

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**October 2, 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 Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Michael Olguin were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bhasker also asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas, Nevada shooting on October 1, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2, 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. September 18, 2017**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. Retirement – Pauline Taylor**

Mayor Bhasker presented a plaque to Pauline Taylor, who retired from the Wastewater Department on September 30, 2017 after 30 years of service. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked Ms. Taylor for her many years of hard work and dedication to the job. Ms. Taylor thanked the Mayor and City Council.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Matt Romero, New Mexico State Police Captain, explained to the Mayor and Council the changes involving State Police dispatch and further explained that there will not be a change in law enforcement services in Socorro County. Captain Romero stated that there has been an increase in officers in the district which includes Catron, Sierra and Socorro County. Captain Romero explained that the New Mexico State Police Office in Socorro is still a fully-functioning building but that State Police is implementing a consolidation of dispatch services to Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Captain Romero stated that 575-835-0741 still reaches the New Mexico State Police Office in Socorro. Captain Romero stated that there is no change in police coverage with continued 24-hour availability. Mayor Bhasker thanked the New Mexico State Police for all the services they provide. Captain Romero stated that as of October 1, 2017, dispatch services are fully-functional and it is the same process with the exception of the calls going to Albuquerque.

Pablo Lopez expressed concerns about a broken water meter. Mr. Lopez stated that City personnel did not “show up” and then he was told that the leak was not on the City-side and repairs would be his responsibility. Mr. Lopez stated that the meter continued to leak and when City personnel drained the meter, the leak was on the City- side. Mr. Lopez stated that he was told he would get an adjustment on his utility bill but the adjustment has not shown on his utility bill. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, advised Mr. Lopez that it takes a full utility billing cycle for the adjustment to appear to ensure the leak was fixed. Mr. Lopez also stated that he was recently crossing California Street and a City police officer almost hit him. Mr. Lopez stated that he believes the officer was on his cell phone. Mike Winders, Police Chief, stated that when this incident occurred, the police officer notified him of the incident immediately. Mr. Lopez also wanted to discuss an incident that happened in front of City Hall. Mr. Lopez stated that an

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unnamed man was speeding down the road and when they saw one another at City Hall, the unnamed man opened his door and hit Mr. Lopez. Mr. Lopez stated that the unnamed man hit him on the head and stepped on his toe and broke his toe. Mr. Lopez stated that he was cited for public affray but he disagrees with the citation because he himself was assaulted. Chief Winders stated that police officers based their citation on eyewitness accounts.

Dr. Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that New Mexico Tech was awarded the top education program award amongst universities. Dr. Stone stated that the grand opening of the Loma Theatre would be held November 3, 2017 and thanked the City of Socorro, Dr. Wells and First State Bank for their efforts in reopening the theater. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would put information regarding the Loma Theatre in the City utility bills. Dr. Stone stated that New Mexico Tech had a leadership retreat during which they reviewed a strategic plan regarding funding and how New Mexico Tech will adjust to budget constrictions. Dr. Stone stated that he attended the Governor's Summit on Higher Education where dual credit programs between high schools and colleges were discussed. Dr. Stone stated that although some schools feel overwhelmed, New Mexico Tech does not see dual credit programs as a burden. Dr. Wells stated that he sees the dual credit program as an opportunity to get students to New Mexico Tech. Dr. Stone advised that the State of New Mexico is also pushing for 4-year degree programs to be completed in 4 years but a survey of New Mexico Tech students indicates that students are not concerned about completing a 4-year program in 4 years. Mayor Bhasker asked the Transportation Department to consider providing transportation from New Mexico Tech to the Loma Theatre for NM Tech students.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to adopt the bikeways and trails plan. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Jay Santillanes, Transportation Director, stated that the next step will be to have a committee meeting. Phyllis Taylor, of Sites Southwest, stated that the plan would be amended to read "improved trails" instead of "paved trails". Mr. Santillanes gave credit to Isaac Burleigh for submitting the application for the grant.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bhasker introduced Demecio Silva, Street Superintendent, and welcomed him to his first Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Street Department recently worked on Pinon Street, Short Street and Eastwood Estates. Mayor Bhasker also stated that City personnel has been doing a good job at maintaining flood water utilizing multiple ponds such as Franklin Pond and Mariposa Pond.

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Mayor Bhasker stated that the rodeo facility has been doing well and that the City will be hosting the NMRA Rodeo Finals on October 20-21, 2017. Mayor Bhasker stated that City staff met with NMDOT regarding entrances from Highway 60 into the rodeo arena.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with the NM Secretary of Cultural Affairs and they are very interested in moving the El Camino Real Heritage Center to Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that there are concerns about the empty building where the Heritage Center was previously housed.

Mayor Bhasker advised that Kirkland Construction was supposed to start road repairs during September. Mr. Santillanes stated that he received a phone call from Kirkland Construction and they will be in Socorro on October 3rd to mark roads and begin repairs on all sections of the roads that were damaged during their project.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez asked about the pond at the north end of 5<sup>th</sup> Street getting backed up during the recent rains. Mr. Silva stated that it has been cleaned out. Mr. Silva stated that currently there is nowhere to drain the water in the pond but he plans to discuss the matter with the MRGCD to look for a solution.

**a. Broadband Update**

Mayor Bhasker stated that he met with an unnamed company about broadband and they will be at the November 6, 2017 Council meeting to do a presentation. Mayor Bhasker stated that this company does a house-to-house connection, similar to water lines, and installs a microfiber in the curb through a 12" micro-trench.

**b. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Barbara Silva – 9-30-17 – Finance - Resignation

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Registrations**

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

Autumn Garcia Photography - NM Tech - Romero Drive on Tech Campus - Autumn Garcia - Photography, Video & Media

Resource Wise LLC - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation - Consultant & Distributor

Home Depot USA Inc. - Out of Town - Tempe, AZ – Corporation - Home Improvement

GS Enterprises Construction - R-1 (Approved by P&Z) - 512 Hannah - Gene & Michael Saavedra - Construction

Dusty's Burgers N More - Out of Town - Polvadera, NM - Prescilla Parra - Mobile Food Unit

Residential Gourmet - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM - Brent Michaud - Food Sales

Seconded by Councilor Chavez Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**d. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:42 p.m., Councilor Jaramillo 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**