

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
June 26, 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 Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Peter Romero were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 26, 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. June 5, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro County Compliance Office Needle Pick-Up Program

Theresa Rivera-Rosales stated that a young Socorro resident, Ms. Krista Scott, likes to ride her bike around Socorro and play in the local playgrounds. Ms. Rivera-Rosales stated that Krista told her father that she has been seeing needles/syringes when she is riding her bike or at the park. Ms. Rivera-Rosales stated that Krista's dad brought the matter to the attention of the Socorro County Compliance Office who decided to create Krista's Project. Ms. Rivera-Rosales stated that Krista's Project is a 24-hour community-based needle clean-up program where trained volunteers will safely remove and dispose of needles. Ms. Rivera-Rosales stated that she would like to place posters regarding the program at City's parks and youth center. Ms. Rivera-Rosales stated that the volunteers will track problematic areas and provide that information to local law enforcement. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that his department can assist with the placement of the posters in the City parks. Krista and her father were at the meeting. Mayor Bhasker thanked Krista and her father for being proactive in the community.

Sherry Maguire stated that while she is on the City's notification system, she did not get a notification that the June 19th City Council meeting was moved to June 26th. Mayor Bhasker apologized and stated that he would make sure the updates are being sent.

Mayor Bhasker congratulated Councilor Hicks for recently completing NM Department of Homeland Security emergency management training. Mayor Bhasker presented Councilor Hicks with a certificate of completion for the class.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Permanent Supportive Housing Project – El Camino Real Housing Authority

Councilor Chavez-Lopez, who is the director of the El Camino Real Housing Authority, provided a handout regarding a permanent supportive housing program. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the El Camino Real Housing Authority is currently applying for both grants and loans for the project. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the housing units will be used to end homelessness for families and individuals struggling with addiction, mental health and/or other disabilities. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that there will be 40 units with a separate community building,

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laundry facility and playground. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that multiple service providers (DWI Compliance, El Puente, Help NM, Income Support, Independent Living, Positive Outcomes, Socorro Mental Health and Workforce Solutions) will provide their services on-site. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that in January 2018, the El Camino Real Housing Authority will apply for funding from the NM Mortgage Finance Authority. Mayor Bhasker stated that he was initially hesitant about the project but now feels that it will benefit the Socorro community. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that having the services available at the housing units will help the building residents receive those services. Some discussion followed.

b. Mayor's Appearance at SEC Board Meeting & Approval of Correspondence to be Read at SEC Board Meeting

Mayor Bhasker stated that he intended to attend the June 28th SEC Board meeting but as he was not aware the meeting was changed to June 21st, he was unable to attend the meeting as he was out of town. Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to TDS Telecom's effort to install fiber in Socorro, Donald Monette, the City Administrator, received an e-mail from TDS Telecom stating they were no longer moving forward with the project as the SEC's estimate is unreasonable. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are lower electric rates available, local entities would like to have lower electricity rates and a solution needs to be found as to how to provide the lower rates. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to present a letter to the SEC Board. Mayor Bhasker read the letter which offers three solutions: 1) The City acquires SEC's assets in the City limits and assumes a related portion of the RUS debt associated with those assets. 2) The City acquires all of SEC's assets inside and outside of the City limits and assumes all related debt. 3) The City acquires a portion (or corridor) of SEC assets and enters into a "sharing" agreement with SEC that reduces rates in that corridor and shares some of those savings with SEC. Mayor Bhasker stated that he hopes the SEC Board will consider the options provided in the letter.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Mayor Bhasker presenting the letter at the next SEC Board meeting. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 17-06-26 – Ambulance Billing Charge-Offs

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, presented Resolution No. 17-06-26 which, if approved, removes uncollectible ambulance accounts from 2011, in the amount of \$169,792.67, from the City's list of accounts. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Finance Department still attempts to collect these funds through a credit agency.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-06-26. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Budget Resolution No. 17 – Fire Protection Fund

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance & NMFA Loan Proceeds – Requirements are Capital Outlay Over 500 – Amount is \$460,704.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the loan proceeds and purchase of a fire truck.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 17. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

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e. Budget Resolution No. 18 – Sedillo Park Renovation Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Concession Expense, Concession Expense Pool & Repair and System Maintenance – Amount is \$20,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 18. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

f. Budget Resolution No. 19 – General Fund – Public Rural Transportation

Resources are Rural Transportation Grant Award – Requirements are Capital Outlay CNG Fueling Station – Amount is \$71,813.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award and expenditures.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 19. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

g. In-House Budget Resolutions 103 and 104

Ms. Gonzales explained that In-House Budget Resolutions 103 and 104 are adjustments within a department which are needed to allow for expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The adjustments move funds from one line item to another within the same department. Budget Resolutions 103 and 104 include adjustments in the General Fund (Fire Department, Airport Department, Auto Mechanic Department and Parks Department).

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolutions 103 and 104. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Josh Kerns, Community Services Director, stated that some of the weekday, evening youth baseball games were changed to Saturday mornings as the weather is cooler. Mr. Kerns stated that the Administration may want to consider closing the swimming pool on Saturdays as they are only averaging about 43 people that day. Mr. Kerns stated that due to lifeguard Kendrick Simmons having to rescue a swimmer from the deep end of the pool, swimmers are now required to take a deep-end swim test with the head lifeguard, Taylor Saavedra, in order to swim at the deep end of the pool. Mr. Kerns stated that in order to avoid items being stolen, pool patrons are advised to keep their personal items in sight or check them in with the cashier. Mayor Bhasker stated that all of the information mentioned by Mr. Kerns should be placed on the website for the public. Mr. Kerns stated that Finley Gym is experiencing electric issues and that he intends to get quotes to troubleshoot and repair the problem. Mr. Kerns stated that he has informed the groups using the gym so that they are aware of the problem. Mr. Kerns stated that included with their \$75 registration fee, swim team participants will receive a swim suit and swim cap. Mr. Kerns stated that there have been 2 home swim meets and there will be 2 more in July. Mr. Kerns stated that baseball pictures will be taken June 27th and 29th.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation/Landfill/Recycling Superintendent, stated that the application for the certified recycling center has been submitted. Mr. Lucero stated that construction on the recycling center will begin

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after July 1st. Mr. Monette stated that NM Tech has been looking into developing their own recycling center.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Description Update – Landfill Department

Mayor Bhasker presented an updated job description for the position of Landfill Chief Equipment Operator II/Associate Compliance Officer/Recycling Center Manager.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the updated job description for the position of Landfill Chief Equipment Operator II/Associate Compliance Officer/Recycling Center Manager. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

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

Sherry Padilla - 5-30-17 – Transportation - Resignation

Alan Roane - 6-13-17 – Police - Resignation

Rosemary Rosas - 7-14-17 – Transportation - Resignation

Loretta Tolliver - 6-26-17 – Transportation - Completed Probation - A-25 to A-27

Alfredo Garza - 6-27-17 – Police - New Hire*(Police Officer) - A-38

Temporary New Hires: Jared Marquez, Ernie Lopez, Seferina Ortiz, James CHavez

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Felipe Romero, Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulenfont, Jerry Griego, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Marcella Alvarado, David Chavez, Zach Anaya, Tiara Jojola, Erin Melendrez, Justin Lopez, Ramiro Garza, Ray Aragon, Placido Chavez, Cathryn Wellborn, Johnny Jaramillo

Student Workers: Sistine Dunn, Alondra Gomez, Deekota Chavez, Teghann Gonzales

Referees (6), Zumba/Yoga (5), Swimming Pool (17)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

Tena Construction LLC - Out of Town - Las Cruces, NM - Luis Tena - Construction

Natural Rx, Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - 508 Old US Highway 85 (Physical) - Trevor Reed - Medical Cannabis

Liquid Airbrush - N/A - 1019 N. California St. - William Ferreira - Airbrush Art

JXT Fireworks - N/A - 1009 N California St. - 722 N. California St. - Jennifer Senn - Fireworks

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Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 141380 to 141737 in the amount of \$1,402,210.04 plus Payroll Transfers (\$318,926.01), for a total of \$1,721,136.05. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – TBD

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to cancel the July 3rd City Council meeting due to the 4th of July holiday. Ms. Gonzales requested that the second July meeting be moved from July 17th to July 24th in order to give the Finance Department enough time to close the budget for FY 2017 and finish the FY 18 budget. Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:03 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk