

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 22, 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 Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin and Councilor Peter Romero. Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Anton Salome were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MAY 22, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. May 1, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Spring Clean-Up Days Information

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will be conducting the annual “Spring Clean-Up” and provided a handout detailing pick up days. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that during that time frame, City crews will also be cutting weeds and picking up trash City-wide.

b. Municipal Electric Utility - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Joseph Herrera, from the Socorro Electric Cooperative, had submitted a request to inspect public records to the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the items requested are the “requests for information” received by the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that the RFI’s requested are available on the City’s website. Mayor Bhasker explained the process that is followed when a request to inspect public records is received by an entity. Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to a municipal electric utility feasibility study, which Mr. Herrera requested to inspect, the document is a proprietary document held under client-attorney privilege by the City’s attorney. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City does not have copies of the study. Mayor Bhasker stated that the study was shown to the City Council during an executive session at a past City Council meeting and if the Council chooses, the study can be shown to them during an executive session at a future City Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that the decision to release the study to the public lies with the attorney. Mayor Bhasker discussed an outdated Facebook article posted by Mr. Herrera in regards to Boulder, Colorado’s attempts to become energy independent. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will not expend funds to do engineering for a municipal electric utility. Some discussion followed.

c. Resolution No. 001A – Preliminary Approval of FY 2017-2018 Budget

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 001A which, if approved, adopts the City’s preliminary budget for FY 17-18. Ms. Gonzales thanked everyone who helped in the preparation of the budget.

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Councilor Hicks arrived (6:20 p.m.).

Ms. Gonzales stated that a resolution for final budget approval will be presented at a future Council meeting. Councilor Fleming, who serves on the Budget Committee, stated that Ms. Gonzales and her staff worked hard on the budget.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001A. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Budget Resolutions

Ms. Gonzales stated that an error was made during the last City Council meeting in regards to Budget Resolution No. 13. Ms. Gonzales stated that the resolution was approved but the item listed on the agenda was for a different fund. Ms. Gonzales stated that she is re-submitting the resolution for approval a second time so that the item on the agenda and the item approved are the same.

1. No. 13 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund and Miscellaneous – Requirements are Street Co-Op Projects & Local Street Projects – Amount is \$55,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for unanticipated revenue and expenditures to June 30, 2017.

2. No. 14 – Health Council Grant Fund

Resources are Miscellaneous – Requirements are Contractual Services and Other Administrative Expenses – Amount is \$20,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for grant award.

3. No. 15 – Airport Construction Fund

Resources are NM Aviation Grant – Requirements are Engineering and Construction – Amount is \$188,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 13, 14 and 15. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Hicks asked about the status of the credit card machine at the airport fuel farm. Mr. Santillanes stated that the machine was worked on over the weekend and as of 4:30 p.m. on the day of the Council meeting, the machine was working.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that recent events, including the Piro Indian artifact collection relocation celebration and Cinco de Mayo, were very successful. Mr. Padilla stated that the summer reading program will begin June 1st with an event at the library that will include a live DJ, barbecue and the Wheel of Wonder Dinosaur Exhibit from the NM State Library.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that in regards to the credit card machine at the airport fuel farm, the previous system had a shared line with the AWOS system as they were both only “outgoing” systems. Mr. Santillanes stated that the new system cannot share a line as it is a “call in” system. Mr. Santillanes stated that right now, the credit card machine is using the line that is used by the AWOS. Mr. Santillanes

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stated that the AWOS is not in operation right now and will remain inactive until the credit card machine gets a dedicated line. Mr. Santillanes stated that the PAPI at the airport was installed by Bixby Electric and the final inspection is complete. Mr. Santillanes stated that the FAA now needs to certify the PAPI. Mr. Santillanes stated that the crack seal on the taxiway and apron is complete and now those areas will receive a fog seal and new paint. Mr. Santillanes stated that he is looking into creating a new electrical vault at the airport and removing the obsolete equipment. Mr. Santillanes stated that both the Co-Op and MAP projects have been awarded to the City and the agreements will now be prepared. Mr. Santillanes stated that he met with the Department of Transportation and they will be updating the lighting at the south interchange to LED lights. Mr. Santillanes stated that the gas valve replacement project and uprate is complete and the City is running on the new pressure (500 psi). Mr. Santillanes stated that the service poles for the CNG pump at the division have been installed and the contractor will perform the startup of the pump. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Pipeline Safety Bureau will conduct an inspection in June of the Gas Department's drug plan and operation qualification plan.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from April 2017. Chief Winders stated that on May 10th and 11th, Officers Victor Chavez and Peter Gonzales attended the annual law enforcement symposium which teaches departments how to handle grant monies. Chief Winders stated that on May 13th, a narcotics search warrant was served and officers were able to confiscate narcotics and paraphernalia. Chief Winders stated that on May 18th, Officers Alan Roane and Dominic Montano graduated from the police academy.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from April 2017. Mr. Tarango stated that call volume is down. Mr. Tarango stated that all of the dispatch equipment is running properly. Mr. Tarango stated that there is still one dispatcher currently out on long-term sick leave.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Fire Department stats from April 2017. Chief Gonzales stated that all autos/equipment are up and running. Chief Gonzales stated that the loan for the ladder truck will close on June 9th and he hopes to have the truck in service in July. Chief Gonzales stated that he would like to be able to host a class in Socorro so that his new hires can take their class in Socorro.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that Parks Department crews have been replacing plants in the medians on California Street, installing new wood chips at the playgrounds, cutting weeds and mowing the parks. Mr. Martinez stated that Production Department crews have been addressing areas that are having sewer issues such as the Ivy Street area and Shady Nook Trailer Park. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department prepared the swimming pool and that the pool passed inspection on May 19th. Mr. Martinez stated that Wastewater Department crews have been busy working on the SBR's at the treatment plant. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews have been extending water lines at the rodeo arena, adding faucets at the arena, replacing the chain link fence at Granada Park and replacing stopped water meters. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew has been busy preparing for, and cleaning up after, events at the rodeo arena. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew will also clean cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day.

Ms. Saavedra stated that the deadline for summer youth applications was May 19th and that 117 applications were received. Ms. Saavedra stated that there are 35 possible work sites where the students will be placed. Ms. Saavedra stated that each student has the potential to earn up to \$900.00. Ms. Saavedra stated that the orientation will be June 1st at 5:00 p.m. at Finley Gym.

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Mr. Monette stated that he is busy daily with attending meetings and responding to e-mails and phone calls. Mr. Monette stated that he met with Mr. Martinez regarding future upgrades for the City's wastewater treatment plant.

Ms. Gonzales stated that now that the preliminary budget has been approved, she will transfer the data onto the required DFA forms and submit them by the end of May.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Romero stated that there will be a Memorial Day ceremony on May 29th at 11:00 a.m. at Isidro Baca Park. Councilor Romero stated that members of the Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be placing flags in the cemeteries for Memorial Day.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker reported out of executive session the discussion of two personnel matters. No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Appointment to Personnel Board

Mayor Bhasker stated that Mr. Rinaldo Chavez has resigned from the Personnel Board. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will present an appointment for the vacant position for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

b. Personnel Changes

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

Ashlea Steele - 5-7-17 - Animal Shelter - Completed Probation - A-20 to A-22

Jedi Angel - 5-16-17 – Fire - Completed Probation - A-30 to A-31

Theodore Ygbuhay - 5-16-17 – Fire - Completed Probation - A-32 to A-33

Corey Sanchez - 5-22-17 – Water - Promotion from Crewman to Heavy Equipment Operator - F-23 to F-27

Brian Standefer - 5-22-17 – Water - Promotion to Foreman - H-32 to H-37

Oscar Acosta - 5-22-17 – Water - End of Probation for Superintendent - X-48 to X-51

Temporary New Hires: Johnny Jaramillo

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, Cathryn Wellborn

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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/Yoga (5), Swimming Pool (17)

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

Toledo's Residential Exteriors LLC - Out of Town - Belen, NM - Ayrress Toldeo - Residential Exteriors
Dreamstyle Remodeling - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Corporation - Remodel, Windows, Sunrooms, Stucco
Romero's Plumbing LLC - Out of Town - San Antonio, NM - Gerardo Romero - Plumbing
AB Gymnastics Academy - C-1 - 104 Neel Street - Briana Benson - Competitive & Recreational Gymnastics

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 140999 to 141379 in the amount of \$1,159,140.44 plus Payroll Transfers (\$312,683.31), for a total of \$1,471,823.75. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, June 5, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Councilor Hicks 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