

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Ernest Pargas was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bhasker asked for a moment of silence to honor fallen police officer Jose Chavez from Hatch, New Mexico.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. July 20, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro Stingrays Swim Team

Madison Griego, Scott Bunning and Jacob Walsh, of the Socorro Stingrays Swim Team, showed the Mayor and City Council the medals they won at the New Mexico Games and State Championship. The swimmers also described which events they participated in. Delilah Walsh, the parent of Jacob Walsh, thanked the City for continuing to support the swim team. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated the athletes on their success.

b. Socorro Striders and Riders - Update

John Leaper provided a handout with information regarding the 21st Annual Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon held in Socorro on July 29-30, 2016. Mr. Leaper stated that there were 183 adult participants and 48 youth participants. Mr. Leaper thanked the City of Socorro and all of the volunteers who assisted with the event.

Rob Lopez, a local resident, stated that he was recently at the Socorro cemetery and noticed a needle on the grave of one of his family members. Mr. Lopez stated that he feels there is a drug problem in Socorro and that it is the problem of all of the residents who reside in Socorro. Mr. Lopez stated that the Socorro community needs to figure out a way to get drugs out of Socorro. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that anyone can call and report tips anonymously to the Socorro Police Department. Chief Winders stated that he is currently assisting with the creation of a Crimestoppers program in Socorro which will have a dedicated phone line. Chief Winders stated that the phone line will be anonymous and there will be “no questions asked”.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Unclaimed Peacocks in City Limits

Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to the topic of “unclaimed peacocks in the City limits”, which has been discussed at two previous City Council meetings, the City of Socorro has now been served with a lawsuit for damages. Mayor Bhasker stated that if there were dogs causing damage and creating a health or safety hazard, the City would have to take action. Mayor Bhasker stated that

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

after speaking to legal counsel, he feels the City should take an action regarding the peacocks unless there are individuals who will take responsibility for the animals in which case they would be responsible for taking an action. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a person willing to trap the peacocks and there is a facility willing to take in the peacocks.

Eric Stargardt, a resident of Cuba Road, stated that he took a survey and a majority of people surveyed feel the peacocks add to the community. Mr. Stargardt stated that he was told by an employee of NM Game and Fish that peacocks are considered a domestic species and are protected under the NM Livestock Board. Mr. Stargardt stated that New Mexico is a “fence out” state and that if you do not want animals on your property, you must fence them out. Mr. Stargardt gave the Mayor a copy of his survey. Mr. Stargardt stated that he would like to see the City create an ordinance protecting the peacocks to which Mayor Bhasker replied he would not personally support such an ordinance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the peacocks are a public health and safety issue and feels they should be relocated. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that if the peacocks are considered an animal under the NM Livestock Board then they must be contained if they are within the municipal boundaries. Mayor Bhasker stated the peacocks will not be harmed but that it is the duty of the City to protect the local residents.

Councilor Hicks stated that he has had peacocks his whole life and there are only certain times when male peacocks are aggressive. Bill Bailey, a resident in the area where the peacocks are located, stated that in the past, he has moved four or five aggressive male peacocks.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to postpone the item pending further research into the matter. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

b. Events at the City’s Plaza - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that there was recently a car show on the City’s Plaza which resulted in the City Administration receiving a complaint from a business located on the Plaza. Mayor Bhasker stated that he spoke to several business owners located on the Plaza and received both positive and negative responses. Mayor Bhasker stated that some of the issues were no access to their businesses, the event being loud and no parking for customers. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Salome family has offered the use of their empty lot on the north side of the Plaza and possibly moving the events to only the north side of the Plaza may help. Mayor Bhasker stated that some of the events could also be moved to the City’s soccer/rodeo facility.

Prescott Grey, a business owner on the Plaza, stated that during the last two events on the Plaza, police officers have been very helpful. Mr. Grey stated that at the car show, the noise level was high, he heard offensive language and the event was not well-supervised. Mr. Grey stated that he does not want all of the events on the Plaza to go away but he would like to see them better supervised. Mayor Bhasker stated that the car show did have a permit and that he did receive positive comments regarding the car show. Mayor Bhasker stated that the events, however, need to be well-supervised. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City needs to decide which events should be held on the Plaza and then create a detailed checklist which should include notifying the businesses of upcoming events.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

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

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 16-06-20 which, if approved, authorizes a loan agreement between the City of Socorro and the New Mexico Finance Authority in the amount of \$810,929 for the Natural Gas Transmission Line Replacement Project.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-07-20b. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 16-08-15a – Affordable Housing Plan

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 16-08-15a which, if approved, adopts the City of Socorro Affordable Housing Plan. Phyllis Taylor, with Sites Southwest, stated she was able to create the City/County plan along with the help of several City employees. Ms. Taylor stated that once the resolution is approved, the City will be able to establish an affordable housing ordinance to promote affordable housing in the City of Socorro. Ms. Taylor stated that the plan meets the guidelines of the New Mexico Finance Authority. Ms. Taylor briefly talked about the plan. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the plan was not included in the City Council packets but that there is one available for review.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-08-15a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously. Councilor Chavez-Lopez abstained.

e. Resolution No. 16-08-15b – 5311 Rural & Small Urban Public Transportation Program

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 16-08-15b which, if approved, allows the City to request funding for a public transportation system through the 5311 Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Program. Ms. Gonzales stated that in making the request, the City will commit and have a funding match which will be funded through the City's general fund. Ms. Gonzales stated that the amount of matching funds to the City is \$122,625.00. Councilor Olguin asked if the funding will go towards a fixed route. Mayor Bhasker stated that it will but that the City is waiting to start the fixed route until the new dialysis center opens and it can be included on the route.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-08-15b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution No. 16-08-15c – NMDOT MAP Fairgrounds Road Grant Acceptance

Mr. Santillanes presented Resolution No. 16-08-15c which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a MAP Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the planning, design, pavement rehabilitation, construction, reconstruction, drainage and miscellaneous improvements to Fairgrounds Road from Raychester Road heading south approximately 1.8 miles to the City of Socorro Rodeo Facility. Mr. Santillanes stated that the total project cost is \$166,667.00 with the NMDOT funding 75% and the City funding 25%.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-08-15c. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

g. Resolution No. 16-08-15d – 2018-2022 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan

1. Public Input

Mr. Monette asked if there was any public input for the ICIP. There was no input from the public.

2. Resolution No. 16-08-15d – Approval of ICIP

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 16-08-15d which, if approved, authorizes the submittal of the City's 2018-2022 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Mr. Monette stated that the top five priorities listed were based on the information that was turned in by the City Council. Mr. Monette stated that information for the ICIP was also requested from and provided by the public (21 returns with 32 ideas). Mr. Monette stated that some of the requests from the public are items that can be done by a resident submitting a work order which can be found online on the City's website (those items were not large enough projects to be placed on the ICIP). Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP is due by September 1st and he would like to request approval of the resolution. There was some discussion regarding the ICIP. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to request that project 5 on the resolution (Rodeo/Recreation Facility) be switched with project 1 (Texas/Vermont/B Street Reconstruction & Drainage) as the City needs funding to finish the last phase of the rodeo/recreation facility.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-08-15d with an amendment to switch project 5 with project 1. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

h. Bid Award – Road Repairs

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for pothole/road failure repairs were opened on August 11, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Calderon Paving LLC. Ms. Gonzales stated that the City spent \$100,000 last year on road repairs.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for pothole/road failure repairs to Calderon Paving LLC. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Gonzales requested a Utility Committee meeting on August 23rd at 12:00 noon at City Hall.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that materials are being ordered for the natural gas project and that there will be a pre-bid showing for contractors this week. Mr. Santillanes stated that bids will be opened next week and the project will start in late September. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department has been doing cathodic protection on natural gas lines. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Street Department has been checking drainage areas to make sure they are clear. Mr. Santillanes stated that in the spring, the NM Department of Transportation will be replacing the lights on the south interchange to LED lights. Mr. Santillanes stated that work on the fuel farm at the airport will begin in late September and the tank should be arriving soon. Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the airport PAPI's and runway rehabilitation will be opened in two weeks.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the Parks Department enjoyed working with the summer youth employees and recognized David Flores, a 2016 summer youth employee who recently passed away. Mr. Martinez stated that Parks Department crews are cutting weeds and picking up litter. Mr. Martinez stated that Production Department crews painted the wells and arsenic plants and will soon be working on the north Cuba Road and Ivy Street lift stations. Mr. Martinez stated that the new bar screen and pumps at the wastewater treatment plant have improved operations and that work will begin soon on the blower, blower lines and SCADA equipment. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews are replacing water lines on Fairgrounds Road. Mr. Martinez stated that crews at the rodeo/recreation facility are working on the cross country track and the contractor is working on the lighting in the rodeo arena. Mr. Martinez stated that he is getting a permit for the concrete runners needed to install the bleachers and signage was placed at the RV park.

Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations are normal in the Landfill, Sanitation and Recycling departments. Mr. Lucero stated that the subgrade on the new cell is complete and the installation of the liner has begun. Mr. Lucero stated that Landfill crews are busy with picking up trash, baling tires, hauling rock and grinding tree limbs.

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that he received plans for a new house and for a remodel at one of the buildings at Socorro General Hospital. Mr. Czosnek stated that he works daily on weed cleanup issues. Mr. Czosnek stated that demolition of a house on Bee Court has begun.

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the Finance Department had three wonderful summer youth workers.

Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to request information from the Community Services Director including: the number of baseball participants this summer (youth and adult), the average number of youth that attended the youth center this summer, the average number of people who used the City pool this summer, a list of fall activities and a description of the City's involvement in the upcoming Festival of the Cranes.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from July 2016. Chief Winders stated that he appreciates the support in Socorro for fallen Officer Chavez from Hatch, New Mexico. Chief Winders stated that he recently attended a Crimestoppers meeting in Ruidoso and he will also attend a Crimestoppers conference in Albuquerque next month. Chief Winders stated that several officers attended a "close quarters" class and "how to get better at accident reports" class.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from July 2016. 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 will be hosting (and three of the City's dispatchers will attend) training next week on "non-emergency call handling". Mr. Tarango stated that approval of his recommendation for the Assistant Dispatch Director position is later on the agenda. Mr. Tarango stated that there is an increase in the number of animal calls as the new animal control officer checks in with dispatch frequently.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Hicks stated that some of the bricks in the Plaza are caving in. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would have the area inspected.

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Recommendation for Vacant City Council Position

Mayor Bhasker recommended Anton Salome to fill the vacant City Council position. Mayor Bhasker stated that with his background working for the school system and knowledge of broadband, he feels Anton will be an asset to the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that Anton has a long family history in Socorro and that he is very thoughtful and level-headed when making decisions.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Mayor Bhasker's recommendation of Anton Salome to fill the vacant City Council position. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

a. Personnel Changes

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

Toby Jaramillo - 8-13-16 – Fire - Resignation

Bobbi Gonzales - 8-31-16 – Tourism - Retirement

Valorie Lesperance - 8-16-16 – Dispatch - Promotion to Assistant Dispatch Director - E-22 to E-27

Tony Montoya - 8-1-16 - Auto Maintenance - Completed Probation - 5%

Rick Silva - 8-1-16 – Fire - Completed Image Trend Connect Training - B-24 to B-27

Isacc Angel - 8-1-16 – Gas - Certification (Journeyman Gasfitter) - S-40 to S-42

Rick Trujillo - 8-1-16 – Gas - Certification (Journeyman Gasfitter) - N-42 to N-44

Rene Perez - 8-1-16 – Gas - Certification (Journeyman Gasfitter) - F-34 to F-36

Temporary New Hires: Leann Barth

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

Student Workers: Zach Anaya, Maya Cordova, Ricky Silva, Dennis Woods, Chris Altamirano

Referees (5), Zumba (2), Lifeguards (15)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

A-One Towing and Recovery LLC - Out of Town - Magdalena, NM - Bryce Sandoval & Maria Lane - Towing

Southwestern Advantage - Out of Town - Nashville, TN - Leva Alisauskaite - Door to Door Book Sales

Santa Fe Imports Inc. - C-2 - 1261 Frontage Road NW – Corporation - Automobile Sales

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 15, 2016

MRC Pro LLC - Out of Town - San Antonio, NM - Mario Romero - Construction
Swire Coca-Cola USA - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Whole Distributor of
Soft Drinks & Vending

There was some discussion regarding towing companies and how they can get on the Police Department's rotation list.

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

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 138531 to 138276 in the amount of \$835,221.35, plus Payroll Transfers (\$345,528.76), for a total of \$1,180,750.11. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, September 6, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. (Due to Labor Day Holiday)

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 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