

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
August 21, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ravi Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 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. August 7, 2016

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Eddie Bernal stated that he has been a resident of Socorro for 25 years and recently bought Lot # 47 in Eastwood Estates. Mr. Bernal stated that he is unable to get a building permit issued to him by the City because of the road leading to that lot and he is confused as to the reason. Mayor Bhasker asked Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, if the matter can be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission to which Mr. Czosnek responded that he is unsure what P&Z can do regarding the matter. Mr. Czosnek stated that he has orders from previous City Clerk, Pat Salome, not to issue building permits in that area because the road was never properly built and accepted by the City. Mayor Bhasker then asked Mr. Czosnek if P&Z could have a hearing and Mr. Czosnek that yes, P&Z can have a hearing regarding this matter. Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked if this road has a name and Mayor Bhasker stated that there should be a hearing to look at the history of what has been done in the past because this is an ongoing problem throughout the City. Councilor Olguin asked when Mr. Czosnek got the order to not issue permits and Mr. Czosnek stated that this was a verbal order from Mr. Salome. Mr. Czosnek stated that Glenn South, who currently has a mobile home on this road, was misinformed by a realtor that the City would build the road. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City is not in the business of building roads for unfinished subdivisions. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will try to get a paper trail on this matter and it will have to be dealt with in stages. Mayor Bhasker stated that this matter involves a current City employee and a current City Councilor. Councilor Romero asked what the timeframe for the P&Z meeting will be and Mr. Czosnek replied that the next P&Z meeting is on September 21, 2017 but that the matter must be advertised properly. Councilor Fleming asked Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, if this street was located on the CAD and Mr. Tarango stated that this road is not on the 911 system. Councilor Jaramillo asked Mr. Bernal if he had plans for the house that he would like to build to which Mr. Bernal stated no. Councilor Olguin asked if it was possible to hold a special P&Z meeting to address the matter at which time Mr. Czosnek stated he would have to give 48-hour notice and post the notice in three public places. Mayor Bhasker stated that by calling a special meeting, the City is leaving the door open for an injunction as the City needs to properly notify everyone residing within 100 feet of the road. Councilor Olguin stated that Mr. Czosnek received a verbal order and inquired as to how the public is to know about any standing orders. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Czosnek if there was no verbal order to not issue permits, if Mr. Czosnek could issue one otherwise and Mr. Czosnek stated yes. Mr. Monette stated that there are existing subdivision regulations. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Czosnek who would maintain the road and Mr. Czosnek stated the homeowners would be responsible for maintaining the road. Mr. Glen South stated that there was already a road there when he purchased his mobile home and

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Mayor Bhasker stated that Administration would have to review the matter. Councilor Hicks stated that he did have two lots, his brother started Eastwood Estates and six years ago, he purchased lots # 47 and # 48. Councilor Hicks stated that he will not vote on this matter.

Mr. Ernesto Sandoval addressed the City Council regarding a carport he would like to build and asked for a variance. Mr. Czosnek stated that P&Z held a meeting but due to Mr. Sandoval missing the meeting, the item was tabled. Mayor Bhasker informed Mr. Sandoval that the P&Z Commission can hear this matter at their September 21, 2017 meeting.

Ms. Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech liaison, stated that classes began today at NM Tech. Ms. Armijo stated that on Friday, August 25, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. there would be a dedication to Dr. Dan Lopez at the new Chemistry Building and invited everyone to attend. Mayor Bhasker asked about enrollment stats and Ms. Armijo stated that it is about the same as last year but an updated census will be done in 2 weeks.

Mr. Ron Hendrix introduced himself as the new Superintendent for the Socorro Consolidated School District. Mr. Hendrix stated that he is very excited to be in his new position and he would like to work towards bringing up the school grades. Mr. Hendrix stated that he is considering implementing a 4- day school week in the future. Mayor Bhasker welcomed Mr. Hendrix to Socorro.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Resolution No. 17-08-21a – Request to Lower Speed Limit on State Road 1

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-08-21a which, if approved, encourages the NM Department of Transportation to decrease the speed limit on State Road 1, from California Street to Airport Road, to 35 miles per hour.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-08-21a. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 17-08-21b – Adoption of 2019-2023 ICIP

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-08-21b which, if approved, authorizes the submittal of the City's 2019-2023 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Mayor Bhasker listed the top five priorities:

1. General Repaving
2. Highway 60 Improvements (The addition of 1 or 2 lanes entering the City limits.)
3. Workforce Training Facility at Old High School (with Finley Complex remodel)
4. Rodeo/Recreation Facility
5. Texas/Vermont/B Street Reconstruction & Drainage/Landscaping and Beautification of South I-25 Off-Ramp (TIE)

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-08-21b. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on TDS Fiber Build Project - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City received a letter from TDS who stated that they want to stay neutral between the City and SEC because they've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that the letter also states that TDS has put the Socorro fiber build project on hold. Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with a company today that is interested

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in bringing broadband to Socorro using a technique called micro-trenching which will use City rights-of-way.

d. SEC Response to Request to Examine Tri-State Contract – Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that he recently attended the SEC Board meeting. Mayor Bhasker shared a letter that the City received from SEC stating that they would not provide the Tri-State contract because of “harmful intentions” (a public records request had been made to SEC for the contract).

e. Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association – Councilor Olguin

Councilor Olguin introduced MRGEDA Executive Director Georgia Otero-Kirkham. Ms. Otero-Kirkham listed the goals of MRGEDA and further explained what MRGEDA’s goal is for growth in our region. Mayor Bhasker asked Councilor Olguin to bring a budget to the next Council meeting to see if there is some way the City can assist. Councilor Olguin stated that MRGEDA does not want to be “government dependent”.

Councilor Olguin made a motion for the City to contribute a one-time, \$10,000 investment into the MRGEDA organization. Mayor Bhasker stated that this request was not on the agenda. Councilor Hicks stated that this is not an agenda item so the Council can’t take a vote.

Councilor Olguin stated MRGEDA will provide a working agreement to go along with the request. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has already invested \$1,000 and that he would like MRGEDA to show how the additional funds will be spent. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will not allow this matter to become a political platform. Councilor Olguin stated that he sits on the MRGEDA Board, and was also a cofounder, but he will recuse himself from the board if necessary.

Councilor Olguin withdrew his motion for the \$10,000 pending a supplemental agreement and requested that the item be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

f. Bid Award – Water Parts

Mr. Monette stated that bids for water parts were opened on August 10, 2017. Mr. Monette stated that Polo Pineda, the City’s Chief Procurement Officer, is recommending that the bid be awarded to:

Water & Sewer Line Pipe – Resource Wise LLC
Repair Clamps & Couplings – Baker Utility Supply
Brass Fittings – Baker Utility Supply
Meters (Badger Meters & Supplies) – Baker Utility Supply
Meters (Sensus Meter Supplies) – Ferguson Waterworks
Meter Setters – Baker Utility Supply
Water Fittings – Baker Utility Supply
Fire Hydrants – Baker Utility Supply
Sewer Fittings & Supplies – Ferguson Waterworks

Mr. Monette stated that water parts go out for bid every 6 months. Mr. Monette stated that the full dollar amounts of the bid will not be expended but rather only the parts that are actually needed will be ordered.

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Councilor Salome made a motion to award the bid to the vendors listed above. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mike Winders, Police Chief, introduced Marcos Chavez and Weylin Melton who are on the personnel changes as new hires for Police Officers. Chief Winders provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from July 2017. Councilor Olguin asked Chief Winders if officers receive advanced training. Chief Winders stated that officers receive mandatory training at the academy and following that, the State of New Mexico requires 40 hours of advanced training (with 28 of the 40 hours mandated to driving).

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats and stated that dispatch is averaging 70-75 calls per day. Mr. Tarango stated that the NMDPS is initiating the closing of the Socorro State Police Office and that calls will be going to District 5 in Albuquerque who will continue to dispatch to Socorro State Police and the Sheriff's Office.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the Transportation Department had a site visit from the State Auditor to review procedures and manuals. Mr. Santillanes stated that the department is short-handed but the positions have been advertised. Mayor Bhasker asked about the future of the dialysis route to Los Lunas. Mr. Santillanes stated that he was told the Socorro dialysis center was now able to take Medicaid patients but he will investigate further. Mr. Santillanes stated that the annual fly-in at the airport is on September 23, 2017 and will include a memorial barrel race for Laura Haines.

