

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 7, 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 Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Michael Olguin were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 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. October 17, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Public Hearing – Liquor License Application – Restaurant Beer and Wine License with On-Premise Consumption Only – Sofia’s Kitchen, LLC

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

Councilor Gordy Hicks arrived.

Mayor Bhasker stated that Sofia’s Kitchen, LLC has requested a Restaurant (Beer & Wine) License with On-Premise Consumption Only which has to be approved by the local Governing Body. Bobbi Gonzales, one of the new owners, stated that the only change regarding the license was the change in ownership.

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

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Restaurant (Beer & Wine) License with On-Premise Consumption Only for Sofia’s Kitchen, LLC. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 16-11-07a – Authorization to Submit CDBG Application

Mayor Bhasker stated that approval of Resolution No. 16-11-07a would need to be postponed. Mayor Bhasker stated that the CDBG process used to require three public hearings for residents to suggest a project but now requires four public hearings (the City held three public hearings). Mayor Bhasker stated that approval of the resolution would be postponed until after the City held a fourth public hearing in order to comply with the recently updated rule.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 7, 2016

Councilor Hicks made a motion to postpone Resolution No. 16-11-07a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval for New City of Socorro Bank Account at Washington Federal

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the City currently has a bank account with Bank of America. Ms. Gonzales stated that when Washington Federal took over the local Bank of America, the City's account did not switch to Washington Federal but stayed with Bank of America. Ms. Gonzales stated that she would like to close the account with Bank of America, since they are no longer local, and re-open the account with the local Washington Federal.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve a new City of Socorro bank account with Washington Federal. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 16-11-07b – Proposed Vacation of City Property – Smith Road

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 16-11-07b which, if approved, will allow the City to move forward with the formal process of vacating a portion of Smith Road. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the owners on Smith Road requested the vacation of the property. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that in the past (for similar requests), the Planning and Zoning Commission would hold a public hearing and then make a recommendation to the City Council. Mayor Bhasker stated that the resolution only authorizes the City to begin the formal process of the vacation and does not approve the vacation itself. Mayor Bhasker stated that if vacated, the property will be divided equally to the property owners on each side of the street. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has vacated City property before when the City has decided that there is no longer a public use for the property. Mr. Monette stated that per the request of Councilor Salome, the resolution has been amended to include the State Statutes regarding the vacation of City property (13-6-1 if the value is less than \$5,000 and 13-6-2 if the value is \$5,000 or more). Councilor Salome stated that he feels there should be specific guidelines for the Planning and Zoning Commission in order to assist them in their recommendation (Examples given by Councilor Salome: Is the property considered surplus? Does the property have a value to the City? Will the vacation promote economic development?) Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to this particular request, the extra property on each side of the road is not of use to the City, the City does not maintain this particular property and the amount of property is not needed should the City pave the road in the future. Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to economic development, should the City vacate the property, the business owner requesting the vacation can extend their business, and therefore, provide more business to the City. Mr. Monette stated that he is willing to attend the Planning and Zoning hearing and explain to the Commission what the City Council would like the Commission to consider when making the recommendation. Councilor Salome stated that he would like to know the value of the property. Mayor Bhasker stated that to get the value, an appraisal will be needed and the person requesting the vacation will bear the cost of the appraisal. Mayor Bhasker stated that the information discussed at this Council meeting should also be given to the Commission in writing.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16-11-07b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 7, 2016

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Gonzales stated that she would be scheduling a Utility Committee meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the employees at Washington Federal (which is next door to City Hall) had their vehicle vandalized and the bank now has a security guard on the premises during the day. Mayor Bhasker stated that several City parks and buildings have also recently been vandalized. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration is considering putting security cameras at City parks and City Hall. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like the City Council to provide input, whether for or against, about the installation of security cameras at City facilities.

Mayor Bhasker stated that while doing a recent project on Fairgrounds Road, the City needed an easement through a piece of private property. (The current road actually exists on the land but the easement was never registered. As the current project looks to widen the road, a new easement must be filed. The City previously vacated a lot across the street to the same owners and the Mayor was hopeful this act would be remembered and the owners amicable to the City acquiring the easement at no cost to the City.) Mayor Bhasker reminded everyone that it is important to consider utility easements when vacating property and/or doing a land exchange.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout showing speeds on El Camino Real for a two-week period. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study had come about as a result of a complaint by Richard Mann, a resident on El Camino Real. Chief Winders stated that the study was done by an unmarked machine so no drivers were aware of the machine. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study shows that approximately 15% of drivers were doing over 30 miles per hour and approximately 85% of drivers were in compliance with the posted speed.

Mayor Bhasker stated that there would be a community welcome reception for Dr. and Mrs. Wells on Thursday, November 10th at 5:30 p.m. at the Best Western. Mayor Bhasker stated that the public is welcome to attend.

Mayor Bhasker stated that there will be a Veteran's Day event on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Veteran's Park.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Victoria Murphy - 11-30-16 - Animal Shelter - Resignation

Tim Gutierrez - 11-15-16 – Fire - Resignation

Daniel Pacheco - 11-13-16 – Fire - Resignation

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 7, 2016

Jacob Fanning - 11-2-16 - Animal Shelter - Completed Probation - A-20 to A-22
Chelsea Lyons - 11-1-16 – Library - Certification Permanent Professional Certificate) - B-35 to B-40
Scott Crespin - 10-16-16 – Fire - Certification (EMT-I) - B-34 to B-36
Ashlea Steele - 11-7-16 - Animal Shelter - New Hire*(Kennel/Office Assistant) - A-20
Chris Contreras - 11-16-16 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-29
Justin Kersting - 11-16-16 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-27
Jedi Angel - 11-16-16 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-30
Theodore Ygbuhay - 11-16-16 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-32

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

PMR Contracting - Out of Town - Tome, NM - Melissa Salome - Project & Contract Management
ICRNM Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - James McLarty - Construction
Kyle's Exotic Pets & Supplies - C-2 - 336 6th Street - Kyle Phillips - Pet Sales
Breakfast Burritos n More - R-1 (Approved by P&Z) - 908 Spring Street - Kristin Scarborough -
Mobile Food Cart
Better Call Homes - R-1 (Approved by P&Z) - 901 Liles Street - Ken Malone - Real Estate
Investment

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:26 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk