

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 6, 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 Peter Romero, Councilor Anton Salome, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Toby Jaramillo and Councilor Michael Olguin. Councilor Gordy Hicks was 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 Sutherland Springs, Texas shooting on November 5, 2017.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. October 16, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Socorro Rotary Club – Dan Klingsmith – Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Dan Klingsmith, a member of the Socorro Rotary Club, explained that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library was founded in 1995 and is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth until they begin school, no matter their family's income. Mr. Klingsmith stated that the Rotary Club is in the process of raising money to fund the program which costs \$25.00 per year per child. Mr. Klingsmith stated that the Rotary Club is working with Beth Beers, from Socorro general Hospital, to identify children for the program. Mr. Klingsmith provided a handout regarding the program. Mayor Bhasker stated that information regarding the program can be placed in the City's utility bills. Beth Beers stated that she is excited about the program and appreciates the City's support. Ms. Beers stated that the program encourages multi-generational reading in families.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that with the cooperation of NM Tech, the City of Socorro and several private businesses, the grand opening of the Loma Theater was a success. Mr. Stone stated that he recently attended a higher education master planning meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that he will be proposing a consortium of NM Tech, the City of Socorro, Socorro County and Socorro Consolidated Schools to build a new physical education facility.

Councilor Salome stated that Parkview School's grade changed from an F to a C and he believes the change was achieved by partnership programs such as the Match NM Mentoring Program (NM Tech students mentoring 3rd grade students) and the tutoring program at the City's Youth Center (NM Tech students tutoring youth center participants).

Deborah Dean and Ronna Kalish reported on the recent Socorrofest event. Ms. Dean thanked the City for continuing to support the event. Ms. Dean thanked the local musicians and stated that over 400 people attended the event on Saturday night. Ms. Kalish stated that the event showcases local arts, musicians and

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the City's plaza. Ms. Kalish stated that she hopes the City will continue to support the event. Ms. Kalish outlined several other events sponsored by the NM Tech Performing Arts Series.

Councilor Olguin, who is the Socorro High School Lady Warrior soccer coach, presented the State Runner-Up A-4A trophy won by the Lady Warriors. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated Councilor Olguin and the players on their successful season. Councilor Olguin thanked the City for providing a great practice area for the players at the City's sports complex. Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to invite the players to the next City Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker agreed and stated that he would like to provide them with certificates of achievement.

Councilor Salome congratulated the City's Recreation Department on providing an excellent haunted house for the community.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

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

Mayor Bhasker presented Ordinance No. 17-09-18.

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the 2017 amendments to the State of New Mexico Uniform Traffic Ordinance.

There were no other comments from the public.

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

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 17-09-18. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fleming. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Broadband – Harmonix Presentation

Mayor Bhasker stated that representatives from Harmonix were unable to attend the meeting and the item will be postponed until the next City Council meeting.

b. Resolution No. 17-11-06 – Asset Management Plan

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 17-11-06 which, if approved, authorizes the development and implementation of a City of Socorro Asset Management Plan. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the City has contracted with Dennis Engineering to create the plan. Mr. Monette stated that points will be awarded for a CDBG project if the entity has an asset management plan. Mr. Monette stated that approval of the resolution also commits the City to updating and managing the plan.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-11-06. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Funding for a Location Study for the Escondida Bridge Project - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that County Commissioner Glen Duggins has proposed that a bridge be constructed on East Frontage Road over the diversion channel. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is a need for funding for a study for the proposed construction. Mayor Bhasker stated that Socorro County, Socorro Consolidated Schools and the MRGCD are asking the City to allocate \$50,000 towards the study. Mayor Bhasker stated that the item will be sent to the Budget Committee for consideration. Mayor Bhasker asked the City Council to also consider the request.

d. Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board – MOU's for FY 2018

Ms. Gonzales stated that part of the requirement for the SCJJB's funding is to annually approve MOU's with the entities involved. Mayor Bhasker presented the following agencies for approval as part of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board:

Matthew Reynolds, District Court
Gail Armstrong, State Representative
Clint Wellborn, District Attorney
Carolina Romero, Socorro Schools
Kathy Riley, Attorney
Savannah Morris, Socorro County Prevention Coalition
Presbyterian Medical Services
Matt Romero, NM State Police
Mable Gonzales, City of Socorro
Socorro County Commission
Melissa Salazar, Health Council
Chuck Zimmerly, Retired
Elizabeth Beers, Socorro General Hospital
Theresa Kappel, Behavioral Health/Prevention
Jackie Muncy, Department of Health
Rita Cragun, CYFD
Healthy Kids Socorro

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration is considering moving the teen center to the City's youth center and the youth center over to Finley Gym so that the older kids and younger kids are separated. Mayor Bhasker stated that another alternative is moving the youth center to Finley Gym and closing the youth center building to save on costs.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agencies as part of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

e. EMRTC Road - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that 20 years ago, a bypass road was built off I-25 leading to EMRTC. Mayor Bhasker stated that the purpose of the road was to allow large trucks to get to NM Tech without going through City streets. Mayor Bhasker stated that the road has become heavy with commuter traffic. Mayor Bhasker stated that recently, the bridge over the diversion channel was deemed not safe for traffic over 10 tons by the NMDOT. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration has a meeting November 17th with the company who built the road and the engineers to determine how to proceed with repairing the bridge. Mayor Bhasker stated that he may

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suggest that the bypass road become a toll road which may encourage commuters to go through the City rather than on the bypass road. Some discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker stated that gross receipts are down \$100,000, or 10%, for this quarter.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Romero stated that there would be a Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Isidro Baca Park.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that the SEC provided a copy of their contract with Tri-State but that the appendix was not included. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has requested a copy of the appendix.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Resen Messer – 10-16-17 – Fire – Completed Probation – B-38 to B-38 (no change)

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

American Steel Carports Inc. - Out of Town - Joshua, Texas – Corporation - Install Metal Carports

Le Bon Gifts - Out of Town - Belen, NM - Sylvia Montoya - Vending

The Aisling Company LLC - Out of Town - Luis Lopez, NM - Casey Spurgin - Construction

Paradise Travel - C-2 - 315 N California Street - Jeff Armijo - Travel Management

Rockefellers Construction Inc. - Out of Town - Albuquerque, NM – Corporation – Construction

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:43 p.m., Councilor Romero motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

