

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 16, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. May 2, 2016**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. Proclamation – Immigrant Heritage Month**

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation recognizing immigrants and the important role they play in communities across the United States. In the proclamation, Mayor Bhasker proclaimed June 2016 as Immigrant Heritage Month in Socorro.

**b. Proclamation – Immigrant Heritage Month**

Mayor Bhasker presented the Socorro High School Boys Golf Team with a certificate of achievement for their recent win of the Class A-4A State Championship. Mayor Bhasker congratulated Ricky Silva, Dennis Woods, Sean Moore, Brett Anaya and Isaiah Anaya on their win. Coach Russ Moore stated that Aubrey Anaya also played in the State championship. Each of the five players thanked Coach Moore for helping them achieve their win. Coach Moore also introduced the younger players on the team: Andrew Carrillo, Alejandro Jaramillo, Carl Lewis, Devan Webb and Jordan Gonzales.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Stephanie Bunning stated that members of the Eclipse Gymnastics team recently participated in their first tournament. Ms. Bunning introduced the members and the awards each member received. Ms. Bunning thanked the City of Socorro for sponsoring the team for the tournament. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated the team on their achievements.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Savannah Morris stated that 49 pounds of prescription drugs were received during the April 30, 2016 “Drug Take Back Day” held at the Socorro Police Department. Ms. Morris stated that the Socorro County Prevention Coalition has partnered with the Socorro Police Department to house a permanent “Med Drop Box”. Ms. Morris stated that the box will be available to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department. Ms. Morris stated that the next “Drug Take Back Day” will be held in September.

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Charles Daisy, a local resident, thanked the Socorro Police Department for their enforcement of citations for drivers who park in handicap parking without a proper permit. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is looking into increasing the penalty assessment amount for this violation.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board**

Kirsten Kellar, SCJJB Coordinator, provided a fact sheet regarding the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. Ms. Kellar stated that the SCJJB is seeking approval of the 2016-2017 Budget/Contract and the 2016-2017 Memorandums of Understanding. Mayor Bhasker stated that he hopes the SCJJB will be a part of Governor Martinez's Pull Together campaign. Judge Bobbi Sanders, the Teen Court Facilitator, stated that to date, the Diversion Program has had 229 referrals from youth ages 10 to 18 for various reasons including drugs, shoplifting and truancy. Ms. Kellar stated that Erika Baxter manages the Teen Center which has approximately 34 teens per month.

**1. Approval of FY 16-17 Budget/Contract**

Ms. Kellar presented the 2016-2017 contract and budget for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board.

**2. Approval of Memorandums of Understanding**

Ms. Kellar presented the 2016-2017 memorandums of understanding for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 contract, budget and memorandums of understanding for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Bid Award – Landfill Earthwork & Liner Installation**

Marvin Magee, the City's landfill engineer, stated that bids for the landfill earthwork and liner installation were opened on May 5, 2016. Mr. Magee recommended that the bid be awarded to HR Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$298,000.00. Mr. Magee stated that he received positive references for HR Construction, Inc. Mr. Magee stated that the newest cell has been in use for four years and that the upcoming cell is adjacent to this cell. Mr. Magee stated that the earthwork and liner installation will take approximately 60 days.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for the landfill earthwork and liner installation to HR Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$298,000.00. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Resolution No. 16-05-16a – Authorizing Signatories for Solaro Energy, Inc. Land Sale**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-05-16a which, if approved, authorizes himself and Mable Gonzales to execute documents on behalf of the City of Socorro to facilitate the sale of a portion of land in the City's Industrial Park to Solaro Energy, Inc. Mayor Bhasker stated that Ordinance 16-03-21a, which authorized the sale of the land, was approved by the City Council at a previous City Council meeting.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-05-16a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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**d. Approval of State Film Liaison for the City of Socorro**

Kat MacDonald stated that each year, \$10 million is brought into the State of New Mexico by the film industry. Ms. MacDonald stated that most of this money is being brought into Albuquerque and communities north of Albuquerque. Ms. MacDonald stated that she would like to see some of those monies come to Socorro which would help the Socorro community with employment opportunities and local business revenues. Ms. MacDonald stated that New Mexico offers a rebate incentive of up to 30% to film companies to film in New Mexico, making New Mexico an attractive state to film in. Ms. MacDonald stated that she would like to be Socorro's liaison so that she can work with the New Mexico Film Office to promote Socorro. Ms. MacDonald requested a letter designating her as Socorro's liaison. Ms. MacDonald stated that a liaison could update Socorro's photos, bring scouts to Socorro and create an overall presence for Socorro within the film industry. Ms. MacDonald stated that she also thinks it would be a good idea to partner with Socorro County so the whole county can be promoted. Mayor Bhasker asked Ms. MacDonald if she would be the liaison as an individual or as part of the contract the Chamber of Commerce has with the City (Ms. MacDonald is the Chamber's Executive Director) as he feels the Chamber is the proper entity to do this type of promotion. Ms. MacDonald stated that she did include the liaison as part of the Chamber contract. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the letter can be amended to include language stating the liaison is a part of the Chamber of Commerce and brought back to the next City Council meeting for approval.

**e. New Fire Truck - Discussion**

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the pumper truck should be replaced every ten years and the aerial truck should be replaced ever 15 years. Chief Gonzales stated that both of the Fire Department's trucks are in need of replacement. Chief Gonzales stated that a pumper truck costs approximately \$350,000 and an aerial truck costs approximately \$800,000. Mayor Bhasker stated that as NM Tech continues to construct new buildings, the City has concerns regarding fire protection on campus. Mayor Bhasker asked Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech liaison, if NM Tech would be able to assist with funding for new fire trucks as the Socorro Fire Department is NM Tech's sole fire protection. Ms. Armijo stated that she would bring the concerns of the City to NM Tech staff to discuss a possible memorandum of understanding between the City and NM Tech for fire protection funds.

**f. Resolution No. 16-05-16b – Surplus Equipment**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-05-16b which, if approved, deems four autos as surplus equipment. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will attempt to sell the autos at an auction or as salvage.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-05-16b. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**g. Resolution No. 001A – FY 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget Approval**

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 001A which, if approved, adopts the City's preliminary budget for FY 16-17. Ms. Gonzales thanked everyone who helped in the preparation of the budget. Ms. Gonzales stated that a resolution for final budget approval will be presented at a future Council meeting. Councilor Fleming, who serves on the Budget Committee,

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stated that Ms. Gonzales and her staff worked hard on the budget. Mayor Bhasker stated that other than a large increase in medical insurance rates, there were not many changes from last year.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**h. Budget Resolutions**

**1. No. 11 – Library Trustee Fund**

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance – Requirements are Building Maintenance – Amount is \$8,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2016 (carpet and painting).

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 11. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**2. No. 12 – Water Line Replacement Project Fund**

Resources are Transfer to Joint Enterprise Fund – Amount is \$13,438 – The increase is needed to close the fund as the project is complete.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 12. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**3. No. 13 – Lodger's Tax Fund**

Resources are Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Capital Outlay – Amount is \$35,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2016.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 13. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Hicks stated that he recently attended a State aviation meeting along with Jerry Griego and Jay Santillanes. Councilor Hicks stated that he and Mr. Griego became certified in managing aircraft fires. Councilor Hicks stated that the Fire Academy in Socorro used to have a flammable liquids course and he would like to see that course come back to Socorro.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that Parks Department crews are working on getting the new soccer fields ready for an upcoming tournament, planting trees and plants on California Street and School of Mines Road, cleaning up the cemetery and getting Sedillo Park ready for baseball. Mr. Martinez stated that Production Department crews have been getting the swimming pool ready and will be starting the rehabilitation of the lift station on Hefner Street next week. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews are finishing work at the charter school, landscaping at the rodeo arena/soccer fields, working on the retaining wall at the rodeo arena, working on water leaks and installing fire hydrants. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew is finishing the lighting in the covered stalls at the rodeo arena and hauling sand into the practice arena. Mr. Martinez stated that the bleachers for the rodeo arena should be delivered soon. Mr. Martinez stated that he is still working on the sound design for the rodeo arena.

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Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations are normal in the Landfill, Sanitation and Recycling departments. Mr. Lucero stated that the dirt work is complete on the new cell at the landfill. Mr. Lucero stated that the City is currently accepting appliances and tires at no charge as part of the Spring Cleanup. Mr. Lucero stated that there is still a charge for construction debris during Spring Cleanup. Mr. Lucero stated that there is one residential sanitation truck out of rotation due to engine issues.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout with information regarding animal control calls for the month of April. Chief Winders stated that two officers attended the Annual Law Enforcement Coordinators Symposium on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Chief Winders stated that several officers will be attending the animal control training being provided by the Animal Shelter on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Chief Winders stated that he posted a flyer at the department regarding multiple online training opportunities for police officers. Chief Winder stated that there will be two SPD officers graduating from the Police Academy on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Chief Winders stated that there will be a Neighborhood Watch meeting at City Hall on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Josh Kerns, Division Director, provided the Mayor and Council with two of the five new rack cards which will be placed throughout Socorro. Mr. Kerns stated that the historic walking tour guide has been updated. Mr. Kerns stated that the Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the youth center, swim lessons and baseball/softball.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from April 2016 (total calls were 2,328). Mr. Tarango also provided a handout which shows a map of the City and identifies calls related to animal control, burglaries and traffic accidents. Mr. Tarango stated that Socorro is hosting a Domestic Violence Intervention class on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tarango stated that four Socorro dispatch employees will be attending the class and police officers are also welcome to attend. Mr. Tarango stated that there will be participants from ten other New Mexico agencies at the class. Mr. Tarango stated that Socorro Dispatch will host three more classes in 2016. Mr. Tarango stated that he recently attended a 911 PSAP Affiliates meeting where a decrease for the E911 grant was discussed. Mr. Tarango stated that this grant provides funds for equipment, supplies and training classes. Mr. Tarango stated that due to a recent child abduction in northern New Mexico, all New Mexico dispatchers will be required to take a free, online course hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

Mr. Monette stated that he will be attended training regarding the Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Monette stated that he has being touring each City department and is amazed by the work done by City staff in every department.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Changes**

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

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David Montoya - 4-19-16 – Landfill - Certification (Landfill & CDL) - B-34 to B-38  
Jonathan Harmon - 4-5-16 – Police - Completed Probation - A-35 to A-37  
Kevin Gonzales - 4-19-16 – Parks - Completed Probation - A-19 to A-21  
Gilbert Gonzales - 5-30-16 – Police - Completed Probation - A-30 to A-32  
Alma Leon - 5-11-16 – Dispatch - Certification (Dispatch) - B-21 to B-22  
Ruben Amaro 5-16-16 – Water – Merit - M-42 to M-45  
Jacob Fanning 5-21-16 - Animal Shelter - Promotion to Animal Control Officer - A-17 to A-20  
Alan Roane - 5-16-16 – Police - New Hire\*(Police Officer) - A-35  
Joseph Lopez - 5-16-16 – Police - New Hire\*(Police Officer) - A-35

Temporary New Hires: Aaron McDaniel, Jared Marquez, Marcella Alvarado  
Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Michael Padilla, Felipe Romero, Billy Romero,  
Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, Rondall Sauls, Mackie Gonzales, Derrick Chavez,  
Charli Gonzales, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Jerome Martinez, Damian Baca  
Student Workers: Camryn Sager, Mariah Jaramillo, Erik Boeck, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley Mauldin,  
Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova, Evelyn Gomez, Ricky Silva, Dennis Woods, Chris Altamirano  
Referees (2), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

None.

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 137633 to 137334 in the amount of \$569,526.44, plus Payroll Transfers (\$304,223.09), for a total of \$873,749.53. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – June 6, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:29 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

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

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