

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**February 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 Gordy Hicks, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Ernest Pargas and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez was absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 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. February 6, 2017**

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

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY**

**a. Ordinance No. 17-02-17 – Water & Sanitation Utility Rate Changes**

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 17-02-17 which, if approved, changes the per unit charges and the basis for charges for water and residential sanitation services. Mayor Bhasker presented the following comparisons with other New Mexico municipalities which, he stated, illustrates that Socorro, other than T or C, has the lowest charges for water and residential sanitation of these municipalities:

The cost for 12,000 gallons of water – Socorro \$35.93, T or C \$31.31, Los Lunas \$62.34, Belen \$56.31, Las Vegas \$373.10 and Grants \$54.25.

The cost for 1 residential sanitation bin – Socorro \$16.75, T or C \$24.66, Los Lunas \$21.77, Belen \$24.93, Las Vegas \$25.90 and Grants \$21.35.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 17-02-17 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Fairgrounds Road Land Acquisition**

Mayor Bhasker stated that in order to provide a proper intersection at Fairgrounds Road/Raychester Road, the City will need to purchase a piece of property on Fairgrounds Road from the Dotson family (who is willing to sell the property to the City) for the fair market value of \$1,250.00.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the acquisition of land on Fairgrounds Road. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Councilor Hicks stated that he would like to have Michael Pino, a local resident and artist, be the Chairman of a City Community Arts Committee. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Michael Pino as the Chairman of the City Community Arts Committee. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the appointment. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Olguin stated that there was a recent inquiry about Socorro from a business that develops medical devices for the animal industry. Councilor Olguin stated that he was able to provide the information that was requested and he hopes the business will consider Socorro as its location.

Councilor Salome thanked the City of Socorro and local residents for supporting the bond election and stated that the bond passed.

Councilor Salome stated that the boys and girls high school basketball teams will play on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and invited everyone to attend.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, reminded everyone that the Rope for Hope event will be on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (this weekend) and reminded visitors to use State Road 1 for access to the rodeo arena. Mayor Bhasker thanked Socorro County and the NM State Highway and Transportation Department for assisting the City with signage for the event.

**a. Personnel Changes**

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

Felix Saavedra – 2-6-17 – Production – Certification (Level I Water/Technician III) – N-31 to N-33

Rondall Sauls – 2-1-17 – Auto Maintenance – Completed Probation – A-23 to A-25

Tom Stidstone – 2-17-17 – Auto Maintenance – Change in Salary Range in Job Description – T-36 to T-40

Wesley Mauldin – 2-17-17 – Police – New Hire (Police Officer/School Resource Officer) – E-38

Temporary New Hires: None

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, Ray Aragon, Placido Chavez, Koshmen Carson, Manuel Licano

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

Referees (4), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 140186 to 140469 in the amount of \$826,560.45, plus Payroll Transfers (\$306,902.51), for a total of \$1,133,462.96. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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**c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, March 6, 2017 @  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:13 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk**