

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
June 6, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Peter Romero was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 6, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Bhasker stated that he received a request to postpone Item 8b (Approval of State Film Liaison for the City of Socorro). Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. May 16, 2016

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Retirement – Frank Marquez

Mayor Bhasker presented a plaque to Frank Marquez, who retired from the Animal Shelter as the Animal Control Officer on May 30, 2016 with 17 years of service. Mayor Bhasker, the City Council and Victoria Murphy (the Animal Shelter Director) thanked Mr. Marquez for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

PUBLIC FORUM

Josh Carrillo introduced himself and stated that he is interested in filling the vacant City Council seat. Mr. Carrillo asked about the status of filling the vacancy. Mayor Bhasker stated that the committee appointed to review the questionnaires had provided their top five recommendations. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City employees were given the opportunity to vote for their recommendation by secret ballot. Mayor Bhasker stated that he hopes to make his recommendation to the City Council by the end of July.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the Presidential Golf Tournament will be held on September 15th and 16th and the purpose of the tournament is to raise money for the student emergency fund at NM Tech. Mr. Stone stated that the City of Socorro could sponsor its own team or sponsor the SHS boy's golf team. Mr. Stone stated that the cost is \$1,250 per team and that he would bring forms for interested parties to the next City Council meeting.

Doug May provided a handout (newspaper article) regarding local businesses and how they should prepare their businesses to keep functioning should a disaster occur. Mr. May stated that he felt the City could assist local businesses with this type of preparation. Mayor Bhasker asked how Socorro County's Emergency Preparedness Division could apply in this situation. Mr. May stated that he believes their function is to relay information to incident command teams. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. May for the information.

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SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

a. Ordinance No. 16-05-02 – Uniform Traffic Ordinance

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 16-05-02. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the 2016 amendments to the State of New Mexico Uniform Traffic Ordinance. Mr. Monette stated that several months ago, the City Council adopted the 2015 amendments to the ordinance.

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-05-02. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. City of Socorro – Water Conservation Plan

Suzanne Smith stated that in 2014, the City asked for assistance in creating a water conservation plan. Ms. Smith stated that in 2015, the City was awarded a grant to create the plan. Ms. Smith presented a draft copy of the water conservation plan and stated that the deadline to send the plan for approval at the State level is July 30, 2016. Ms. Smith stated potential funding sources may require that the City have an updated water conservation plan. Ms. Smith stated that in regards to water conservation, the City is in “good shape”. Ms. Smith stated that a large part of the plan focuses on non-revenue water. Ms. Smith stated that Dennis Engineering prepared the water audit for the plan. Lloyd Martinez, Water Superintendent, stated that he approves of the plan as written. Ms. Smith stated that once the final copy of the plan is approved, the City will start on a 40-year water supply plan.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to postpone approval of the plan to the next City Council meeting so that the City Council has adequate time to review the plan.

b. Approval of State Film Liaison for the City of Socorro

Postponed (see Agenda Approval above).

c. Bid Award – Water Parts

Mr. Martinez stated that bids for water parts were opened on June 1, 2016. Mr. Martinez stated that Polo Pineda, the City’s Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded as follows:

Sewer and Water Line/Pipe – Baker Utility Supply Corp. - \$49,165.00
Repair Clamps and Couplings – Baker Utility Supply Corp. - \$37,731.15
Brass Fittings – Ferguson Waterworks - \$81,479.75
Meters – Ferguson Waterworks for Sensus Touch-Read Meters - \$91,877.40
Meters – Baker Utility Supply Corp. for Badger Meters - \$76,556.10

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Meter Setters – HD Supply Waterworks - \$87,273.95
Water Fittings – Baker Utility Supply Corp. - \$63,001.50
Fire Hydrants – HD Supply Waterworks - \$56,869.00
Sewer Fittings and Supplies – Ferguson Waterworks - \$20,121.30

Mr. Martinez stated that water parts go out for bid every 6 months. Mr. Martinez stated that the full dollar amounts of the bid will not be expended but rather only the parts that are actually needed will be ordered.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bids to the above-listed individuals and amounts. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Bid Award – Natural Gas Pipeline Projects

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that bids for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project were opened on May 19, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Weldfit Energy Group in the amount of \$57,780.00. Mr. Santillanes stated that the project consists of replacing valves along the transmission line which will change the rating from 400 psi to 525 psi. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the City has received approval from the NM Finance Authority for the loan for the project. Mr. Santillanes stated that this project is the last step the City can take to increase pressure other than upgrading the transmission line. Mr. Santillanes stated that upgrading the transmission line will have to happen in 4 phases of 10 miles each and will cost approximately \$2.5 million per 10 miles of line.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project to Weldfit Energy Group in the amount of \$57,780.00. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Bid Award – On-Call Engineering Services

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for on-call engineering services were opened on May 19, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Dennis Engineering Company. Mr. Santillanes stated that the current four-year contract has expired and the new contract will also be for four years. Mr. Santillanes stated that 5 consultants were evaluated and Dennis Engineering Company received the high score. Mr. Monette stated that the contract is a one-year contract with 3 one-year extensions.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for on-call engineering services to Dennis Engineering Company. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

f. Bid Award – Rodeo Arena Lighting Project

Mayor Bhasker stated that bids for the Rodeo Arena Lighting Project were opened on May 17, 2016. Mayor Bhasker stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to McDade-Woodcock, Inc. in the amount of \$220,838.89. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City requested LED lights which increased the amount of the bids. Mr. Martinez stated that the first set of bids were very high and the City decided to do a second bid. Mr. Martinez stated that while the prices on the second set of bids was still somewhat high, the City Administration decided to award the bid. Mr. Martinez stated that McDade-Woodcock, Inc. received good references and that the project will take approximately 45 days.

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Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for the Rodeo Arena Lighting Project to McDade-Woodcock, Inc. in the amount of \$220,838.89. Seconded by Councilor Pargas, motion passed unanimously.

g. Discussion – Annexation to City Limits

Mayor Bhasker stated that for many years, the City Administration has been interested in annexing to the City limits of the original land grant. Mayor Bhasker stated that several City services are already provided to residents currently residing outside of the City limits. Mayor Bhasker stated that the ramifications of annexing will be the requirement to provide all municipal needs to these residents including police presence and sewer lines. Mayor Bhasker stated that the residents would experience a change in property taxes and zoning laws. Mr. Santillanes stated that the land grant consists of 2.5 miles in each direction from San Miguel Church. Mr. Santillanes stated that the annexation would also include the City's airport and Eagle Picher. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City would have to get signatures from a majority of the property owners in the area. Mayor Bhasker stated that a pros and cons list and mission statement about the annexation would help area residents decide whether or not they support the idea. Mr. Santillanes stated that he last time the City annexed land was 1973.

Mayor Bhasker presented a task order from Dennis Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Mayor Bhasker stated that the items included in the task order are researching ownership and acreage in the proposed area and mapping the current City limits and land in the annexation area.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the task order from Dennis Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

h. Conversion of Street Lights on California Street to LED

Mayor Bhasker provided a handout regarding the estimated costs of converting City street lights to LED lights. Mayor Bhasker stated that if the City converted all City street lights to LED, the overall savings would be 25-30%. Mayor Bhasker stated that an LED lighting rate was used from Continental Divide Electric Cooperative as the Socorro Electric Cooperative does not currently have a rate for LED lighting. Mayor Bhasker stated that the item was on the agenda for discussion and that more research on the topic is being done. Some discussion followed.

i. Resolution No. 16-06-06 – Utility Billing Write-Offs

Mable Gonzales, Clerk/Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 16-06-06 which, if approved, removes uncollectible utility billing accounts from 2011, in the amount of \$28,213.36, from the City's list of accounts. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Finance Department still attempts to collect these funds through a credit agency.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-06-06. Seconded by Councilor Pargas, motion passed unanimously.

j. City of Socorro Broadband Expansion Options - Discussion

Joe Franklin stated that after several meetings to discuss broadband in Socorro, the main goal for broadband appears to be getting faster, better and cheaper broadband for governmental entities and the public. Mr. Franklin stated that the local governmental entities have been running a large amount of fiber between their own locations. Mr. Franklin stated that the existing fiber can be used

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as an aid in bringing faster broadband to Socorro. Mr. Franklin stated that broadband services would improve if there was competition and suggested bringing TDS and Plateau Wireless services to Socorro to compete with the already existing Century Link service in Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has been working on installing fiber for several years. Mayor Bhasker stated that Century Link stated that they had recently upgraded their equipment in order to increase speed in Socorro. Mr. Franklin stated that increased competition will increase services and drop prices. Mr. Franklin stated that Plateau Wireless is slowly making its way to Socorro and TDS would like to upgrade their system prior to moving into Socorro. Mr. Franklin stated that it would make the Industrial Park more attractive to potential businesses if it had high-speed internet. Mr. Franklin stated that there are also State and Federal grants for bringing broadband into rural areas. Some discussion followed.

k. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 14 – Municipal Street Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are PERA, Group Insurance, Vehicle Maintenance, Telephone & Utilities Repair & System Maintenance – Amount is \$30,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2016.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 14. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

2. No. 15 – Rodeo Arena Fund

Resources are Transfer from Special Utility Replacement Fund – Requirements are Construction – Amount is \$200,000 – The increase is needed to allow for reimbursement from State Appropriations and to allow expenditures to June 30, 2016.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 15. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

l. In-House Budget Resolutions 101 and 102

Ms. Gonzales explained that In-House Budget Resolutions 101 and 102 are adjustments within a department which are needed to allow for expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The adjustments move funds from one line item to another within the same department. Budget Resolutions 101 and 102 include adjustments in the General Fund (Administration Department, Police Department, Dispatch Department and Animal Control Department).

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolutions 101 and 102. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Olguin stated that in regards to economic development, the MRGEDA is producing the final draft of the SWOT analysis. Councilor Olguin stated that it must be a plan that is enforceable.

Councilor Hicks asked for an airport committee update. Mr. Santillanes stated that the notice to proceed for the fuel farm at the airport was issued effective June 13, 2016.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Hicks stated that the house located on the corner of Bee Court and Bullock Avenue is in dangerous condition. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would ask the Building Inspector about the status of contacting the owner regarding the property. Mayor Bhasker stated that as a last resort, the City can address the issue and place a lien on the property.

Councilor Olguin stated that El Camino Real (Middle Road) has multiple potholes and is, in his opinion, very dangerous. Mayor Bhasker stated that the road is scheduled to be completely reconstructed in July. Mr. Monette stated that Street Department crews will be repairing the potholes on June 7th.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration recently had a staff meeting to discuss changes to the employee's medical, dental, vision and life insurance. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration decided to change carriers for medical insurance as the current carrier imposed a 25% increase. Mayor Bhasker stated that the new carrier offered a 4.7% increase from current rates. Mayor Bhasker stated that this fiscal year, City employees will received a small increase in their short-term salary adjustment which will help cover rising insurance costs. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will be unable to afford a 10-15% increase each year and will have to start looking at alternative options regarding medical care such as doing an in-house clinic or covering only employees and not dependents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Monette reported out of executive session the discussion of two personnel matters. No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Waylon Billie - 5-20-16 – Sanitation - Termination

Lisa Simpson - 5-20-16 - Animal Shelter - Termination

Dominic Montano - 5-23-16 – Police - Transfer from Police Officer to Evidence Custodian/Security Guard - B-37 to B-30

Tony Silva - 6-1-16 – Sanitation - New Hire*(Crewman) - A-27

Rondall Sauls - 6-1-16 - Auto Maintenance - New Hire*(Mechanic Helper) - A-23

Alfredo Garza - 6-6-16 – Police - New Hire*(Police Officer) - A-38

Christopher Gonzales - 6-22-16 – Transportation - New Hire*(Driver) - A-24

Lloyd Martinez - 6-1-16 - Parks/Water/WW/Production/Special Projects - Merit/Additional Job Duties - FZ-66 to FZ-68

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Business Registrations

Councilor Chavez-Lopez motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Dusty Cowgirls Pets & More - C-2 - 607 Hwy 60 - Patricia Sanchez - Pet Store
The Rug King Out of Town - Breckenridge, TX - Ariel Arellano - Sale of Rugs & Metal Art
Little Sheri's Playhouse - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Sheri Armijo - Vintage & Collectibles Resale
Andersen Construction Co. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Scot Andersen - General Construction
It's a Sweet Life Café - C-2 - 106 Manzanares - Oren Hicks - Café/Coffee Shop
O'Reilly Auto Parts - C-2 - 902 California Street – Corporation - Retail & Wholesale Auto Parts & Related Supplies
Roadrunner Cabinetry - Out of Town - Lemitar, NM - Margaret Schlange - Cabinet Dealer
Garrett Western Construction Co. Inc. - Out of Town - T or C, NM – Corporation - General Contractor

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 p.m., Councilor Fleming motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk