

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
September 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Councilor Peter Romero, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Mayor Ravi Bhasker and Councilor (Mayor Pro-Tem) Gordy Hicks were absent.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to appoint Councilor Olguin as Mayor Pro-Tem for the September 5, 2017 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin expressed condolences for the recent passing of Socorro residents Abba Maiga and Ed Hagan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Olguin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 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 21, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Larry Cowan stated that a horseshoe tournament is held every year at the City's horseshoe pits located at Sedillo Park. Mr. Cowan stated that he would like to bring more tournaments to Socorro. Mr. Cowan thanked the City for providing and maintaining the horseshoe pits. Mr. Cowan requested that City crews mow the grass a little shorter, add sand to the pits and clear the pits/walkways of any trash and weeds. Mr. Cowan stated that should the City ever construct concrete pits, he may be able to bring the State tournament to Socorro.

Sooraj Bhatia, a NM Tech student, stated that he would like to pursue a vertical farm greenhouse project in Socorro. Mr. Bhatia stated that the project would provide healthy foods to youth in Socorro. Mr. Bhatia stated that he would like to engage a grant writer to apply for grants that will assist with making the project sustainable long term. Mr. Bhatia stated that he would like to contact local farmers to see if they feel the project is feasible. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the farmer's market on the plaza might be a good place to contact farmers. Councilor Salome suggested Mr. Bhatia contact Socorro Schools to see how they could participate in the project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks arrived.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Chile Harvest Triathlon - Update

John Leeper, President of Striders and Riders, stated that the 22nd Annual Chile Harvest Triathlon was a huge success. Mr. Leeper stated that there were many participants from other cities and states. Mr. Leeper thanked the City of Socorro for supporting the event and providing the tents and EMS personnel. Beth Kadall stated that there were 51 youth participants in the event. Ms. Kadall also thanked the City and all of the volunteers for their support.

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b. Application for Special Use Permit – Jacqueline Bryn (Intor Inc.) – 1445 NM Frontage Road

Mike Czosnek, Building Inspector, stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission heard a request for a special use permit (for 1445 NW Frontage Road) from Jacqueline Bryn on August 17, 2017. Mr. Czosnek stated that Ms. Bryn would like to place a mobile home in a C-2 zone. Mr. Czosnek stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the special use permit to the City Council. Councilor Olguin stated that he has traditionally voted no on these types of requests in the past. Councilor Olguin asked if the zone would change with approval of the request to which Mr. Czosnek replied no. Mr. Czosnek stated that this request applies only to this applicant and not future owners of the property.

Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit for Jacqueline Bryn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Olguin voted no and the remaining Councilors voted yes. Motion passes.

c. Approval of MRGEDA Support

Mr. Monette stated that when this item was discussed at the previous City Council meeting, Mayor Bhasker asked for more details on how the requested \$10,000 would be used. Mr. Monette provided an invoice to the Council with those details. Per the invoice, MRGEDA will assist the City in finding ways to bring cheaper electricity rates to Socorro, assist the City in bringing broadband to Socorro and assist in finding funding opportunities to help jumpstart a workforce training facility in Socorro. Councilor Olguin introduced Bruce Swingle, the Chairman of the MRGEDA Board. Councilor Olguin stated that Georgia Otero-Kirkham, MRGEDA Executive Director, was also at the meeting. Mr. Swingle stated that among other reasons, a regional economic development board is needed to help rural communities with sustainable growth. Mr. Swingle stated that rural communities pooling monies will have the best impact in those regions. Mr. Swingle stated that the MRGEDA Board spent 18 months developing a comprehensive plan. Mr. Swingle stated that there are several different committees within the board. Don Boyd, a MRGEDA board member, stated that monies coming into MRGEDA will not be allocated specifically to the entity the monies came from rather the board will take a regional approach to see where the monies will best be used. Mr. Boyd stated that the state is looking at the possibility of a trail (hiking, biking, etc.) that connects Colorado and Texas and if Socorro can connect to that trail, there will be a huge impact to Socorro. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, asked if regular reporting can be added to the invoice so that the Mayor and City Council can get regular reports from the board.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the \$10,000 one-time contribution to MRGEDA. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Olguin abstained and the remaining Councilors voted yes. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the county fair and rodeo was well-attended.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the Captain Laura S. Haines M Mountain Fly-In and memorial barrel racing event will be held September 23, 2017.

Mr. Monette stated that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Tractor Supply will be held on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

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NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mr. Monette:

Wes Mauldin – 8-17-17 – Police – Completed Probation – A-39 to A-40

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Salome motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mr. Monette:

Hotcoat Systems Inc. dba Sourdough Mine - C-2 - 115 Abeyta – Corporation - Restaurant
Luna's Fashion & More - C-2 - Flea Market - Heriberto Luna Vasquez - Chili & Watermelon
Charlie's Paint & Body / Alcolock - C-2 - 209 California Street - Debbie Thompson - Ignition
Interlocks

Bailey Land & Cattle - Out of Town - Bernalillo, NM – Corporation - Construction
Ace Asphalt of Arizona Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Asphalt
Maintenance

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday,
September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 p.m., Councilor Romero 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

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