

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 4, 2016

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Donald Monette, Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Ernest Pargas were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 4, 2016 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. December 21, 2015

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – January 9, 2016

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation which proclaimed January 9, 2016 as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in the City of Socorro. Savannah Morris stated that on January 9th, there will be a breakfast from 8-10 at Socorro Village and a lunch at noon at the hospital for all members of law enforcement. Ms. Morris stated that law enforcement officers will receive a “goody bag” during breakfast. Adrian Morris, of Socorro General Hospital, stated that the hospital is honored to be able to recognize the hard work of law enforcement by sponsoring their lunch.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cliff Armijo, Safety Specialist at Socorro General Hospital, thanked City of Socorro staff for helping the hospital clear the snow around the hospital from a recent snow storm. Mayor Bhasker stated that City staff did a very good job clearing City streets and sidewalks of snow. Mayor Bhasker stated there were a few problems with residents shoveling their snow onto public thoroughfares. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Sanitation Department picked up trash on their regular schedule during the holidays.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 16-01-04a – Governing Body Rules of Procedure

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-01-04a which, if approved, reaffirms the Governing Body Rules of Procedure adopted April 7, 2014 and recognizes those rules as the method by which the Socorro City Council meetings are conducted. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Governing Body Rules of Procedure are re-adopted at the beginning of each calendar year and right after an election.

Councilor Olguin asked how the rules could be amended. Mayor Bhasker stated that the rules can be amended at any time by resolution.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-01-04a. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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b. Resolution No. 16-01-04b – Open Meetings Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-01-04b. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Open Meetings Resolution is passed several times a year including the beginning of each calendar year and after an election. Mayor Bhasker stated that the resolution follows requirements made by New Mexico State Statute for open meetings. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Governing Body has not gone into Executive Session in a very long time and has done a very good job of discussing all matters during the public meeting.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-01-04b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 16-01-04c – New Mexico Water Trust Board Application – Water Project

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-01-04c which, if approved, would allow the City to prepare and submit an application to the Water Trust Board for a preliminary engineering report on the City's water system. Mable Gonzales, City Treasurer, stated that the City needs to complete the preliminary engineering report in order to be able to submit future applications to the Water Trust Board for funding for water projects.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-01-04c. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Monette stated that he observed Sanitation Department crews honking their horn in front of homes where the trash hadn't been put out or where crews couldn't access the can due to snow so that the homeowner didn't miss their pickup.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that filing day for the March 1, 2016 municipal election would be Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Ms. Saavedra stated that in order to file, candidates would need their declaration of candidacy and a certified copy of their affidavit of voter registration from the County Clerk.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

There were no personnel changes, however, Mayor Bhasker stated that he would be submitting pay increases for Mable Gonzales, Stephanie Saavedra and Polo Pineda at the next City Council as supplemental job descriptions with additional duties had been approved for those three employees at the previous City Council meeting.

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b. Business Registrations

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

Superior Contracting Corp. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Sheryl Lait – General Contractor
C.C. Construction – Out of Town – Belen, NM – Chris Chavez – General Construction
Pete’s Benchworks – R-1 (Approved by P&Z) – 603 Western – Peter Ulbricht - Woodworking

Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday).

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:26 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/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk