

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 1, 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 Ernest Pargas, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Donald Monette were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. January 19, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Charlie Dixon stated that he recently moved to Socorro and doesn't feel that there are any activities available for him and his family. Mr. Dixon stated that he would like to start a family fun center that will be open 7 days a week and have pool tables, an arcade and a snack bar. Mr. Dixon stated that he feels it would help the community by providing a place for families to go and providing local jobs. Mr. Dixon stated that he feels the City could assist by providing a building or helping with utilities. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has a lot of activities for families and provided Mr. Dixon with a list of activities in and around Socorro. Mayor Bhasker suggested that Mr. Dixon talk to Josh Kerns, the City's Recreation Director, to see if Mr. Dixon's ideas could be incorporated into Finley Gym.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Rob Lopez, a local resident, stated that he lives on Giles Lane and that the chip seal the City did on the road is failing because there was no drainage installed when the chip seal was done. Mr. Lopez stated that his neighbor is willing to give the City 10 feet of property so that the road can be reconstructed and have curb, gutter and sidewalk installed. Mayor Bhasker stated that the road was originally a dirt road that the City chip sealed. Mayor Bhasker stated that to reconstruct the road with asphalt is very costly and there are many City streets in need of reconstruction. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City could do a special tax district where the homeowners would pay for the reconstruction of the road over a period of time. Mayor Bhasker stated that the road did not previously qualify for a CDBG project due to a right of way issue but if the homeowners were willing to give the City the right of way, the City could apply for a CDBG project for Giles Lane.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. NMIMT – Bill Stone – NM Tech Liaison

Bill Stone and Lillian Armijo introduced themselves as the liaisons between the City of Socorro and NM Tech. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech recently did a 5-year strategic plan and found that NM Tech could be more involved with the Socorro community. Mr. Stone stated that the first step was to create liaisons with the City of Socorro and Socorro Schools. Mr. Stone stated that he and Ms. Armijo would like to help foster a better relationship with the City of Socorro and NM Tech. Mr. Stone stated that the liaisons will also attend City Council meetings. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr.

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Stone and Ms. Armijo for coming to the meeting and working to improve communication between the two agencies.

b. Local Economic Development Act

1. Agreement – New Mexico Economic Development Department & City of Socorro

Mayor Bhasker presented an agreement between the New Mexico Economic Development Department and the City of Socorro which outlines the City's responsibilities in overseeing and administering the \$250,000 grant appropriated by the NMEDD for the construction of a new facility to facilitate the expansion of the existing operations of Solaro Energy Inc.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agreement between the New Mexico Economic Development Department and the City of Socorro. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

2. Agreement – Solaro Energy Inc. & City of Socorro

Mayor Bhasker presented an agreement between Solaro Energy Inc. and the City of Socorro which outlines the contributions by the City and the responsibilities of Solaro Energy Inc. as they relate to the \$250,000 grant appropriated by the NMEDD for the construction of a new facility to facilitate the expansion of the existing operations of Solaro Energy Inc.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agreement between the Solaro Energy Inc. and the City of Socorro. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Consideration of Vacation of City Property – Portion of South California Street

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that the owners of the property on either side of a portion of South California Street (.215 acres) made a request for the City to consider vacation of the property. Mr. Czosnek stated that the reason for the request was to make the land suitable for a potential new business. Mr. Czosnek stated that the City Council passed Resolution No. 15-11-02, which allowed the City to move forward with the formal process of vacating the property. Mr. Czosnek stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission, at their December 17, 2015 meeting, had a public hearing and a motion was made to recommend approval of the vacation to the City Council.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to vacate the property. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has followed the same procedure for this vacation that it has in the past regarding the vacation of City property. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the City should be supportive to someone pursuing an economic development opportunity in the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the City does not help facilitate a potential opportunity, there will never be new businesses in Socorro. Councilor Hicks stated that he was unsure about "giving away City property". Councilor Olguin stated that he supports the Mayor's comment about economic development but that he would prefer to see the land appraised and sold or traded for an equal amount of property. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to amend the original motion to state "approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to vacate the property with the understanding that the City

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sell the land for its appraised value or trade for an equal amount of property”. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. The amendment died as all present voted nay.

Councilor Olguin stated that he would be agreeable to revisiting the matter after an appraisal is completed to see if the City is interested in selling the land or trading property. Councilor Pargas stated that he feels the City should assist the landowner by vacating the property. Councilor Olguin stated that fair dollar value on a sale is fair as it would not be inflated. Mayor Bhasker reiterated that the City has vacated City land previously. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City can vacate property if it is deemed unnecessary. Councilor Olguin stated that cars do use the road.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Fleming, Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Romero, Councilor Hicks and Councilor Pargas voted in favor of the motion to approve. Councilor Michael Olguin voted no. Motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote.

Holm “Cuatro” Bursum stated that he has been talking to CVS Pharmacy who stated that they would need this portion of land in order to make the project work. Mayor Bhasker stated that the property is a good location for a commercial business. Mr. Bursum stated that he feels a new business in that location would help the south end of Socorro.

d. Resolution No. 16-02-01 – Addition to City of Socorro ICIP

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-02-01 which, if approved, amends the City’s Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) to include reconstruction of El Camino Real (from Franklin Street to Calle de San Miguel). Mayor Bhasker stated that if approved, the City will add the project to the ICIP in August when it is normally updated.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-02-01. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Olguin stated that there would be a SET meeting on February 3rd at 9:00 a.m. at Bosque del Apache.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the affordable housing plan was submitted to the New Mexico Finance Authority today (February 1st).

Councilor Hicks stated that during the New Mexico Legislative session, the New Mexico Municipal League discussed hold harmless legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reorganization of Auto Maintenance Department

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration would like to consolidate the existing Auto Maintenance Department (located at the Division Yard on State Road 1) with the Police Department auto shop. Mayor Bhasker stated that the mechanic from the Police Department would be moving to the Auto Maintenance Shop and that all auto maintenance duties will be performed at the shop located at the City's Division Yard. Mayor Bhasker presented a new flow chart for the Auto Maintenance Department for approval.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the new flow chart for the Auto Maintenance Department. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Tony Montoya – 2-1-16 – Administration/Auto Maintenance – New Hire (Part-Time Fleet Vehicle Manager) - \$14.00 per hour

Jacob Fanning – 2-2-16 – Animal Shelter – New Hire (Full-Time Kennel Assistant) – A-17

Ray Calkins – 2-16-16 – Fire – Lieutenant to FFII/EMTI – M-42 to M-38

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

El Sombrero Restaurant – C-1 – 208 Mesquite – Marlena & William Clarida – Restaurant

Socorro Publishing & Marketing – C-2 – 1500 State Road 1 – Kimberly Lucena-Pargas – Printing, Design and Marketing Services

Charlie's Paint & Body/Alcolock – C-2 – 209 California Street – Debbie Thompson – Interlocks D & R Maintenance – Out of Town – Daniel Mascarenas – Property Management

Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously. Councilor Pargas abstained as his wife's business registration is on the list.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (due to President's Day).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

