

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**July 20, 2016**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks called the meeting to order. Donald Monette, City Administrator, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Pro-Tem Gordy Hicks, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Ernest Pargas. Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Nick Fleming were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Shirleen Bretz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. July 5, 2016**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Cathy McClaren reminded everyone that the Animal Shelter Advisory Board continues to meet once a month. Ms. McClaren stated that the board is currently working with the Animal Shelter Director, Victoria Murphy, to update the Animal Control Ordinance.

**a. Unclaimed Peacocks in City Limits - Discussion**

Mr. Monette states that the item was discussed at the last City Council meeting and is on the agenda so that residents have an opportunity to present their position on the matter. Jane Love stated that she has lived in the Florida area of Socorro for 33 years and is in favor of the peacocks remaining in the area as she feels they are an integral part of the neighborhood. Diana Long (along with her sister Lorraine Long) stated that they do not own the peacocks and the birds are causing damage in their yard (trees and flower beds). Ms. Long stated that she does not want the peacocks harmed but would like to see them humanely removed from the area. Ms. Long stated that her neighbors, the Saavedras, recently trapped and took several peacocks to a farm in Jemez and further stated that the farm is willing to accept more of the peacocks. Ms. Long stated that there is a "critter company" in Santa Fe who will come to Socorro and help trap the peacocks so they can be relocated and they are willing to assist with this process. Penny Dingman stated that she has had damage done to her car by the peacocks twice with the most recent damage being \$3,000. Ms. Dingman stated that she is not in favor of the peacocks remaining in the area. Bill Bailey stated that he grew up in this neighborhood and that the peacocks originated from his mother who received them from Councilor Hicks' mother in 1961. Mr. Bailey stated that prior to that, the peacocks originated from E.J. Workman (former NM Tech President) who would raise them and give them away to people in pairs. Mr. Bailey stated that nobody owns the peacocks but that several area residents feed them daily. Mr. Bailey stated that Dori Long had previously told him that the trees on the Long property were infested with bark beetles. Mr. Bailey stated that Michael Quintana cut the trees down and can confirm that they were diseased. Mr. Bailey stated that area families periodically trap and relocate the peacocks in order to keep the number of birds down. Councilor Romero asked what benefit the peacocks are to the environment. Mr. Bailey stated that the peacocks eat bugs, small rodents and snakes. David Hicks stated that he would like to speak on the positive side for the peacocks and presented the Council with photos of the peacocks. Mr. D. Hicks stated that the peacocks have "been there forever" and that his family and neighborhood families have even named the peacocks.

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Mr. D. Hicks stated that he believes there are 14 peacocks in the area. Mr. D. Hicks stated that the peacocks are part of their lives and he would like them to stay. Mr. D. Hicks stated that on the negative side, there have been police officers, animal control employees and trappers in the neighborhood looking for the peacocks. Mr. D. Hicks stated that he does not have any of the issues brought before the Council at his home. Ms. Long invited the Council to come to her home so that they could see the damage on her property. Ms. Long stated that her sister had to replace a glass door because it was damaged by peacocks attacking their reflection. Ms. Long stated that she had previously had bird houses and quail blocks in her yard but that she would not be doing that in the future because it attracted the peacocks. Mr. D. Hicks asked neighbors to refrain from shooting the peacocks as there are children in the neighborhood.

Ms. Murphy stated that the Animal Control Department frequently provides information, advice, equipment, labor and materials to help residents resolve animal issues/conflicts. Ms. Murphy stated that the department has received both complaints and calls of support regarding the peacocks and that the department is ill-equipped to deal with the issue. Ms. Murphy stated that she reached out to other individuals/areas to see how the issue had been handled. Ms. Murphy provided the background on how peacocks (or peafowl) came to be in the United States. Ms. Murphy stated that peacocks are considered to be an invasive species and provided the definition. Ms. Murphy stated that peafowl are omnivorous (peafowl will eat plants/seeds and lizards/snakes) and that the peacock (male) tends to roost in trees and the peahens (females) tend to roost on the ground. Ms. Murphy stated that after researching what other communities have done, she discovered that there is a division between trapping and removing the birds and leaving them be. Ms. Murphy stated that she contacted the NM Wildlife Services Department and was told that the birds are not considered wildlife and are not protected. Ms. Murphy stated that she was also informed that the State would be unable to assist in the capture, destruction or removal of the peafowl. Ms. Murphy stated that she also contacted "critter control" and that she was told Socorro is outside of their service area. Ms. Murphy stated that the Animal Control Department will remain neutral and unbiased on the matter and will await direction from the City Administration/City Council. Ms. Murphy stated that she spoke to Wes Burris, from the NM Trappers Association, who stated that he can humanely trap and relocate the birds if hired to do so. Mr. Burris stated that he would be willing to trap the peacocks at the rate of \$25 per hour and the cost of materials to build the traps.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks thanked everyone for their input. Councilor Pargas stated that it is a complex issue and the Administration/City Council needs to take time to figure out a resolution.

## **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

### **a. Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) – Discussion & Public Input**

Ryan Hall stated that he lives on Tenorio Drive which is located outside of the City limits. Mr. Hall stated that he has City water, natural gas and trash pick-up and he would like the City to extend sewer lines to his area. Mr. Monette stated that "sewer line extension" is a project currently on the ICIP. Mr. Monette stated that the final ICIP will be considered for approval at the August 15, 2016 City Council meeting and asked the City Council to complete a top-five priority list by August 1st (a blank priority list form and a copy of the current ICIP were provided). Mr. Hall stated that a new sewer line would service approximately 20 homes. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that it would be a large project as the water table in the area will be an issue and two (or more) lift stations would be required (along with dewatering) in order to provide sewer service. Mr. Martinez stated that the project would cost over \$1 million. Mr. Monette stated that he can edit the description of the project to include the Tenorio Drive area (NE Frontage Road area). Mable Gonzales, City

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Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the City was able to do the Hope Farms Road sewer line extension largely due to USDA providing a 75% grant/25% loan. Ms. Gonzales stated that due to a lack of federal funds, USDA now offers the opposite – 25% grant/75% loan. Ms. Gonzales stated that this has made it harder for the City to proceed with large projects. Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP is due by September 1<sup>st</sup> so the City will be unable to change ranking after that but new projects can be added throughout the year by resolution.

**b. DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Goals – FAA Requirement for Funding – Public Hearing**

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

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that FAA requires Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals for their projects and a disadvantaged business is a Veteran-owned, disabled-owned, minority-owned or woman-owned type of business. Mr. Santillanes stated that an entity sets goals before each project and then the goals are analyzed after each project to see what goals were achieved. Mr. Santillanes stated that in 2008, the City's goal was 7.51 and that goal was achieved, and the 2012 and 2013 goal was 7.11 and a goal of 10.55 was achieved. Mr. Santillanes stated that the engineer will publish public meetings regarding the DBE Goals and comments received will be submitted to FAA. Mr. Santillanes stated that the goal for this year is 5.5 and this goal was placed in the bid specifications. Mr. Santillanes stated that the fuel farm is not a federal project and therefore does not require DBE Goals but that the City's other 2 projects (pavement rehabilitation project and installation of the two PAPIs) do require DBE Goals. Mr. Santillanes stated that this public hearing is to announce that the City will be accepting public comment regarding DBE Goals.

There was no input from the public.

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

**c. Bid Award – Natural Gas Transmission Line Project**

Ms. Gonzales stated that four bids for the Natural Gas Transmission Line Project were opened on July 13, 2016. Ms. Gonzales stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to MRC Global in the amount of \$123,305.47. Councilor Romero asked of the City had worked with MRC Global before to which Mr. Santillanes replied the City has purchased from them in the past. Mr. Santillanes stated that John Jones, the City's engineer for the project, prepared all the bid documents, opened the bids, reviewed the bids and recommended the bid be awarded to MRC Global. There was some discussion as to why the project parts were bid in portions.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the Natural Gas Transmission Line Project to MRC Global in the amount of \$123,305.47. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Final Budget Approval FY 2016-2017 – Resolution No. 001-B**

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 001-B which adopts the final budget for the City of Socorro for FY 2016-2017. Ms. Gonzales stated that the City has an \$18.9 million budget. Ms. Gonzales stated that due to a 20% increase in medical premiums for City employees, the City's insurance

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agent was able to move the City's insurance plan to a better plan with only a 5% increase. Ms. Gonzales stated that this change allowed the City to give an increase of \$25.00 per paycheck to employees in their short-term salary adjustment (which is equivalent to a 1.7% increase).

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

**e. Approval of DFA Quarterly Report – Resolution No. 16-07-20a**

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 16-07-20a which, if approved, adopts the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial report for fiscal year 2015-2016. Ms. Gonzales stated that approval of the resolution is a requirement from DFA. Ms. Gonzales stated that the report shows that the ending cash balance for the prior year matches the beginning cash balance for the new year.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-07-20a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution No. 16-07-20b – Natural Gas Transmission Line Replacement Project Loan**

Ms. Gonzales stated that this resolution requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  approval of the City Council and since there was not  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the City Council present, the item would have to be tabled to the next meeting.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to table the item to the next City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gonzales stated that the NMFA has already approved the City's loan and that this resolution is one of the items needed in order to have the funds released to the City. Ms. Gonzales stated that she will check with the NMFA to see if this item can wait until the next meeting and if it cannot wait, she will request a special meeting.

