

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 3, 2017

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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Ernest Pargas and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. December 16, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Michael Pino – Presentation of Artwork to the City of Socorro

Michael Pino, a local resident, presented three lithograph drawings that he created and stated that he would like to donate them to the City of Socorro. Mr. Pino stated that the drawings were created using mylar rather than the typical stone used for lithographs. Mr. Pino gave a short description of each of the people depicted in the drawings. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Pino for his donation. Councilor Hicks gifted Mr. Pino with a hand-crafted wood bowl that he made as a thank you for the donation. Councilor Hicks stated that he would like to see a committee created to promote local artists and if created, he would like to see Mr. Pino on the committee.

b. Herb Anderson – Green Project Homeless Rehabilitation

Herb Anderson provided a handout regarding a homeless rehabilitation project. Mr. Anderson stated that he was asking the City to provide a lease option for 1 to 5 acres of land at the City's Industrial Park for the project. Mr. Anderson stated that he has been successful in the past helping homeless persons re-enter the community as self-sustaining community members. Mr. Anderson stated that there are local businesses who are willing to offer their services to the project. Mr. Anderson stated that the pilot project will offer services to 30-50 homeless persons in a secure facility that is not open to the public. Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked what services will be offered. Mr. Anderson stated that each person will require different services some of which include GED classes, addiction specialists, classes on how to interact with the public, etc. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the El Camino Real Housing Authority (where she is the director) currently serves the homeless community and has recently applied for a grant from the New Mexico Supportive Housing Coalition for 60 more units (which will include supportive services). Councilor Hicks asked Mr. Anderson how his project is different from that of the El Camino Real Housing Authority as he is concerned about duplicating services. Mr. Anderson stated that what makes this project different is that the project will be designed to eventually fund itself. Mr. Anderson stated that at this time, he is not asking the City to provide funding, only to consider a lease option for City land at the Industrial Park. Mr. Anderson stated that he will also be applying for CDBG funding in August. Councilor Olguin stated that it appears that both Mr. Anderson and Councilor Chavez-Lopez have experience in providing services to the homeless population and suggested that the two combine efforts in their common goal. Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to see Mr.

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Anderson's pilot program plan. Mayor Bhasker stated that in order to address the request for land and move forward, Mr. Anderson will need to provide a thorough proposal which includes identifying the entity who would be leasing the property.

Val Anaya stated that he, along with 10-12 other people, play ping pong at Finley Gym on Wednesdays and invited everyone to attend. Mr. Anaya stated that the City provided a new ping pong table a year ago and he is hoping the City can upgrade some of the other equipment in the near future.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 17-01-03a – Open Meetings Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-01-03a. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the Open Meetings Resolution is passed several times a year including the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and after an election. Mr. Monette stated that the resolution follows requirements made by New Mexico State Statute for open meetings.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-01-03a. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 17-01-03b – Governing Body Rules of Procedure Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-01-03b which, if approved, reaffirms the Governing Body Rules of Procedure adopted April 7, 2014 and recognizes those rules as the method by which the Socorro City Council meetings are conducted. Mr. Monette stated that the Governing Body Rules of Procedure are re-adopted at the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and right after an election.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-01-03b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Hicks stated that on December 30th, several riders from various cities practiced at the rodeo arena and provided feedback to the City about the facility. Councilor Hicks stated that overall, the riders were very happy with the facility. Mayor Bhasker stated that there will be another practice in three weeks after the City has had time to make some minor changes (as suggested by the riders). Mr. Monette stated that the first event at the rodeo arena will be the Clint Benjamin Rope for Hope Memorial Team Roping event on February 18-19, 2017.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the equipment for the fuel farm is expected to arrive any day and once received, construction on the fuel farm will begin.

Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department is waiting on approval from the State in order to increase gas pressures now that the valve replacement project is complete.

Councilor Olguin thanked everyone for attending the award ceremony during which the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association received a \$20,000 grant.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero asked about the status of the traffic study for the Spring Street/Highway 60 area. Mr. Santillanes stated that the study is complete and the engineer is recommending a three-lane road with a center turning lane (from the four lane road just south of the railroad tracks traveling south past the rodeo arena). Mr. Santillanes stated that the NM Department of Transportation could not fund the study and stated that if the City did the study, it would help the DOT apply for federal funding for that project. Mr. Santillanes stated that there was not a traffic light recommended for the intersection of Spring Street and Highway 60.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez thanked all of the entities who provided Christmas events/gifts to children in the Socorro community (Socorro Police Department, Socorro Fire Department, DWI Compliance Office, Socorro County Sheriff's Office, etc.).

Mayor Bhasker stated that a traffic study was completed for Chaparral Drive. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that during a 3-week period, 33% of drivers were traveling 28-35 mph and 40% of drivers were traveling 36-43 mph. Chief Winders stated that the study shows that there is not a large problem with speeding on Chaparral Drive.

Mayor Bhasker asked Chief Winders to look into what signage can be placed on State Road 1 (leading up to the turn into the City's rodeo arena). Mayor Bhasker stated that the road is owned by the NMDOT so he isn't sure what signage the City may be allowed to place on the road. Chief Winders stated that in addition to signage, a police officer can be present on the road for events to assist with traffic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Mayor Bhasker stated the Administration has decided to go with co-managers at the animal shelter with current employee Jacob Fanning as Manager of Field Services and new hire, Patrick Gonzales, as Manager of Shelter Services. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Gonzales is from Socorro and he hopes the City has a long relationship with Mr. Gonzales. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Gonzales will attend training so that he can learn about managing an animal shelter. Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Gonzales will continue working on several items that the former director was unable to complete including the animal shelter standard operating procedures.

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

Carlos Garcia – 12-19-16 – Street - Resignation

Patrick Gonzales – 1-9-17 – Animal Shelter – New Hire (Animal Shelter Manager/Shelter Services)
– A-30

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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b. Business Registrations

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

Silva Drain Cleaning – C-2 – 503 N 5th Street – Timmy Silva – Drain Cleaning
The Tire Shop LLC – C-2 – 1006 S Hwy 85 – Marielena Lopez – Tire Shop
Random Thoughts – R-4 (Approved by P & Z) – 610 Ivy Street #2 – Erica Wiesen – Selling Body Jewelry & Stickers at Flea Market
Norma’s Cleaning Service – R-1 (Approved by P & Z) – 598 Newberry Road – Norma Valadez – Janitorial Services

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:01 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