

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 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, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Peter Romero was absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. September 5, 2017**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. National Manufacturing Month - Proclamation**

Mayor Bhasker read a proclamation declaring October 2017 as National Manufacturing Month in the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that in the past, Solaro (a business located in the City's Industrial Park) provided tours of their facility on National Manufacturing Day.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Larry Cowan shared his 2<sup>nd</sup> place horseshoe tournament trophy with the Mayor and Council. Mr. Cowan stated that the Socorro Open horseshoe tournament will be held in Socorro on May 12, 2018 and the Peter Baca Classic horseshoe tournament will be held in Socorro on June 9, 2018. Mayor Bhasker and the Council congratulated Mr. Cowan on his accomplishment.

Councilor Romero arrived.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that final enrollment numbers were slightly down but it could be due to such a large graduating class last year. Mr. Stone stated that the President's Golf Tournament brought in over \$195,000 which will go towards assisting NM Tech students. Mr. Stone stated that he will represent NM Tech at the upcoming Governor's Summit for Higher Education in Albuquerque.

Sean Standiford, the NM Tech Student Association Vice-President, stated that the Student Association is planning a community day for October 27<sup>th</sup> and he would like to include various City departments in the event.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION ONLY**

**a. Ordinance No. 17-09-18 – Uniform Traffic Ordinance**

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 17-09-18. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the 2017 amendments to the State of New Mexico Uniform Traffic Ordinance.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the ordinance is on the agenda for approval for publication only.

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 2017**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 17-09-18 for publication only. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Animal Shelter Advisory Board – Animal Control Ordinance - Discussion**

Kathe Maclaren explained that the Animal Shelter Advisory Board bylaws allow the board to make recommendations for updates to the animal control ordinance. Ms. Maclaren stated that approximately eight months ago, the board presented the City Administration with an amended ordinance. Ms. Maclaren provided the Mayor and Council with a handout outlining some of the proposed changes. Ms. Maclaren stated that the board is requesting that the Administration begin the process of evaluating the new ordinance. Ms. Maclaren stated that Pat Gonzales, the City's Animal Shelter Director, is in favor of the amended ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint a committee, including Kenneth Greenwood from the Socorro Police Department, Pat Gonzales from the Animal Shelter, Donald Monette, City Administrator and two other people from the ASAB, to review the ordinance. Mayor Bhasker stated that proposed ordinance should be looked at with common sense and with the City's budget in mind. Ms. Maclaren stated that the City's attorney should also review the proposed ordinance.

**b. Sites Southwest – Bikeways and Trails Plan**

Phyllis Taylor, of Sites Southwest, presented the final City of Socorro Bikeways and Trail Master Plan. Ms. Taylor stated that the plan has a complete network of bicycle and pedestrian trails. Ms. Taylor stated that input for the plan came from meetings with various groups, users and members of the public. James Foty, of Sites Southwest, showed a map of the bike lanes and walking trails. Mr. Foty stated that the plan identifies 16 potential projects, project implementation, project financing and priorities.

**1. Public Hearing**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

John Leeper, President of Striders and Riders, stated that Sites Southwest was very responsive to suggestions and that he supports the adoption of the plan.

Angelica Rael, of the South Central Council of Governments, stated that the SCCOG assisted in the beginning stages of developing the plan and that an entity is more likely to get funding for projects if the plan has already been adopted. Ms. Rael stated that the SCCOG would be happy to assist the City in identifying funding sources and assisting with funding applications.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to create a committee to prioritize the recommendations and assist the South Central Council of Governments in looking for funding for the projects. Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to postpone the adoption of the plan to the next Council meeting so that everyone has time to review the document. Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Hicks and Dave Burleigh volunteered to be on the committee.

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

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 2017**

**2. Adoption of Bikeways and Trails Plan**

Councilor Olguin made a motion to postpone the item until the next City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Resolution No. 17-09-18a – Application for 5311 Rural & Small Urban Transportation Program Funding**

Mr. Santillanes presented Resolution No. 17-09-18a which, if approved, allows the City to request funding for a public transportation system through the 5311 Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Program. Mr. Santillanes stated that in making the request, the City will commit and have a funding match which will be funded through the City's general fund. Mr. Santillanes stated that the amount of matching funds to the City is \$157,005.00. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has had discussions with Dr. Wells at NM Tech regarding a fixed route for students.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-09-18a. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Resolution No. 17-09-18b – Surplus Equipment**

Mr. Monette presented Resolution No. 17-09-18b which, if approved, deems the following as surplus equipment:

1990 GMC TOP Dump Truck (VIN 9970)  
2005 Ford Crown Victoria (VIN 7190)  
2009 Chevy Impala (VIN 6562)  
2004 GMC Sierra (VIN 7764)

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-09-18b. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that Parks Department crews have been spraying and cutting weeds, mowing the parks, replacing lights at the baseball fields, adding gravel to the medians and Veteran's Park and fixing the bricks in the Plaza. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been working on the Springs arsenic treatment plant, performing maintenance on the lift stations and mending the fence at Mariposa Pond. Mr. Martinez stated that the water sampling done in July was in compliance with State regulations. Mr. Martinez stated that SBR 1 and 3 at the wastewater treatment plant had been drained and cleaned. Mr. Martinez stated that Water Department crews have been fixing water leaks, replacing fire hydrants, working on the cross-country track and cutting weeds. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew planted trees on Enterprise Road and Grefco Road and finished the fence separating the rodeo arena and soccer fields.

Jim Dewey Brown, Tourism Director & Event Manager, stated that to date, there have been 26 rodeo-related events at the new arena. Mr. Brown stated that the employees in Mr. Martinez's department are doing a great job at the arena. Mr. Brown stated that the High School Rodeo Association has requested that the City submit a proposal to hold nearly all their regular season events at the Socorro arena. Mr. Brown stated that his tourism employees, Katy and Felipe, are doing an excellent job. Mr. Brown stated that Katy

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 2017**

and Felipe have been busy with advertising and assisting with the Socorrfest and Festival of the Cranes events. Mayor Bhasker stated that the fly-in at the airport, with accompanying memorial barrel race, are coming up. Mayor Bhasker stated the City received a grant from Kaboom for some large legos which have been placed at the rodeo arena and that they will be unveiled on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Bhasker stated that all the departments have been working great together at the rodeo arena and that eventually, the Tourism Department will need a bigger staff.

Pat Gonzales, Animal Shelter Director, stated that operations are normal at the animal shelter. Mr. Gonzales stated that there are several animal transports coming up. Mr. Gonzales stated that there has been a recent issue with skunks and that the department has placed traps in an effort to trap the skunks.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that with the help of the Civil Air patrol, crews have been busy cleaning the airport to prepare for the fly-in event. Mr. Santillanes stated that the fly-in will include skydivers and food vendors. Mr. Santillanes stated that the old fuel tank from the airport has been deemed surplus equipment by the City and will now go to Tumbleweed Auction. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Transportation Department will provide transportation for the Trinity Site event and Festival of the Cranes event. Mr. Santillanes stated that the dialysis route to Los Lunas will end soon since the patients will begin receiving their treatment in Socorro.

Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that all autos/equipment are up and running. Chief Gonzales stated that call volume is up 20%. Chief Gonzales stated that ambulance services are being provided at all the events at the rodeo arena. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing. Chief Gonzales stated that one Fire Department employee will be retiring at the end of October.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that crews finished hauling rip rap from the rodeo arena to the landfill. Mr. Lucero stated that crews will begin grinding trees into mulch next month. Mr. Lucero stated that he is still waiting on approval from the NM Environment Department to open the recycling center.

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that Britta Herweg-Samuels has resigned her position with the library. Mr. Padilla invited everyone to Native American Heritage Day on September 21<sup>st</sup> for a day full of activities. Mr. Padilla stated that the library is selling memorial pins in order to raise money for the Clovis-Carver Public Library that recently experienced an attack which killed two employees. Mr. Padilla stated that the library recently submitted their strategic plan, community analysis, needs assessment, collection development policy and annual statistics to the State of New Mexico. Mr. Padilla reviewed the McCune Grant, GO Bond 2014, GO Bond 2016 and State Grants-In-Aid.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from August 2017. Chief Winders stated that Officer Vince Mirabal will graduate from the police academy in approximately 6 weeks. Chief Winders stated that employee Gilbert Gonzales recently became a certified evidence and property technician. Chief Winders stated that the department will now review policies regarding evidence and property to see if anything needs to be updated. Chief Winders stated that the department is fully-staffed and officers are working four ten-hour shifts.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from August 2017. Mr. Tarango stated that call volume has increased slowly now that the State Police

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 2017**

office has limited hours. Mr. Tarango stated that he has a meeting in Sierra County to discuss the possibility of them being the City's backup PSAP should Socorro's PSAP go down. Mr. Tarango stated that his office is hosting training on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Socorro which is open to dispatchers, police officers and EMS personnel.

Ms. Saavedra stated that she and Kristy (the payroll office backup) recently processed uniform allowance checks for police officers.

Mr. Monette stated that the ribbon cutting ceremony at Tractor Supply would be held September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Monette stated that the City was awarded a \$634,000 CDBG grant for the continuation of work in the Texas Street area. Mr. Santillanes stated that the City also received the MAP grant for \$312,000 to continue work on Fairgrounds Road.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to a concern regarding a road in Eastwood Estates, the City has improved the road in order to allow for new construction in the area. Mayor Bhasker stated that Pinon Street and Short Street were also improved recently.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Final Budget Approval by DFA – FY 2017-2018**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's FY 2017-2018 final budget was approved by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

**b. Personnel Changes**

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

Pauline Taylor – 9-30-17 – Wastewater – Resignation/Retirement

Cassandra Benjamin – 9-23-17 – Finance to Transportation – Transfer to Transportation Driver/Administrative Assistant – L-24 to L-27

Temporary New Hires: None

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

Student Workers: Taylor Saavedra, Ryan Lopez, Ambriel Mauldin, Lucas Madril, Malorri Martinez, Nicole Crespin, Victor Chavez, Amanda Torres

Referees (4), Zumba/Yoga (5)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

None.

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**September 18, 2017**

**d. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 142309 to 142619 in the amount of \$649,035.75 plus Payroll Transfers (\$319,308.60), for a total of \$968,344.35. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, October 2, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:37 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

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/s/  
**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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/s/  
**Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk**