

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
October 3, 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 Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. September 19, 2016

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – National Manufacturing Month

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation which proclaimed October 2016 as National Manufacturing Month in the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that in the past, Solaro (a business located in the City's Industrial Park) provided tours of their facility on National Manufacturing Day.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Battle of the Badge Blood Drive – Trophy Presentation

Cindy Rivera, the City's Youth Center Director, stated that the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive is a competition to see who can get more votes (donations) between fire departments and law enforcement departments (each person who donates a pint of blood can vote for a department). Ms. Rivera stated that the winner of the blood drive this year is the Socorro Fire Department with 39 pints of blood donated. Ms. Rivera stated that law enforcement came in second place with 19 pints of blood donated. Ms. Rivera presented the trophy to Fire Chief Joe Gonzales. Ms. Rivera introduced Selena Robertson, who is the United Blood Services representative for the Socorro area. Ms. Robertson thanked the City of Socorro for continuing to support blood drives. Ms. Robertson stated that one pint of blood can save 3 lives and that there is a shortage of blood in New Mexico.

Councilor Gordy Hicks arrived at the meeting.

b. Upcoming Blood Drive

Ms. Rivera stated that the next blood drive will be on October 17, 2016 at the Youth Center.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the induction of the new president at NM Tech, Dr. Stephen Wells, will be held on October 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Macey Center. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech announced Douglas Wells (no relation to the new president) as the new Vice-President of Academic Affairs earlier today. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the City is still planning a welcome reception for Dr. Wells in November.

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Richard Mann, a local resident, stated that he has previously attended City Council meetings to express his concerns over speeding on El Camino Real and that the problem of speeding has not improved. Mr. Mann stated that he feels 75-80% of cars in the area are speeding. Mr. Mann stated that he would like more police presence and speed bumps in the area. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that in the past, a device was used to gather traffic data from that area but a recent study had not been performed. Mr. Mann stated that he has seen police officers pull people over, shake their hand and let them go without giving them a citation. Mayor Bhasker stated that while he does believe traffic violations are a problem in the City, he believes the City has good quality police officers. Some discussion followed. Mayor Bhasker requested that the Police Chief place the traffic study device back in Mr. Mann's area, retrieve new data and reexamine the information.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

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

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 16-09-06.

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

Phyllis Taylor, from Sites Southwest, 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. Ms. Taylor stated that ordinance is an exception to the anti-donation clause and follows the State of New Mexico's Affordable Housing Act. Ms. Taylor stated that the ordinance outlines types of projects and defines who can be a grantee. Ms. Taylor stated that the City's biggest asset is land at the Industrial Park.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-09-06. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hicks. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Approval of City of Socorro Park Rules & Policies

Mayor Bhasker stated that at a previous City Council meeting, the City Council was given proposed park rules and were asked to review and suggest any changes.

Mayor Bhasker stated that at a recent AYSO soccer game, there was a physical fight among adults and that this unruly behavior will not be tolerated on City property. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to add consequences to the rules for inappropriate behavior. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that City employees at park facilities need to have enforceable rules and that the rules will also protect the employees. Mr. Monette stated that Mr. Martinez has asked Socorro Schools to draft a memorandum of understanding which states that Socorro Schools agrees to abide by City rules while using City property. Mr. Monette suggested that a section be added to the rules which states that acts of violence will not be tolerated and violation of the rule will result in the loss of the use of City facilities for one year. Mr. Martinez stated that these rules are general and each City park will also have specific rules. Mayor Bhasker stated that there should also be a penalty for vandalism of City parks. Mr. Monette stated that a correction will also be made to the hours ("dusk

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to dawn” will be changed to “dawn to dusk”). Mayor Bhasker stated that this will be a working document and can be amended as needed. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to reassure the AYSO organization that the City does not condone violent behavior.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the City of Socorro Park Rules and Policies with the addition of a section regarding the prohibition of acts of violence/vandalism, a section regarding consequences for violating those rules and the correction to the hours. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 16-10-03 – Surplus Equipment

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 16-10-03 which, if approved, deems several miscellaneous items from Finley Gym as surplus equipment. Mr. Monette stated that the items are currently kept in classrooms at Finely Gym and City crews are trying to clean the classrooms. Mr. Monette stated that City staff believes none of the items are valued at more than \$5,000 and anything valued under \$5,000 is not considered an asset under NM State rules. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to keep the scoreboard, time clock and street signs and possibly place them at the City’s heritage center.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-10-03 and exclude the scoreboard, time clock and street signs from the list. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that there will be a Utility Committee meeting on October 11th at noon at City Hall. Mayor Bhasker asked the Utility Committee to review the acquisition of commercial dumpsters.

Councilor Hicks stated that the Captain Laura S. Haines M Mountain Fly-In was held last weekend and was a successful event. Councilor Hicks stated that there were parachute jumpers, a mock accident and the PHI helicopter.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Winders stated that there will be a City of Socorro Community Policing Play Day on October 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sedillo Park. Chief Winders stated that there will be free hot dogs, a jumping balloon and the PHI helicopter. Chief Winders stated that this will be an opportunity for the public to meet police officers, dispatchers and their families. Councilor Olguin reminded everyone that the Socorro Police Department has a Twitter account: Socorro_PD

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

a. Job Description Updates – Transportation Department

Mr. Monette presented an updated job description for the positions of Driver, Transportation Program Manager and Lead Driver/Back-Up Program Manager. Mr. Monette stated that several

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years ago, the City changed the Driver job description to require a CDL but did not adjust the salary for the employees who acquired their CDL. Mr. Monette stated that the only thing changing on these job descriptions is the pay range. Mr. Monette stated that the changes were compared to other CDL positions within the City to ensure that they were similar.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updated job descriptions for the Transportation Department. 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:

Victor Savedra - 10-7-16 – Police - Resignation

Donald Monette - 9-21-16 – Administration - Completed Probation - \$7667.00 per month to \$8050.00 per month

Lupe Tarango - 10-1-16 – Dispatch - Department Director Salary Realignment - J-33 to J-40

Christopher Vega - 10-3-16 – Production - Additional Job Duties @ Swimming Pool - H-29 to H-31

Henry Jojola - 10-3-16 – Wastewater - Level III Certification - W-31 to W-33

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

None.

d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:43 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