**g. Budget Resolutions**

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, presented the following:

**1. No. 20 – Solaro-Economic Development Fund**

Resources are Economic Development Grant – Requirements are Construction – Amount is \$250,000 – The increase is needed to set up a new fund to allow for the economic development grant award to Solaro Energy.

**2. No. 21 – Law Enforcement Protection Fund**

Resources are Law Enforcement Grant – Requirements are School & Per Diem and Capital Outlay - Amount is \$600 – The increase is needed to allow for a grant award adjustment.

**3. No. 22 – Substance Abuse Prevention Grant Fund**

Resources are Behavioral Health Services Grant – Requirements are Office Expense, Other Administrative Expense and Contractual Services – Amount is \$15,264 – The increase is needed to allow for a grant award adjustment.

**4. No. 23 – General Fund (Rodeo Arena/Soccer) Fund**

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Salaries Other, Telephone & Utilities, Repair & System Maintenance and Concession Expense – Amount is \$40,000 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2016.

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Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 20, 21, 22 and 23. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**e. In-House Budget Resolutions 104 through 106**

Ms. Gonzales explained that In-House Budget Resolutions 104 and 106 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 104 through 106 include adjustments in the General Fund (Police, Fire, Administration, Dispatch, Airport, Transportation, Parks, Auto Maintenance and Median/Plaza departments) and Joint Enterprise Fund (Gas Department).

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolutions 104 through 106. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks asked the City Council if they had any questions for the department heads.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez thanked the City for once again providing jobs to summer youth workers. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there were 115 workers in the six-week program this year. Councilor Chavez-Lopez also thanked the outside employers that assist the City by supervising workers. Mr. Monette stated that the City Administration has made the program a priority rather than spending the funds on other items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Pargas stated that Mr. Torres contacted him regarding the status of speed bumps on Fatima Road and Torres Street. Mr. Santillanes there have been requests from all areas of the City for speed bumps but that the construction costs and upkeep have been an issue. Mr. Monette stated that many years ago, there was a committee but that there were too many requests. Mr. Monette stated that if you place a speed bump on one street, the traffic just moves to the next street. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she believed at one time there was a list. Mr. Monette stated that there was a list many years ago and asked if an updated list of requests would help. Councilor Romero stated that a traffic study should be done as some neighbors may want a speed bump and some might not want a speed bump.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked how a resident would acquire sidewalks on their street. Mr. Santillanes stated that in the past, if a resident would pay for the materials, City crews constructed the sidewalk. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Street Department no longer has the staffing to do that anymore. Mr. Santillanes stated that an alternative would be to hire a contractor but then the City would be paying for materials and labor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. New Job Description – Tourism Director/Event Manager**

Mr. Monette presented a new job description for the position of Tourism Director/Event Manager who will help promote and organize the City's soccer fields/rodeo arena along with any other City events.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the job description for the position of Tourism Director/Event Manager. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**a. Personnel Changes**

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

Jerome Martinez - 8-1-16 – Fire - New Hire\*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-25  
Pedro Robles - 7-21-16 – Sanitation - New Hire\*(Truck Driver) - A-30  
Regina Valencia - 6-16-16 - Youth Center - Completed Probation - A-16 to A-18  
Shaun Fernandez - 7-16-16 – Gas - Certification (Journeyman Gasfitter) - G-27 to G-29  
David Gutierrez - 7-16-16 – Gas - Certification (Journeyman Gasfitter) - E-30 to E-32

Temporary New Hires: Albert Gomez

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Felipe Romero, Billy Romero, Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulentfont, Jerry Griego, Mackie Gonzales, Derrick Chavez, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Aaron McDaniel, Jared Marquez, Marcella Alvarado, David Chavez, Theresa Chavez, Seferina Ortiz, Joseph McGaha

Student Workers: Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova, Ricky Silva, Dennis Woods, Chris Altamirano  
Referees (5), Zumba (2), Lifeguards (15)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

Kelly's Pharmacy – C-2 – 312 N California Street – Dale & Kelly Kemper – Pharmacy  
Beta Sigma Phi – Eta Kappa – C-2 – 417 N California Street – Gwen Valentino – Social Group

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 138075-138094-138176 to 138011 in the amount of \$360,950.97, plus Payroll Transfers (\$202,245.89), for a total of \$563,196.86. Seconded by Councilor Pargas, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 138092-138177-138275 to 138076 in the amount of \$378,728.93. Seconded by Councilor Pargas, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, August 15, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:36 p.m., Councilor Romero 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**