

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**July 24, 2017**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Kristy Padilla, Administrative Assistant, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Anton Salome. Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Gordy Hicks were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker, the kids of the NM Tech Music Program and their teacher, Gaby Vocello, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 24, 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. June 26, 2017**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**a. Music for Children – Gaby Vocello**

Gaby Vocello stated that she teaches music for children through an outreach program at New Mexico Tech. The children have had 8 lessons over the span of one month in both singing and the use of the violin, cello, piano and ukulele. The children performed several songs for the Mayor, City Councilors and audience.

**b. Mid-West NM Community Action Program – Lindsey Lopez**

Lindsey Lopez, the Director of Socorro Headstart, introduced herself to the Mayor and City Council and read a letter requesting the City's assistance with several items. Ms. Lopez requested more police patrols at the school because of speeders and wrong-way drivers. Ms. Lopez also stated that the sidewalk is in need of repair, she would like to start a "little pantry" at the Plaza for families who need food on the weekends and requested another dumpster closer to Headstart. Ms. Lopez stated that she is trying to start Early Care for children 0-2 years of age. Mayor Bhasker stated that he believes the City repaired the sidewalks on the north side of the street and is not sure the City has funding for the other side. Mayor Bhasker also stated that the City can add police patrols, install more traffic signs and have Police Chief, Mike Winders put up the radar. Mayor Bhasker advised that the City can look into putting a speedbump on Garfield Street and can request an additional dumpster from the Sanitation Department. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has food delivery at the youth center on Tuesdays and Puerto Seguro for people needing assistance but he was not in favor of putting a food pantry on the Plaza.

Frank Wong stated that he is concerned about the condition of the road on Melody Lane. Mr. Wong stated that he has lived in that neighborhood for fifteen years, there are currently a lot of potholes and he would like to ask the City to improve the road conditions. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would inspect the road. Councilor Romero stated that he believes that the project is currently on the City's ICIP.

Louisa Lopez, a member of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (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) stated that Bill 197 (which requests that Socorro, Otero, Sierra and Lincoln counties be included in the RECA Act) will be heard in September 2017 by the Senate Judicial Committee. Ms. Lopez stated that Ben Ray Lujan is the original sponsor and that the bill currently

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has 34 sponsors. Ms. Lopez stated that she and Tina Cordova may have to make two trips to Washington DC to testify, meet with the Senate Judiciary Committee and if the bill passes, possibly meet with the House. Ms. Lopez stated that donations can be made at [www.trinitydownwinders.com/donate](http://www.trinitydownwinders.com/donate) or sent to Tina Cordova at 7518 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Albuquerque, NM 87107, Attn: CCNS (Concerned Citizens of Nuclear Safety). Ms. Lopez also recalled asking in April if the City could appropriate funds for a candlelight vigil that will coincide with the Trinity Site Open House in October. Ms. Lopez stated that the Downwinders are currently looking for a venue to hold the vigil. Mayor Bhasker stated that Clarke Field could be used. Councilor Olguin stated that they may want to start a “go fund me” page.

Reese Jenka introduced himself as the new owner of 102.1 Mine Country Radio located in Socorro.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Decreasing the Speed Limit on State Road 1 - Discussion**

Mayor Bhasker requested that the City Council consider lowering the speed limit on State Road 1 because there are now more businesses on that road. Mayor Bhasker stated that the average speed on State Road 1 is 44-59 mph and that the City can consider a resolution to request that the NM Department of Transportation reduce the speed to 35 mph. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will first conduct a speed study.

Councilor Romero made a motion to request, by way of resolution, that the NMDOT reduce the speed limit on State Road 1 to 35 mph. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Resolution No. 17-07-24a – NMDOT MAP Grant Acceptance**

City Administrator, Donald Monette, presented Resolution No. 17-07-24a which, if approved, allows the City to enter into a MAP Agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the planning, design, pavement rehabilitation, construction, drainage and miscellaneous improvements to Fairgrounds Road from Raychester Drive to Rodeo Road. Mr. Monette stated that the total project cost is \$370,232.00 with the NMDOT funding 75% and the City funding 25%.

Councilor Salome made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-07-24a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Resolution No. 17-07-24b – Surplus Equipment**

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 17-07-24b which, if approved, deems a 2002 Ford Econo F350 Van (VIN 1FBSS31L42HA80361) as surplus equipment. Councilor Olguin requested that the model of the vehicle be amended on the signed resolution.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-07-24b. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Final Budget Approval FY 2017-2018 – Resolution No. 001-B**

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 001-B which, if approved, adopts the final budget for the City of Socorro for FY 2017-2018. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City currently contributes 68% of the medical premium for City employees and the new budget increases the City’s contribution to 70%.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001-B. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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**e. Resolution No. 17-07-24c – Police Officer Longevity Pay**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-07-24c which, if approved, will adopt an updated chart for longevity pay for police officers. Mayor Bhasker stated that the longevity pay for police officers will be a flat amount for each payroll beginning with their second year of service as a Police Officer. Mayor Bhasker stated that the longevity pay acts as an incentive to retain employees. Councilor Olguin asked if the City could do this for the firefighters as well. Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that the firefighters currently receive their longevity in their stand-by pay. Councilor Olguin asked if the police longevity would be included in every paycheck. Mr. Monette stated that yes, police officers will receive the longevity pay at the start of their second year of service rather than after 8 years of service.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-07-24c. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Motion passed unanimously.

**f. Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) – Discussion & Public Input**

Mr. Monette stated that the City is currently working on its ICIP and asked anyone who would like a project added to the ICIP to present their information to the City for consideration. Mr. Monette explained what type of items could be placed on the ICIP. Mr. Monette stated that the ICIP is due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Monette asked the Mayor and City Council to consider which projects they would like to see as the top five priorities. Councilor Olguin reiterated how important the ICIP is for the City and requested that the City check with an engineering firm to see what improvements could be made to the west end of Finley Gym.

**g. Bid Award – Finley Gym Electrical Troubleshooting & Repair**

Mayor Bhasker stated that bids for troubleshooting and repair of electrical issues at Finley Gym were opened on July 13, 2017. Mayor Bhasker stated that Polo Pineda, the City's Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to Ross Electric Inc. Mayor Bhasker asked if the bid was one lump sum bid or by the hour. Mr. Monette stated that he had not seen the bid and was not sure.

Councilor Romero made a motion to award the bid for troubleshooting and repair of electrical issues at Finley Gym to Ross Electric Inc. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**h. Prioritization of Rain Water Runoff Areas - Discussion**

Mayor Bhasker stated that with all the recent rains, the City has recognized that work needs to be done on holding ponds prior to working on private property. Councilor Olguin stated that Franklin Pond "builds up" before it overflows and Mayor Bhasker stated that he would send Demecio Silva, the Road Superintendent, to inspect the area. Councilor Romero asked about A and B Street and Mayor Bhasker stated that the City just received an easement for those roads.

**i. Resolution No. 17-07-24d – Approval of DFA Quarterly Report**

Ms. Gonzales presented Resolution No. 17-07-24d which, if approved, adopts the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial report for fiscal year 2016-2017. Ms. Gonzales stated that approval of the resolution is a requirement from DFA. Ms. Gonzales stated that the report shows that the ending cash balance for the prior year matches the beginning cash balance for the new year.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-07-24d. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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**j. Budget Resolutions**

**1. No. 20 – Municipal Street Fund**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Contractual Services – Amount is \$12,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2017.

**2. No. 21 – Recreation Fund**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Telephone & Utilities – Amount is \$15,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2017.

**3. No. 22 – Airport Construction Fund**

Resources are Transfer from General Fund & NM Aviation DIV Grant – Requirements are Construction – Amount is \$62,662.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award and City match.

**4. No. 23 – Community Transformation Grant**

Resources are Transfer to General Fund – Amount is \$10,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the return of funds transferred to provide cash flow.

**5. No. 24 – Rodeo Arena Reserve Fund**

Resources are Investment Inc-Reserve – Requirements are Other Admin. Expense – Amount is \$710.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2017.

**6. No. 25 – Revolving Loan Payment Fund**

Resources are State Appropriation & NMFA Loan Proceeds – Requirements are Engineering & Construction – Amount is \$262,591.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2017.

Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**k. In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106**

Mable Gonzales explained that In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106 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 105 and 106 include adjustments in the General Fund and Joint Enterprise Fund.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Michael Lucero, Sanitation/Landfill/Recycling Superintendent, stated that construction of the Recycle Center should be complete by the end of the month and should be up and running by mid-August. Mr. Lucero stated that the new tire baler has been shipped and should be received by the City soon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker reminded the City Council that he would be making a presentation to Socorro Electric Cooperative Board on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. to present the letter that was previously approved by the City Council. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has also requested a copy of the contract between Socorro Electric Cooperative and Tri-State.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Approval of Public Transportation Department Director Job Description**

Mayor Bhasker presented an updated job description for the position of Public Transportation Department Director.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve the updated job description for the position of Public Transportation Department Director. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Jaramillo motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Wes Mauldin - 6-17-17 – Police – Certification - E-38 to E-39

Jedi Angel - 7-1-17 – Fire – Certification - A-31 to A-33

Pat Gonzales - 7-10-17 - Animal Shelter - Completed Probation - A-30 to A-32

Roy Baca - 7-16-17 - Landfill/Recycling - Additional Job Duties – Recycling Center Manager - H-48 to H-50

Agusta Amaro-Lucero - 7-19-17 – Dispatch - Completed Probation - A-20 to A-21

Felipe Romero - 8-1-17 – Tourism - New Hire\*(PT Tourism Clerk) - A-19

Demecio Silva - 7-24-17 – Street - Additional Job Duties - I-49 to I-51

Abie Baca - 7-24-17 – Gas - Additional Job Duties - GZ-49 to GZ-51

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the Business Registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Lone Pine Inn - C-2 - 121 College Ave. - Cindi Smith - Airbnb

Harrison Contracting Co. Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Commercial Construction Contracting

Superior Sign and Lighting - Out of Town - El Paso, TX - Alex Del Moral - Electric Signs

We Care Roofing Service LLC - Out of Town - Rio Rancho, NM - Leonel Urbina - Roofing/Gutters

Cordova Contracting & Development LLC - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Mark Cordova - General Contractor for Commercial Buildings

Josh's Barbershop - C-2 - 113 Faulkner - Josh Vallejos - Barbershop

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he has asked the City Attorney to send a letter to Kirkland regarding the streets that were damaged during their project and when Kirkland planned to do the repairs. Mayor

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Bhasker stated that the contract says that Kirkland will repair the damages and he wanted the public to know the City is attempting to get the repairs done.

**d. Voucher Run**

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 141738-141816 to 141832-141943 in the amount of \$615,540.83 plus Payroll Transfers (\$227,604.88), for a total of \$843,145.71. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously. (June 30, 2017 voucher run.)

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 141817-141831 to 141444-142080 in the amount of \$618,982.44 plus Payroll Transfers (\$189,883.79), for a total of \$808,866.23. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously. (July 2017 voucher run.)

**e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, August 7, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:49 p.m., Councilor Salome 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**