

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 6, 2016

Newly-appointed City Councilor Anton Salome was sworn in by Probate Judge, Daryl Cases. Councilor Salome will complete the City Council term of former City Councilor Donald Monette which ends in 2018. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council welcomed Councilor Salome to the Council. Councilor Salome thanked the Mayor and City Council for the appointment. Councilor Salome introduced his wife, Moniqua Salome and Aunt, Joann Salome. Mayor Bhasker wished Councilor Salome's uncle, Sam Atencio well (Mr. Atencio is currently in the hospital).

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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were 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 Clint Corvinus from Alamogordo, New Mexico.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. August 15, 2016

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Retirement – Bobbi Gonzales

Mayor Bhasker presented a plaque to Bobbi Gonzales, who retired from the Tourism Department on August 31, 2016 with 25 years of service. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked Ms. Gonzales for her many years of hard work and dedication to the job. Ms. Gonzales' current supervisor, Josh Kerns, and former supervisor, Mable Gonzales, also thanked Bobbi for her years of service. Ms. Gonzales thanked everyone for their support and stated that she learned a lot during her years with the City. Ms. Gonzales stated that she, along with her brother and sister, will now run the family business. Ms. Gonzales introduced her family: Pat (husband), Becky (sister), Steve (brother) and Ernest (father in law).

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Friends of the El Camino Real Historic Trail Site

Kay Kreihbel, President of the El Camino Real Historic Trail Site, stated that the site has had a full-time manager for the past three years. Ms. Kreihbel stated that the NM State Department of Cultural Affairs recently made staffing changes and the site now has a part-time manager who also manages two other sites. Ms. Kreihbel stated that she, along with the other volunteers, is concerned with how the change will affect the site. Ms. Kreihbel stated that she is asking that everyone support the site by visiting with family and friends and support events such as the upcoming Native New Mexico Day on September 17th. Mayor Bhasker thanked Ms. Kreihbel for her presentation and

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stated that the City is willing to help any way possible including sponsoring a future event. Ms. Kreihbel introduced volunteers Lynn Deming, Sandy Quershi and Maria Smith-Vega.

Doug May stated that he is concerned that there is not enough employment in Socorro for youth workers. Mr. May stated that he feels youth ages 12 to 18 need work experience and to learn responsibility. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City of Socorro provides a summer youth program every summer for youth ages 16-19 and that the program employs over 100 youth each year. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City budgets over \$100,000 for the program each year and there are some departments that continue to pay for their students to work after the program ends. Mr. May stated that he just wants the kids to have the opportunity to work. Mayor Bhasker replied that the City does provide that opportunity.

Penny Lohmen, a Chamber of Commerce Board member, introduced the new Chamber of Commerce Director, Colleen Gino. Board members Councilor Michael Olguin, Linda Wilson and Lillian Armijo were also present. Ms. Gino stated that she has been in Socorro since 2000 and worked at the VLA. Ms. Gino stated that she is looking forward to working with the community. Councilor Olguin thanked the Chamber board members for assisting with work at the Chamber during the search for a new director.

Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech liaison, stated that school has started and NM Tech has 400 new students. Ms. Armijo stated that on September 7th, NM Tech will host a Community Day where local businesses can advertise their business. Ms. Armijo stated that the President's Golf Tournament will begin September 15th and proceeds from the tournament are used for 5th year students whose lottery scholarships end.

Tom Hydan, the business manager for the Socorro Community Kitchen at Finley Gym, provided an update regarding the kitchen. Mr. Hydan stated that there is an average of 6 users per month, and in the last 12 months, there were 1,270 kitchen hours accrued. Mr. Hydan stated that the income for the kitchen is \$5,943 and the expenses are \$5,183. Mr. Hydan stated that there are over 60 products made in the kitchen and that 90% of the products contain red or green chile. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Hydan for the update.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY

a. Ordinance No. 16-09-06 – Affordable Housing Ordinance

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 16-09-06. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to establish an affordable housing program and procedures to administer an affordable housing program in the City of Socorro.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-09-06 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Antenna Height Restrictions - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that the item was on the agenda as a result of community members who had concerns regarding newly-placed antennas in the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that he believes the antennas were put in place by a new business who is providing internet service. Edwin Chavez, a local business owner, stated that he placed several antennas as part of his new internet provider business to improve the quality of the internet. Mr. Chavez stated that he initially used low-lying antennas but had to raise some of them for better service. Mr. Chavez stated that he should not need any more antennas than he has right now. Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that when the

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tower ordinance was created, antennas were not included as they are hard to regulate due to each person needing something different. Mr. Czosnek stated that the HAM antennas were accepted by the City. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Chavez for providing internet services in Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that if more antennas start to appear, the City may have to look into adding regulations to the ordinance.

b. Resolution No. 16-09-06a – NMDOT Co-Op Project Time Extension

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-09-06a which, if approved, would allow the City to extend the deadline for the project from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the project was initially going to be a crack/fog seal but the engineer is now recommending a chip seal. Mr. Santillanes stated that due to weather, the project would not be finished by the end of 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that a chip seal is best done in the spring. Mr. Santillanes stated that the NMDOT is willing to extend the deadline for the project with the approval of the resolution and a letter requesting the extension. Mr. Santillanes stated that this extension will not affect the next cycle of NMDOT Co-op funding.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approved Resolution No. 16-09-06a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Recommendation of Award – Airport PAPI Project

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the installation of the PAPI (approach lights) at the airport were opened on August 18, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Molzen Corbin, the City's airport engineer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Bixby Electric Inc. in the amount of \$112,036.62.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the installation of the PAPI at the airport to Bixby Electric Inc. in the amount of \$112,036.62. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Recommendation of Award – Airport Pavement Maintenance Project

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for airport pavement maintenance were opened on August 18, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Molzen Corbin, the City's airport engineer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Maxwell Asphalt Inc. in the amount of \$256,795.18.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for airport pavement maintenance to Maxwell Asphalt Inc. in the amount of \$256,795.18. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Bid Award – Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project (Major Material)

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the major material for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project were opened on August 23, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to MRC Global in the amount of \$46,460.83.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the major material for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project to MRC Global in the amount of \$46,460.83. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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f. Bid Award – Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project Contractor

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project contractor were opened on September 1, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to HALO in the amount of \$265,778.00. Councilor Olguin asked Mr. Santillanes if he was familiar with HALO's work. Mr. Santillanes stated that reference checks for HALO had been performed. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project contractor to HALO in the amount of \$265,778.00. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Santillanes stated that bids for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project tapping and plugging were opened on September 1, 2016. Mr. Santillanes stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Carber in the amount of \$63,584.00.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project tapping and plugging to Carber in the amount of \$63,584.00. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

g. Resolution No. 16-09-06b – Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Project Resolution

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 16-09-06b which, if approved, allows the City of Socorro to reimburse itself with the proceeds of the loan agreement between the City of Socorro and the New Mexico Finance Authority for capital expenditures incurred by the City in the 60 days prior to the closing date of September 30, 2016.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-09-06b. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

h. Proposed Park Rules & Policies

Donald Monette, City Administrator, presented proposed rules and policies for City-owned parks and recreation facilities. Mr. Monette asked the City Council to review the rules and provide suggestions. Mr. Monette stated that once the overview is done, there will be park rules developed that are specific to each park. Ms. Gonzales stated that per Chief Winders, having specific rules will allow police officers to enforce those rules. Some discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Gonzales stated that the Utility Committee continues to meet to review gas, water, wastewater and solid waste rates. Ms. Gonzales stated that the next meeting will be September 13th at noon at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Romero asked if the City can sponsor a scholarship in the name of David Flores, a 2016 summer youth employee who recently passed away. Mayor Bhasker stated that he was unsure if the City can sponsor a scholarship but it may be able to provide an award and/or stipend to an exceptional summer youth worker each summer. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration would look into the request.

Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the recent mud run event.

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OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked what the process is to determine the speed limit on City streets. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she was specifically referring to Chaparral Drive. Mr. Santillanes stated that a City Councilor had previously requested more speed limit signs on Chaparral Drive. Mr. Santillanes stated that there were no signs for reference and per City ordinance, if there are no signs, the speed limit is 25 mph and those are the signs that were placed. Assistant Police Chief, Angel Garcia, stated that he believed there were signs that indicated 35 mph in the past in that area. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the residents who have contacted her would like the speed limit to be 35 mph. Mr. Santillanes stated that prior to choosing a speed, two items that need to be considered are that it is a long, straight stretch of road and it is a residential area with children. Mr. Monette stated that Hope Farms Road, just south of Chaparral Drive, is 35 mph. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would support a speed of 25 mph. Asst. Chief Garcia stated that he can look back at citation history and see when it was 35 mph and he can also place a device on the road to get the average number of vehicles traveling the road and the average speed of the drivers. Mayor Bhasker suggested that the City gather that information and discuss the matter at a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Bhasker thanked the Department Heads for attending the meeting. Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that the new cell liner installation is complete. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that patrons are using the new RV park at the rodeo arena. Mr. Martinez stated that crews are working on cleaning roads and adding lights at the RV park. Mr. Martinez stated that the bleachers in the arena will be installed soon. Josh Kerns, Community Services Superintendent, stated that soccer is ongoing. Mr. Kerns stated that the business who rented the kitchen at the soccer fields recently was very happy with the facility. Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire and EMS Expo starts September 7th and the Fire Department will once again be hosting a barbecue for the event. Asst. Chief Garcia stated that the summer months have been relatively quiet. Mayor Bhasker stated that police officers need to be careful more now than ever. Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, stated that the police officers have been keeping the dispatch employees busy. Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, stated that there are still adjustments being made as a result of the recent transition of City employee medical insurance from BCBS to NMHC. Mr. Monette reminded everyone that under the new medical plan, employees can get a free annual exam each year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Planning & Zoning Commission - Appointment

Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has a recommendation but would like to postpone the appointment until the appointee can confirm that he would like to be on the Commission.

Mayor Bhasker stated that there is also a vacancy on the Library Board but he is waiting for a letter of resignation from the board member prior to appointing a new member.

b. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Resen Messer – 8-31-16 – Fire - Resignation

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Business Registrations

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

Cleen – Out of Town – Belen, NM – Bernadette Chavez – Cleaning
R3M Enterprise – Out of Town – Magdalena, NM – Rachel Montoya – PC Repair/Web
Design/Photography

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:36 p.m., Councilor Olguin motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk