

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**April 18, 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 and Councilor Michael Olguin. Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Ernest Pargas were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Donald Monette, City Administrator, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. April 4, 2016**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. Proclamation – Public Safety Telecommunicator Week – April 10-16, 2016**

Mr. Monette read a mayoral proclamation recognizing emergency telecommunicators (dispatchers/911 operators). In the proclamation, Mayor Bhasker proclaimed April 10-16, 2016 as Public Safety Telecommunicator Week in Socorro.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Gayle Dorr, of the Socorro Lions Club, stated that their annual gun and craft show would be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Kelly Hall. Ms. Dorr stated that the money raised from the event will be used towards scholarships for high school students going to college and vision screenings for elementary school students. Ms. Dorr invited everyone to attend.

Bill Stone the NM Tech liaison, stated that NM Tech will be starting a lecture series where professors will present information in their fields to the general public. Mr. Stone stated that the lectures will be held once a month. Mr. Stone stated that the first presentation will be given by Michelle Creech-Eakman on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Macey Center. Mr. Stone stated that at the previous City Council meeting, Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would like to have a welcome reception for Dr. and Mrs. Wells (Dr. Wells is the new president at NM Tech). Mr. Stone stated that Dr. Wells would be happy to attend a welcome reception. Mr. Stone stated that the recent 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Inventors & Entrepreneurs Workshop: A Business Start-up Conference was very successful. Mr. Monette stated that approximately 160 paid participants were involved in the workshop.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL**

**a. Ordinance No. 16-03-21a – Sale of Industrial Park Land (Solaro Energy Inc.)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 16-03-21a. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the ordinance authorizes the sale of approximately 2.9 acres of Industrial Park land to Solaro Energy Inc.

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

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There were no comments from the public.

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

Councilor Olguin stated that the last paragraph in the ordinance still stated “.....sell said property in the approximate amount of \$18,200.00.....” and asked what the amount was determined to be in the appraisal. Mr. Monette stated that it would be appropriate to strike the word “approximate” as the appraisal amount was \$18,200.00.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to remove the word “approximate” from the last paragraph in the ordinance which states “.....sell said property in the approximate amount of \$18,200.00.....” Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-03-21a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Ordinance No. 16-03-21b – Socorro Industrial Corridor Competitive Electric Power Ordinance**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented Ordinance No. 16-03-21b. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to create a municipally-owned electric utility.

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked about the status of the feasibility study. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the City is seeking Requests for Information in order to get the cost of electricity. Ms. Gonzales stated that once those figures are received, they will be included in the feasibility study and the study will then be complete. Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to clarify that the ordinance being considered, if approved, would simply allow the City to become an electric utility provider. Councilor Olguin stated that it is his understanding that should the feasibility study determine that the City offering electricity is feasible, the City may proceed with selling electricity, however, if the study determines that it is not feasible to sell electricity, the City will not proceed with being an electric provider.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-03-21b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Memorandum of Agreement – City of Socorro & Literacy Volunteers of Socorro**

Mr. Monette presented a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Socorro and the Literacy Volunteers of Socorro. Mr. Monette stated that the MOU is to confirm the working relationship between the two entities and whenever possible, allows the two entities to share resources and information for services.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Socorro and the Literacy Volunteers of Socorro. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 16-04-18 – Application for Funding for Natural Gas Valve Replacement Project**

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, presented Resolution No. 16-04-18 which, if approved, allows the City to submit an application for funding of the Natural Gas Valve Replacement Project to the New Mexico Finance Authority. Mr. Santillanes stated that the natural gas system is currently rated at 400 psi and once the project is complete, the system will be rated at 525 psi. Mr. Santillanes stated that the next phase of the project will be adding 10 miles of transmission line. Mr. Santillanes stated that the loan will be for \$675,000.00.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-04-18. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Bid Award – Airport Fuel Farm**

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the fuel farm at the City's airport were opened on March 31, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Molzen Corbin, the City's airport engineer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to D & H United Fueling Solutions in the amount of \$241,640.06. Mr. Santillanes stated that a second bid was received late and was returned to the vendor unopened. Mr. Santillanes stated that the project is being funded by a \$250,000.00 NM Department of Transportation grant which will be a 90/10 split (the City will provide a match of \$25,000.00).

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the fuel farm to D & H United Fueling Solutions in the amount of \$241,640.06. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Fleming stated that the Budget Committee continues to meet. Councilor Fleming stated that several budgets have been received from the Department Heads and that the public hearing for budget requests will be held April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Gonzales stated that it would be helpful if the requestor brought a financial report which includes expenses and other funding sources.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked if each department has a separate budget for training. Ms. Gonzales stated that there is a separate line item in each budget for training.

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**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Bobbi Gonzales stated that she attended the meeting on behalf of Josh Kerns to give a report for the Recreation, Youth Center and Tourism departments. Ms. Gonzales stated that the youth center has approximately 30 children per day and that youth center staff has started getting the community garden ready for the summer. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Recreation Department is currently taking registrations for youth baseball and the swim team. Ms. Gonzales stated that approximately 60 people utilize the Finley Gym weight room per day and that current recreation programs include AAU basketball, cheerleading and co-ed volleyball. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Cinco de Mayo event will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Plaza. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Visitor's Center had 35 visitors in March and to date, 53 visitors in April. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Tourism Department is currently working on an interactive travel guide for the City's website, creating rack cards, ordering a new walking tour brochure, updating the Mayor's photos that are displayed at the Visitor's Center and working on branding.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Romero requested that the Finley Gym complex be added to the City's ICIP as it is need of repairs and upgrades. Councilor Romero stated that if the project is currently on the ICIP, he feels it should be made a higher priority.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked Police Chief Mike Winders if any of the Socorro Police Department officers had attended the free officer survival training held in March. Chief Winders replied that no Socorro Police Department officers had attended the training.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that he had been approached with concerns regarding traffic issues/pedestrian safety on El Camino Real in front of Sarracino Middle School. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks suggested that a police officer be in the area to assist with traffic control. Mr. Monette stated that the concerns could also be discussed with Annabelle Romero who manages the Transportation Division at Socorro Consolidated Schools.

**a. Job Description Update – Evidence Custodian (Police Department)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks presented an updated job description for Evidence Custodian. Chief Winders stated that this will be a part-time civilian position

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve the updated job description for Evidence Custodian. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mr. Monette:

Gilbert Padilla – 4-22-16 – Police – Resignation

Elvires Otero – 4-1-16 – Fire – Certification (EMT-I) – B-31 to B-33

Oscar Acosta – 3-21-16 – Water – Promotion to Water Superintendent – V-40 to V-48

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Joe Melendrez – 4-4-16 – Production – Merit/Additional Job Duties – O-51 to O-53  
John Silva – 4-18-16 – Water/Rodeo – Merit/Additional Job Duties – O-23 to O-26

Temporary New Hires: Damian Baca

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

Derrick Chavez, Charli Gonzales, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Jerome Martinez, Robert Adams

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 Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mr. Monette:

Consolidated Solar Technologies, LLC – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Corporation – Solar Panel Installation

A-1 Roofing & Construction Co. – Out of Town – El Paso, TX – Corporation – Reroofing & Repairs

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Voucher Run**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 137333 to 137046 in the amount of \$905,251.61 plus Payroll Transfers (\$158,263.75), for a total of \$1,063,515.36. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – May 2, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:53 p.m., Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk**