

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
April 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 Ernest Pargas, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Michael Olguin. Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 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. March 20, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Jessica Sullivan – Down Under Track & Field Request

Jessica Sullivan, a student at Magdalena High School, stated that she had been invited to participate in the 17th Annual Down Under International Games in Australia. Ms. Sullivan stated that she will be participating in several track and field events. Ms. Sullivan stated that she is seeking sponsorships from individuals or businesses to help cover the cost of the trip. Ms. Sullivan stated that she is also selling raffle tickets. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City may be able to provide a sponsorship for \$250.00. Councilor Olguin stated that the Chamber of Commerce still offers the beautification fundraiser where up to \$500.00 can be earned by cleaning an area in the City.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

b. David Williams – Senator Tom Udall’s Office

David Williams, along with Michelle Cavanaugh, stated that Senator Udall’s office staff had recently been reorganized and that the two of them would be covering the Socorro area. Mr. Williams stated that they have been visiting Socorro and meeting with constituents to discuss their concerns. Mr. Williams stated that they will be in the Socorro area every few weeks. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Cavanaugh for attending the meeting and stated that Senator Udall is always invited to attend a Council meeting.

c. Cindy Kessler – Adopting ACL Model Law Enforcement Policy for Immigrants

Cindy Kessler stated that she would like the City to consider adopting the ACLU’s state and local law enforcement policies and rules as they pertain to immigrants. Ms. Kessler stated that when she approached the Sheriff’s Office, the Sheriff was amenable to adopting the policies. Ms. Kessler stated that when she approached the Socorro Police Department, the Chief was very pleasant but did not answer her questions and only stated that the “department follows the law”. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is not a home-rule City and therefore follows State Statute. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has spoken to the Chief and was informed that officers do not ask questions regarding citizenship nor are any federal agencies called when handling a criminal case. Mayor Bhasker stated that it may be hard to adopt a law enforcement policy that could conflict with State Statute. Ms. Kessler asked that at a minimum, the Administration have the City’s attorney review the policy.

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

Ms. Kessler stated that the ACLU's intentions were only to get the answers to a poll to see what law enforcement agencies are currently following ACLU policy.

d. Luisa Lopez – Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

Luisa Lopez, a member of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, stated that the TBDC represents people in New Mexico who have been affected by exposure to radiation as a result of the test conducted at Trinity Site in South Central New Mexico on July 16, 1945. Ms. Lopez stated that the TBDC is trying to make New Mexico a part of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act which can authorize lump sum payments and/or medical coverage to individuals who suffer from radiation-related diseases. Ms. Lopez stated that during a July 15, 2016 town hall meeting, Senator Udall pledged to help the TBDC and on July 31, 2016, Senator Udall shared their story with the Senate. Ms. Lopez stated that on February 11, 2017, there was a meeting attended by over 100 people during which the topic of discussion was the health impact assessment that was compiled from health surveys done by residents of Socorro County who have had cancer themselves or have family members who have had cancer. Ms. Lopez stated that the TBDC would like to hold a candlelight vigil to recognize sufferers and asked the City to assist with the vigil by purchasing supplies for the luminarias or allowing the use of Clarke Field or the rodeo arena. Ms. Lopez provided copies of the health impact assessment. Ms. Lopez stated that Senate Bill 197, which would approve the addition of Socorro, Otero, Sierra and Lincoln counties in the RECA Act, has passed through the Judiciary Committee and is now expected to go to the House of Representatives. Ms. Lopez stated that there was a demonstration at the Stallion Site gate on April 1, 2017 to bring awareness to the matter. Councilor Olguin requested that the results of the health impact assessment be placed on the City's website. Mayor Bhasker stated that he hopes the National Park Service will recognize Trinity Site for the actions that took place there on July 16, 1945.

Cody Johnston explained what cystic fibrosis is and explained that his brother, Connor, has cystic fibrosis. Connor Johnston invited everyone to his 5K and 1 Mile Walk on April 8, 2017 to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Jeanie Johnston, Cody and Connor's mother, thanked the City for providing giveaway items for the event. Cody and Connor are the grandsons of Councilor Hicks.

Councilor Romero arrived.

Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the 2nd Annual Inventors & Entrepreneurs Workshop: A Business Start-up Conference will be held on April 6th and 7th at New Mexico Tech. Ms. Armijo stated that there will also be a Spring Fling carnival at NM Tech over the weekend as well. Ms. Armijo stated that NM Tech is working with the New Mexico Small Business Development Center to provide no-cost workshops for business owners in Socorro. Ms. Armijo stated that if the City is interested, it can co-sponsor the workshops.

Councilor Salome thanked Ms. Armijo for supporting the Upward Bound STEM Grant.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 17-04-03 – Adoption of Community Development Block Grant Policies

Donald Monette, City Administrator, explained that the CDBG Program requires that entities have a Citizen Participation Plan, a Section 3 Plan, a Fair Housing Policy and a Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan in place in order to be able to apply for funds. Mr. Monette stated that the resolution presented has been approved by the City Council in previous years and CDBG requests that municipalities reconfirm their approval of the resolution.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-04-03. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

b. Franchise Agreement between the City of Socorro & TDS Broadband Service LLC

Mayor Bhasker presented the franchise agreement between the City of Socorro and TDS Broadband Service LLC. Mr. Monette stated that there is one correction that needs to be made on Number 5a of the Table of Contents: change the words “Three Percent” to “4.5 Percent”. Mayor Bhasker stated that the TDS system has not been upgraded in some time and that TDS has committed to upgrading the system which will attract more customers. Mayor Bhasker stated that TDS would like to install a broadband fiber optic loop in Socorro, which would hang on electric poles, but has been unable to secure an agreement with the Socorro Electric Cooperative to do so. Mayor Bhasker stated that not only is there an issue with SEC’s high electric rates, now there is an issue with getting their cooperation to provide broadband services to Socorro residents. Mayor Bhasker stated that these two factors hold Socorro back from economic development as businesses will not start up in Socorro for those reasons. Mayor Bhasker stated that TDS was able to complete this type of project in Lovington. Councilor Olguin stated that he agrees that reasonable utility rates and better broadband are important for economic development. Councilor Olguin stated that he feels it is the City’s role to help facilitate an agreement and that all entities need to cooperate. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the franchise agreement between the City of Socorro and TDS Broadband Service LLC. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Award of Vendor Contracts – Rodeo & Sports Complex

Mr. Monette presented event concession vendor contract between the City of Socorro and Fat Man and Little Boy (food) and The Capitol Bar LLC (alcohol). Mr. Monette stated that the length of the term is from April 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Mayor Bhasker stated that the contracts will be opened for bids each year.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to award the event concession vendor contracts to Fat Man and Little Boy and The Capitol Bar LLC. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On behalf of Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, Mr. Monette stated that the Budget Committee meets each Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

Councilor Hicks stated that the fuel tank at the airport is installed and he would like the credit card machine to be installed as soon as possible so that pilots can start to fuel up at the City’s airport.

Councilor Hicks stated that he recently attended the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association event at the rodeo arena and that it was very enjoyable. Councilor Hicks urged everyone to attend events at the rodeo arena.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Socorro City Councilor's Intent to Resign Council Seat

Councilor Pargas stated that he would be resigning his City Council position effective May 15, 2017. Councilor Pargas stated that it has been a pleasure to work with everyone and be a part of numerous committees while serving as Councilor. Mayor Bhasker, as well as all of the City Councilors present, thanked Councilor Pargas and wished him well.

b. Library Board Appointment

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Lillian Armijo to the Library Board.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Mayor Bhasker's appointment of Lillian Armijo to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Resen Messer 4-16-17 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT) - B-36
John Rhodes 4-16-17 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-27
Zachary Ortega - 4-16-17 – Fire - New Hire*(FF/EMT Recruit) - A-25
Elvires Otero - 4-1-17 – Fire - Certification (Fire Inspector I) - C-38 to C-40
Jim Dewey Brown - 4-1-17 – Tourism - Completed Probation - A-40 to A-42

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

D & H United Fueling Solutions Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Fueling System Sales, Installation & Service
Prime Retail Services - Out of Town - Flowery Branch, GA – Corporation - General Contractor
Gandy Dancer LLC - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - General & Civil Construction
M-Art Building Company LLC - Out of Town - Tome, NM - Martin Romero - Construction Contracting
Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership # C0938 - C-2 - 1015 N California Street – Corporation - Retail Sales & Lease of Furniture, Electronics & Appliances

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 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