

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
July 5, 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 Peter Romero, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Nick Fleming was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 5, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. June 20, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Welcome & Comments – NM Tech President Dr. Steven Wells & Spouse, Beth Wells

Mayor Bhasker introduced Dr. Steven Wells and his wife, Bethany Wells. Mayor Bhasker stated that Dr. Wells is the new President of NM Tech. Dr. Wells thanked everyone for welcoming him and his wife to the community. Dr. Wells stated that he is honored to be leading NM Tech and he hopes to make NM Tech not only a “gem” in Socorro but in the whole State. Dr. Wells stated that NM Tech is currently in the process of developing five-year plans for each department. Mrs. Wells stated that everyone in the community has been very welcoming and she is looking forward to working with the citizens of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to schedule a community “meet and greet” in the near future so that Socorro residents have the opportunity to meet Dr. and Mrs. Wells.

Sammy Padilla requested that the City install a sewer line on Alice Road. Mr. Padilla stated that the sewer line would service approximately five homes. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that there are currently two homes on Alice Road that are connected to City sewer and that he would look into the cost of extending the line.

Diana Long and Lorraine Leary-Long stated that they would like to request the help of the City in regards to a problem with peacocks coming onto their property. Ms. Long stated that the peacocks (approximately 50 or 60) are destroying their property, killing their trees, leaving feces in their yard and constantly making noise. Ms. Long requested that the City help them remove the peacocks from their property. Ms. Long stated that she had already contacted the City’s Animal Control Department and was told that the employees are not trained and do not have accommodations for this type of situation. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that New Mexico is a free-range state which means homeowners wanting to keep animals off their property must fence animals out. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City’s Zoning Code should address containing domestic animals. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that he would ask NM Game and Fish about relocating the peacocks. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will investigate the matter and that he feels the City should assist in addressing the issue.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Dennis & Delilah Walsh – Update on 3x3 Soccer Challenge

Dennis Walsh thanked the City of Socorro for supporting the recent 3x3 Soccer Challenge which was held at the City's new soccer facility. Mr. Walsh stated that the event consisted of a Friday night "funfest" and a tournament on Saturday. Mr. Walsh stated that the Socorro team has 33 athletes and there are 27 certified referees in the Socorro area. There were several members of the team present at the meeting and they each introduced themselves. Delilah Walsh gave the Mayor and City Council pins from the event. Mayor Bhasker congratulated the coaches and the team for their successful event.

b. Resolution No. 16-07-05a – Participation in South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) for FY 2016-2017

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-07-05a which, if approved, would allow the City to participate in the South Central Council of Governments for FY 16-17 along with payment of membership dues of \$2,663. Mayor Bhasker stated that in the past, he was the voting delegate and Councilor Hicks was the alternate.

Jay Armijo, SCCOG Director, thanked the Mayor and City Councilors for attending meetings such as the Regional Planning Organization and Southwest Area Workforce Development Board. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG advocates for and assists entities with developing projects. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG can assist with starting up small businesses. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG can assist entities with their ICIP and help develop applications for planning processes. Mayor Bhasker asked if the SCCOG can assist entities with the CDBG application process. Mr. Armijo stated that the SCCOG can assist with the application process and with any other stages of the CDBG process.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City of Socorro, for the third year in a row, was not awarded CDBG funding. Mr. Armijo stated that in regards to the City's application, he was told the narrative did not describe the project and there was an issue with budgetary items. Mr. Monette stated that in addition to issues with the narrative and budget, other reasons for not receiving funding include the City not having an asset management plan, the City not having an updated comprehensive plan and missing plan specs/bid documents. Mayor Bhasker gave a brief description of the City's experience with CDBG matters for the last three years. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration is still investigating what went wrong for the City this year and whose responsibility it was to make sure a complete application was submitted.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approved Resolution No. 16-07-05a and further approve Mayor Bhasker as the voting delegate and Councilor Hicks as the alternate. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero. Councilor Olguin voted no. Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Pargas, Councilor Jaramillo, Councilor Romero and Councilor Hicks voted yes. Motion passed 5-1.

c. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Socorro Police Department and the Socorro County Prevention Coalition

Mayor Bhasker presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Socorro Police Department and the Socorro County Prevention Coalition. Savannah Morris stated that the two entities have partnered to provide a year-round method for residents to properly dispose of unused medicines through a drop box which will be housed at the Socorro Police Department. Ms. Morris

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stated that the drop box had been delivered to the Police Department and will be installed upon completion of the MOU. Ms. Morris provided the Mayor and City Council a copy of the cards advertising the drop box which will be distributed throughout Socorro.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Socorro Police Department and the Socorro County Prevention Coalition. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

d. Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) – Public Input

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City was currently working on its ICIP and asked anyone who would like a project added to the ICIP to present their information to the City for consideration. Mr. Monette explained what type of items could be placed on the ICIP. Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP is due September 1st. Mr. Monette asked the Mayor and City Council to consider which projects they would like to see as the top five priorities. Mr. Monette stated that earlier this year, the City Council passed a resolution placing a portion of El Camino Real (Middle Road section) on the ICIP but that since other funding has been secured for the project, he does not feel it needs to be placed on the new ICIP. Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP criteria allows road projects in one area to be considered one project but that road projects in different areas should be listed as individual projects. Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP criteria also excludes highway projects but that the City can keep Highway 60 (near the rodeo arena) on the ICIP as it is part of a larger economic development project. Councilor Olguin requested that the City advertise for public input for the ICIP.

e. Resolution No. 16-07-05b – CDBG Planning Grant Application

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-07-05b which, if approved, allows the City to prepare and submit a CDBG application for funds to assist in the development of a comprehensive plan. Councilor Olguin asked if the SCCOG would be assisting with this application/project. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to have the SCCOG assist with the application/project.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-07-05b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 19 – Gas Valve Replacement Project Fund

Resources are Transfer from Joint Enterprise Fund – Requirements are Construction – Amount is \$75,000 – The increase is needed to set up a new fund for the Gas Valve Replacement Project which is funded by a NMFA loan.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 19. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker asked the Fire Department and Police Department about 4th of July activities. Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that there were no issues and that the last day for vendors to sell fireworks is July 6th. Chief Winders stated that the Police Department received a lot of calls regarding noise from the fireworks.

Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to recent arrests made by the NM State Police, he would be interested to see how each of those cases was adjudicated. Councilor Pargas stated that a lot of the cases will not be heard until 2017. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to see the effectiveness of the arrests and the final dispositions of each case. Councilor Pargas stated that he would look into the matter.

Councilor Olguin asked about the status of filling the vacant City Council seat. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would make a recommendation at the August 15th City Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Mr. Monette reported out of executive session the discussion of one personnel matter. No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. New Job Description – Assistant Director/Dispatch Supervisor

Mayor Bhasker presented a job description for an Assistant Director/Dispatch Supervisor in the Dispatch Department. Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, stated the position is being created so that there is another supervisor present should he be unavailable. Mr. Tarango stated that this position will still be actively on the dispatch schedule.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the job description for Assistant Director/Dispatch Supervisor. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Nicole Winders - 7-6-16 – Gas - Resignation

Orlando Martinez - 8-2-16 – Fire - Resignation

Charles Contreras - 5-21-16 – Police - Police Certification - C-37 to C-40

Kevin Vega - 5-21-16 – Police - Police Certification - B-37 to B-40

Michael Padilla - 6-15-16 – Finance - Transfer from Acting Utility Billing Clerk to Utility Billing Clerk (New Hire-Temporary to Permanent Probationary*) - \$11.00 per hour to A-30

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:
Ruby Lopez - 6-15-16 – Finance - Transfer from Acting General Ledger Clerk to General Ledger Clerk - F-44 to F-46

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously with Councilor Chavez-Lopez abstaining from the vote.

c. Business Registrations

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

KTG Driving School - C-1 - 239 Garfield - Kenneth Gonzales - Driver's Education
Brazos Contractors & Development Inc. - Out of Town - Houston, TX – Corporation - General Contractor

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that as both he and the Mayor Pro-Tem would be absent for the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting (July 18, 2016), the next City Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 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