Mike Lucero, Division Director, stated that operations at the landfill and sanitation departments are normal. Mr. Lucero states that the Sanitation Department is waiting to pick up a truck from the Maintenance Department and the Recycling Department is 90% ready to open (waiting only on the canopy). Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will no longer be picking up cardboard and businesses can take it to the recycling center (but that it must be broken down).

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that many of the Fire Department employees are attending school. Chief Gonzales stated that one unit currently has on-going problems and the City is checking to see if the issues will be covered under the warranty. Chief Gonzales stated that a gear broke on the new ladder truck but is being repaired. Chief Gonzales stated that on September 9, 2017, the Fire Department will be hosting a BBQ during a refresher course and invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Street Department, in cooperation with the County, has been working in Eastwood Estates and on Pinon Street and Short Street. Mayor Bhasker stated that he had a complaint about El Camino Real because it was chip seal instead of asphalt and stated that the City could not afford asphalt. Mayor Bhasker stated that upgrades to Cuba Road will be next. Mayor Bhasker stated that there will be a PRCA Rodeo over Labor Day weekend along with a youth rodeo. Mayor Bhasker stated that the money for the floor at Finley Gym will need to be spent on electrical work instead. Mayor Bhasker stated there is a polo match this weekend at the rodeo arena.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Romero asked about the policy for dogs at the Rodeo Arena and Soccer Fields. Mayor Bhasker stated that dogs need to be leashed and dog waste on the walking path needs to be removed by the owner.

Councilor Olguin commended Lloyd Martinez, Mike Alderete and Oscar Acosta for the good condition of the soccer fields for the Socorro Cup High School Soccer Tournament.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Job Description Updates

Mr. Monette explained that the Water and Gas Customer Service positions used to be combined but are now being separated and the range was adjusted. Mr. Monette stated that the Fire Department Captain job description has additional job duties.

1. Water Department Customer Service

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updated job description for Water Department Customer Service. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

2. Gas Department Customer Service

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updated job description for Gas Department Customer Service. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

3. Fire Department Captain

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updated job description for Fire Department Captain. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Library Board Appointment

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Stephanie McFadden to the Library Board.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Stephanie McFadden to the Library Board. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Reporting of Personnel Changes

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

Marcos Chavez - 8-21-17 – Police - New Hire*(Police Officer) - A-38

Weylin Melton - 8-21-17 – Police - New Hire*(Police Officer) - A-38

Britta Herweg-Samuels - 8-23-17 – Library - Resignation

Resen Messer - 8-1-17 – Fire – Certification - B-36 to B-38

Gabriel Sosa - 8-1-17 – Fire – Certification - E-36 to E-38

Andrew Crespin - 8-1-17 – Fire – Certification - C-36 to C-38

Lawrence Baca - 9-1-17 – Fire - Additional Job Duties – Inspections and All Training - U-46 to U-50

Johnathan Rhodes - 8-15-17 – Fire – Certification - A-27 to A-30

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Brian Standefer - 8-21-17 – Water – Certification - H-37 to H-39
Adolfo Baca - 8-3-17 – Water - Resignation

Temporary New Hires: Ricky Silva, Jeremy Gallegos

Temporary Renewals: Elias Jacquez, Chris Carrillo, Paul Foulenfont, Jerry Griego, Pat Silva, Sebastian Alvarado, Marcella Alvarado, David Chavez, Zach Anaya, Tiara Jojola, Justin Lopez, Ray Aragon, Placido Chavez, James Chavez, Steven Chavez, Johnny Jaramillo, Gabriel Lopez, Deekota Chavez

Student Workers: Taylor Saavedra, Ryan Lopez, Ambriel Mauldin, Lucas Madril, Malorri Martinez

Referees (8), Zumba/Yoga (6)

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Business Registrations

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

All Around Transportation - Out of Town - 2183 State Road 1 - Johnny Sedillo - Non-Emergency Transport

Auto Chlor System of San Diego Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Commercial Dishwasher Rentals, Products & Services

Villa's Roofing - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Valentin Villa - Roofing

Bloom Flowers & Gifts - C-2 - 801 California Street - Sandee & Fred Torres - Florist & Gift Shop

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

e. Voucher Run

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve vouchers 142081 to 142308 in the amount of \$691,107.54 plus Payroll Transfers (\$349,740.37), for a total of \$1,040,847.91. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

f. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:47 p.m., Councilor Fleming motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk

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