the services that the Literacy Program offers (English as a second language, basic literacy, GED and HiSet, basic computer classes, etc.). Ms. Olguin stated that free tutor training would be provided on March 12th and everyone is invited to attend. Ms. Olguin stated that anyone who completes the class becomes a nationally certified tutor. Also in attendance at the meeting were Literacy Board members Martha Salas and Jerry Esquivel.

Ms. Gonzales suggested that Ms. Murillo and Ms. Olguin attend the public hearing in April to request City funding for their programs.

c. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 5 – Sedillo Park Renovation Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$15,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures through June 30, 2016.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 5. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 16, 2016

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that there has been a large number of burglaries recently. Chief Winders stated that officers performed special detail in order to try and solve the crimes. Chief Winders stated that the special detail was successful. Chief Winders stated that one burglar was caught in the act and three search warrants were served which resulted in several arrests and the recovery of a large amount of stolen property. Chief Winders stated that anyone who has had items stolen can go to the Police Department and see if their items were recovered.

Councilor Romero asked Chief Winders if he would be attending the forum regarding drugs and crime in Socorro which is being sponsored by Socorro County. Chief Winders stated that he would attend. Councilor Chavez-Lopez suggested that all of the City Councilors attend the forum. Councilor Pargas stated, for the record, that he has been the president of the health council since 2004 and Socorro County has not attended any of the health council meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Adding Giles Lane to the City's ICIP

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that at the last City Council meeting, a local resident had a concern regarding the condition of Giles Lane and safety concerns regarding the road. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks provided a copy of the City's ICIP and stated that Giles Lane is on the ICIP. Rob Lopez, a resident of Giles Lane, reiterated his comments from a previous City Council meeting that the road needs to be reconstructed and the sewer lines need to be replaced. Mr. Lopez stated that in the past, residents may not have been willing to provide the land needed to properly construct the road but that they were willing to do so now. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City would need to conduct a survey to determine how much right of way land would be needed for a road project. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the area would need to be dewatered in order to do a sewer line replacement project. Mr. Lopez thanked the City for having the project on the ICIP.

Councilor Romero thanked Bill Stone, the New Mexico Tech liaison, for attending the City Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Final Audit Approval – FY 2014-2015

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the City has received final audit approval for FY 2014-2015 from the State of New Mexico. Ms. Gonzales stated that the report can now be released.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the final audit report for FY 2014-2015. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 16, 2016

b. Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks:

Rudy Maldonado – 2-2-16 – Sanitation – Termination

Tim Gonzales – 2-5-16 – Auto Maintenance – Resignation

Loretta Tolliver – 2-16-16 – Transportation – New Hire (Part-Time Driver) – A-24

Temporary New Hires: None

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Angelica Vega, Michael Padilla, Felipe Romero, John Ferguson, Billy Romero, Loretta Tolliver, Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, Rondall Sauls, Mackie Gonzales

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

Referees (4), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks:

Ministry Support Services – Out of Town – Mountainair, NM – Corporation – Electrical, Remodeling, General Contractor

Charlene West – Out of Town – Lemitar, NM – Charlene West - Flowers

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks left the meeting. Councilor Monette presided over the remainder of the meeting.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 136697 to 136380 in the amount of \$1,251,755.82 plus Payroll Transfers (\$297,373.66), for a total of \$1,549,129.48. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – March 7, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Monette stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., Councilor Romero motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

