

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 20, 2017

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

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that Mayor Bhasker could not attend the meeting as he was at his uncle's (S.N. Bhasker) funeral in Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Monette stated that S.N. Bhasker was a 2-Star General in the United States Army and was head of the Army Dental Corps. Mr. Monette stated that Mr. Bhasker served in the United States Army for 25 years.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Monette led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2017 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. March 6, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Puerto Seguro – Presentation of Plaque to Duane Baker

Mr. Baker was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation will take place at a future date.

b. Cottonwood Valley Charter School (CVCS) Update – Kim Schaeffer

Kim Schaeffer stated that CVCS won the \$100,000 grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation for a new science lab. Ms. Schaeffer stated that the school is currently compiling a list of needs for the lab which will be submitted this summer and that the school hopes to have the new science lab ready for the upcoming school year. Karen Bailey-Bowman, a CVCS board member, stated that the school is currently working on landscaping including gravel, turf, shrubs and plants. Ms. Bailey-Bowman thanked all of the parents and volunteers who have helped with the landscaping.

Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech Liaison, invited everyone to the Shall We Dance, Socorro event (which is similar to the TV show Dancing with the Stars) on March 24th at Macey Center. Ms. Armijo stated that Mayor Bhasker and Mr. Monette will be participating in the event. Ms. Armijo provided the City Council with complimentary tickets to the event.

Jared Lam and Will Benson, NM Tech Students, stated that they are part of the NM Tech Student Government Association and attended the meeting in an effort to be more involved in the community. The students stated that they would like other NM Tech students to view the City and NM Tech as one community and not two separate entities.

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SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks 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 Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the change is equal to one cent per 100 gallons of water and \$1.00 more per month per residential trash can.

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 17-02-17. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jaramillo. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Socorro Bicycle & Trails Plan Update – Sites Southwest

Joshua Johnson, form Sites Southwest, stated that a project to create bicycle trails in Socorro began in October 2016. Mr. Johnson stated that several meetings have been held which have included members of Healthy Kids Socorro, Socorro Striders and Riders, NM Tech, City of Socorro, NMDOT, SCCOG and the MRGCD. Mr. Johnson provided a map of the proposed trails and stated that the project is 50% complete. Mr. Johnson stated that the next step will be to have public meetings and develop goals and objectives. Mr. Johnson stated that approximately 13% of Socorro's population is using bicycles to commute and that compared to the national average of 3.4%, Socorro will be a great community for this type of project. Councilor Olguin asked if this plan is the plan that will be used to seek funding. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that this plan will be placed on the City's ICIP once it is complete and will be used to seek federal funding for the bicycle trails. Some discussion followed.

b. Budget Resolution No. 10 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Water Department

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Salaries, PERA, FICA and Retiree Health Care – Amount is \$23,669.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to 6-30-17. Ms. Gonzales stated that the increase is needed to make up for an oversight of an active position overlooked during the budget process.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 10. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Fleming thanked the Department Heads for turning in their proposed budgets. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the first Budget Committee meeting would be held March 21st at 12:00 noon at City Hall.

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DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Josh Kerns, Recreation Director, stated that last summer, there were several complaints about youth baseball in regards to the heat and the length of the season (which interfered with vacations). Mr. Kerns stated that this year, in order to address some of those concerns, he started collecting registrations early and researched whether or not the season could be started earlier. Mr. Kerns stated that unfortunately, due to a conflict with soccer, baseball games could not start early. Mr. Kerns stated that while the games would not start early, the practices would start in April so that when the season starts in May, the kids have learned about the game. Mr. Kerns stated that the fee for youth baseball is \$10.00 and included in the fee is a t-shirt. Councilor Olguin stated that in the past, teams have been able to get a sponsorship from local businesses in order to get the players hats. Mr. Kerns stated that he could draft a letter to local businesses to see if they will sponsor hats. Mr. Kerns stated that in addition to the City's notification system, he delivered registration forms to Socorro Schools. Mr. Kerns stated that he is also accepting registration forms for the swim team and swimming lessons. Mr. Kerns stated that the City is currently advertising for swim coaches and lifeguards. Councilor Romero thanked Mr. Kerns and his staff for their work on the fishing derby. Mr. Kerns stated that there were 277 kids registered for the event with over 400 people attending. Mr. Kerns stated that the recent Blues, Brews and BBQ event was successful and that the barbecue sold out in 2 ½ hours. Mr. Kerns stated that with NM Tech being on spring break and the event being on a Friday (some people do not eat meat on Fridays for religious reasons), there may have been more attendees from those two groups. Mr. Kerns stated that in the future, the date may be changed to coincide with Mardi Gras rather than St. Patrick's Day.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that in April, the City's rodeo arena will host the high school rodeo finals. Mr. Martinez stated that the covered stalls are all booked for that event with very few uncovered stalls remaining. Mr. Martinez stated that while the events are well-attended by the participants and their families, there have not been a lot of spectators at the recent rodeo events. Ms. Gonzales stated that a list of upcoming events at the rodeo arena will be in the next utility bill.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero stated that in regards to the street study on California Street, Spring Street and Highway 60, he hopes that four-way stops can be created along Spring Street in order to slow down traffic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Final Audit Approval for FY 2016

Ms. Gonzales stated that the City has received final audit approval for FY 2016 from the State of New Mexico. Ms. Gonzales stated that the report can now be released.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to accept the final audit report for FY 2016. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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b. Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mr. Monette:

Mark Benavidez - 3-31-17 – Water - Retirement

Katy Weaver - 3-6-17 – Tourism - Promotion to Tourism Office Manager - C-18 to C-25

Temporary New Hires: Cathryn Wellborn, Mendi Marquez, Daniel Pacheco, Resen Messer

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Felipe Romero, Billy Romero, Chris Carrillo, Paul

Foulenfont, Jerry Griego, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Marcella Alvarado, David Chavez, Jeriana

Contreras, Zach Anaya, Tiara Jojola, Erin Melendrez, Justin Lopez, Ramiro Garza, Ray Aragon,

Placido Chavez, Koshmen Carson, Mariah Jaramillo

Student Workers: Sistine Dunn, Maya Cordova, Chris Altamirano, Taylor Saavedra, Wesley

Mauldin, Alondra Gomez, Deekota Chavez, Emerald Goranson, Serena Perez, Teghann Gonzales

Referees (6), Zumba (2)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

Councilor Jaramillo motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mr. Monette:

Oil 2 Go – County - 916 Paisano Drive - Cody Richardson - Mobile Automotive Oil Change & Lube

Nelson J Greer Painting Inc. - Out of Town - Tucson, AZ – Corporation - Painting

Cornerstone Custom Homes dba Cornerstone Contractors - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Eloy Nevarez - Cast in Place Concrete

Amarisa's Mechanic Shop - C-2 - 1311 State Road 1 - Juan Carmona - Auto Repairs

Translift Services Inc. - Out of Town - Rio Rancho, NM – Corporation - Steel Erection

A & H Heating and Cooling - Out of Town - Canutillo, TX - Alfredo Alvarez - Heating and Cooling

Jamar Industries Inc. dba The Hilltop Landscape - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Jim Forrester - Landscaping

Complete Fire Protections LLC - Out of Town - Los Lunas, NM - Stephanie & David Dykes - Installation of Fire Suppression Systems

Creative Design Builders LLC - Out of Town - Los Lunas, NM - Raymond Herrera - General Contractor

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve vouchers 140470 to 140756 in the amount of \$818,831.64 plus Payroll Transfers (\$306,727.69), for a total of \$1,125,559.33. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, April 3, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7:03 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