

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 17, 2017

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order. Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Nick Fleming.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 17, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. January 3, 2017

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Retirement – Lorenzo “Cooney” Alvarado

Mayor Bhasker presented a plaque to Lorenzo Alvarado, who retired from the Sanitation Department on December 30, 2016 after 25 years of service. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked Mr. Alvarado for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

b . Certificate of Appreciation – Lynette Napier

Mayor Bhasker presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lynette Napier for her many contributions to the City of Socorro’s youth center. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked Ms. Napier for volunteering and working with the children, not only at the youth center, but in the entire city. Cindy Rivera, from the City’s youth center, stated that Ms. Napier assists the Youth Center with tutoring, handing out commodities, teaching the kids how to ride a bike and helping in the community garden. Mayor Bhasker stated that Ms. Napier started the youth triathlon in Socorro.

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Puerto Seguro – Introduction of Interim Director

Hope Faulkner stated that with the retirement of Duane Baker, she would be acting as Interim Director of Puerto Seguro (a day shelter for the homeless). Ms. Faulkner thanked the City of Socorro for continuing to support Puerto Seguro. Ms. Faulkner stated that with the help of some NM Tech students (as part of a grant writing class), the shelter has received several grants. Ms. Faulkner stated that the shelter has also received a grant from Wells Fargo. Ms. Faulkner stated that she would like to thank Mr. Baker for his 12 years of work at the shelter. Mayor Bhasker stated that if Mr. Baker could attend the next City Council meeting, the City would be happy to thank him in person with a certificate.

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Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that Dr. Wells and several of the NM Tech administrative staff are currently in Santa Fe for the legislative session. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is currently trying to hire five faculty positions. Mr. Stone stated that NM Tech is working on incentives so that the families reside in Socorro and the spouses of the faculty work in Socorro. Mr. Stone stated that the new Vice President of Academic Affairs is Dr. Doug Wells. Mayor Bhasker stated that he and Dr. Wells are having lunch with Mr. Grubb from Solaro on January 20th to discuss Solaro and NM Tech developing a working relationship. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Stone to let the appropriate NM Tech staff know that EMRTC Road will soon be closed for truck traffic (10-ton limit) as the bridge is subpar. Councilor Salome stated that Socorro Consolidated Schools and NM Tech have been working together on several programs including the 3rd Grade Mentorship Program, the Alternative Licensure Program and the Upward Bound STEM Program.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Discussion – Proposed Animal Control Ordinance Amendments

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Animal Shelter SOP and the Animal Control Ordinance had not been updated prior to the former Animal Shelter Director leaving her position. Mayor Bhasker stated that the members of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board had prepared a proposed ordinance for the City Council and City staff to review. Connie Robnett presented the proposed ordinance. Ms. Robnett briefly reviewed the changes including areas relating to domestic animals, the duties of the animal control officer and changes that bring the ordinance in line with State requirements. Ms. Robnett stated that the board would be happy to assist City staff with any additional changes. Mayor Bhasker thanked the board for helping the City get started on an updated ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated that once the updates have been made, the ordinance will be presented to the City Council and the City will follow the ordinance process as defined in State Statute. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would also like to get input from the shelter staff. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that it would also be a good idea to get input from the Municipal Judge and the City's attorney. Mr. Monette asked Ms. Robnett to provide the document in a format that can be amended.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to have the City Administration move forward with reviewing the draft provided by the board. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that there would be a Utility Committee meeting on January 20th at 12:00 noon at City Hall.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker reviewed a handout regarding activities of the Parks, Production, Wastewater, Water and Special Projects departments that was provided by Lloyd Martinez, Division Director.

Councilor Hicks left the meeting.

Mayor Bhasker stated that Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, was out of town but a handout from Mr. Tarango was in the packets.

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Michael Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations in the Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling departments are normal and that all equipment in each of the departments is up and running. Mr. Lucero stated that he is working on finishing the application to certify the recycling center. Mr. Lucero stated that the cardboard baler is not working and that crews are using the tire baler at the Landfill for recycling cardboard. Mayor Bhasker stated that City crews currently pick up cardboard from local businesses. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City may change the process to having the businesses take their cardboard to the landfill and having residents take their paper and used oil to the landfill. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will not be able to accept the items at the current location as there is a transformer directly above that area and it is a fire hazard.

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of library stats from FY 2017. Mr. Padilla stated that the library would be hosting an adult book club and the Love Your Library Campaign. Mr. Padilla stated that the winter reading program had 100 youth participants and the Christmas celebration had 150 attendees. Mr. Padilla stated that the library recently received donations from Genevieve Baca, Bob & Kathy Markwell and Virginia Johnson.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from CY 2016. Chief Winders stated that Officers Roane and Montano will be attending the Police Academy on January 24th. Chief Winders stated that the Socorro Police Department, along with the Rocky Mountain Information Network, will be hosting an Active Shooter Response training on February 4th at Socorro High School.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the City has funds to upgrade approximately 1,000 feet of Fairgrounds Road. Mr. Santillanes stated that the paving of Enterprise Road would start January 18th. Mr. Santillanes stated that construction of the fuel farm at the airport would start January 30th and take approximately 2 weeks. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Gas Department has been replacing standard meters with radio read meters. Mayor Bhasker stated that Kirkland Construction is committed to repairing the roads that were damaged by their trucks during the levee project.

Ms. Saavedra stated that the Safety Committee continues to meet once a month to review worker's compensation claims and other accidents/incidents. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the biggest issues the City is facing is medical insurance coverage and premiums for City employees. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has asked the City's agent to see if forming a pool with City, County and NM Tech employees would help with premiums for these entities. Mayor Bhasker stated that another option that is being explored is the City having its own clinic with separate coverage for catastrophic matters.

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the Finance Department is currently doing a natural gas audit and working with the Gas Department on the replacement of meters. Ms. Gonzales stated that if anyone from the public has received a yellow tag on their door to please come to City Hall to address a possible issue with their meter. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Finance Department recently sent out over 700 business registration renewal requests and reminded business owners that there is a \$25 annual registration fee.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jaramillo thanked the City for supporting the 47th annual food drive which served over 400 people in December.

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OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

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

Tony Silva – 12-1-16 – Sanitation – Completed Probation – A-27

Agusta Amaro-Lucero – 1-18-17 – Dispatch – New Hire (Dispatcher) – A-20

Jacob Fanning – 1-18-17 – Animal Shelter – Additional Job Duties/Salary Adjustment – A-22 to A-34

Temporary New Hires: Manuel Licano, Savannah Rivera, Adrianna Griego, Vivika Blea, Ray Aragon, Placido Chavez, Koshmen Carson

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Felipe Romero, Billy Romero, Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulfont, Jerry Griego, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Marcella Alvarado, David Chavez, Jeriana Contreras, Zach Anaya, Mariah Jaramillo, Tiara Jojola, Erin Melendrez, Justin Lopez, Ramiro Garza

Student Workers: Sistine Dunn, Maya Cordova, Chris Altamirano, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley Mauldin, Alondra Gomez, Deekota Chavez, Emerald Goranson

Referees (3), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Dusty Cowgirls Chic Rustique – C-2 – 607 Highway 60 – Donna Boston & Vicki Wall – Retail Handmade Items & Women's Accessories

Robert's Corner Copy – C-2 – 411 Spring Street – Robert Beck – Copies, Faxing, Graphic Design

La Vida Felicidad Inc. – C-2 – 514 Parks Street – Corporation – Non-Profit Homecare & Adult Day Services

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 139929 to 140185 in the amount of \$673,620.06 plus Payroll Transfers (\$330,733.27), for a total of \$1,004,353.33. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, February 6, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m., Councilor Romero 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