

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
December 5, 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, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Ernest Pargas and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 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. November 21, 2016

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

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Councilor Pargas arrived.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Lego League

Jim Jackson, the coach for Socorro's FIRST Robotics Team, stated that Socorro's first "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)" team was established in 2013. Mr. Jackson provided a handout to the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Jackson stated that in 2016, the FIRST team received a \$50,000 grant which funded 15 FLL Jr., 10 FLL and 5 FTC teams in Socorro County. Mr. Jackson stated that the FLL Qualifier has been held in Socorro for the past three years. Mr. Jackson stated that the next qualifier will be held January 27-28, 2016 at NM Tech with over 100 students participating from New Mexico and Arizona. Students Luther, Harley and Alejandro demonstrated one of their robots. Demetria Fenzi-Richardson, Co-Coach, stated that FIRST is developing curriculum for teachers to use in their classrooms. Mr. Jackson stated that there are over 150 students in the Socorro County FIRST clubs. Mayor Bhasker thanked the group for their presentation and asked Mr. Jackson to let the City know how it can help with the event in January.

b. Update on Cottonwood Charter School & Grant – Kim Schaffer

Kim Schaffer, from Cottonwood Valley Charter School, thanked the City of Socorro for its ongoing support of the school. Ms. Schaffer stated that CVCS recently applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation for a new science lab. Ms. Schaffer stated that a video entry was required and shared the video with the Mayor and Council. Ms. Schaffer asked everyone to go on Facebook on December 6th and vote for CVCS in order to help the school win the grant. Ms. Schaffer stated that there were 200 applications and CVCS is one of the 25 finalists. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would be willing to put the information on the City's website as well as send out a message through the notification system.

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DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

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

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution 16-11-07a which, if approved, authorizes the City of Socorro to submit a CDBG funding application to the NM Department of Finance for the Texas Area Street and Drainage Improvements Project. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City held the four required public hearings. Mr. Santillanes stated that only one project was presented which was the Texas Area Street and Drainage Improvements Project. Mr. Santillanes stated that the CDBG application is due June 23rd and funds will be allocated on September 13th. Mr. Santillanes stated that the application is for \$750,000 because the City will be able to provide a certified cost estimate (applicants who cannot provide the cost estimate can only apply for \$500,000).

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

b. RFP Award – Municipal Electric Substation & Powerline Design, Inventory, Survey, Staking & Related Financial Services

1. Proposal A – Design Service Tasks

Mayor Bhasker stated that bids for design service tasks for the municipal electric substation were opened on October 17, 2016. Mayor Bhasker stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Forsgren Associates Inc.

2. Proposal B – Financial Service Tasks

Mayor Bhasker stated that bids for financial service tasks for the municipal electric substation were opened on October 17, 2016. Mayor Bhasker stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Enchantment Energy Consulting LLC and Rio Energy LLC.

Councilor Olguin asked if it had been determined that the project is feasible. Mayor Bhasker stated that preliminarily, the project is feasible as long as NM Tech is included with the Industrial Park area. Councilor Olguin stated that he did not remember receiving the results of the feasibility study. Mayor Bhasker stated that the items currently being considered are needed in order to complete the feasibility study. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is not funding any of the items being considered rather the company will be required to seek funding in order to complete the tasks. Councilor Pargas asked if the long-term goal is to expand services City-wide. Mayor Bhasker stated that his long-term goal is for the City to be a municipal electric utility similar to the gas and water utilities currently being provided by the City. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the bid for design service tasks for the municipal electric substation to Forsgren Associates Inc. and award the bid for financial service tasks for the municipal electric substation to Enchantment Energy Consulting LLC and Rio Energy LLC. Ms. Saavedra took a roll call vote: Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Pargas, Councilor Jaramillo, Councilor Fleming, Councilor Salome, Councilor Romero and Councilor Hicks voted yes. Councilor Olguin voted no. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that there would be a Utility Committee meeting on December 8th at noon.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jaramillo stated that the annual Christmas food drive would be held December 17th at 8:30 a.m. at Finley Gym.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Santillanes about the status of the fuel farm. Mr. Santillanes stated that there was a delay with the contractor but the project should start this week. Mayor Bhasker asked if the roof over the existing structure could be salvaged to use in another area (to cover recycling). Mr. Santillanes stated that he would make sure the roof was set aside when removed.

Councilor Fleming stated that he has heard concerns from the public regarding street lights that are not working. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Socorro Electric Cooperative requires that a resident contact the City with the location of the light and that the City submit a repair request to SEC online. Mayor Bhasker asked if the police officers who work at night are documenting which lights are inoperable. Chief Winders stated that the officers have a working list of lights that are inoperable.

Councilor Romero stated that the Socorro Electric Cooperative is willing to help the City put up the Christmas lights. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will decline SEC's offer as TDS has already offered to assist the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that he recently had lunch with a representative of the SEC and that he outlined his concerns including the fact that in the past, the SEC would not assist the City with the Christmas lights. Mayor Bhasker stated that he offered to have a meaningful conversation with the SEC regarding rates, alternative energy sources and the possibility of a joint utility (with the City owning the utility and SEC employees operating the utility) and that he has not heard back regarding a meeting.

Councilor Romero stated that he has continued to hear concerns from the public regarding pedestrians crossing the street between the Plaza and the post office. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are dedicated post office parking spots in front of the post office which would not require a person to cross the street and urged post office customers to use those spots. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has added several stop signs in the area to promote pedestrian safety.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the recent Electric Lights Parade and event on the Plaza was fantastic and thanked all of the City crews who worked to make it a successful event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Nicole Montoya - 12-9-16 – Dispatch - Resignation

Lorenzo Alvarado - 12-30-16 – Sanitation - Retirement

Loretta Tolliver - 12-6-16 – Transportation - New Hire*(Part-Time Driver) - A-25

Gonzalo Lopez - 11-16-16 – Police – Certification - B-37 to B-40

Jonathan Harmon - 11-16-16 – Police – Certification - B-37 to B-40

Victor Chavez 11-16-16 – Police - Salary Adjustment - H-42 to H-44

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Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Heritage Roofing LLC – Out of Town – Los Lunas, NM – Antonio Trujillo - Roofing

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to have the next City Council meeting at noon on Friday, December 16, 2016.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to schedule the next City Council meeting for December 16, 2016 at noon at City Hall. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 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