

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
November 20, 2017

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Saavedra led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. November 6, 2017

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Socorro High School Lady Warrior Soccer

Councilor Olguin, who is the SHS Lady Warrior Soccer Coach, presented each of the Socorro High School Lady Warrior players with a certificate of recognition from the City of Socorro. Each of the players introduced herself and stated what grade she is in and what position she plays. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks and the City Council congratulated the players on making it to the State Championship.

PUBLIC FORUM

John Lopez, CFO and Co-Owner of the Duke City Gladiators, explained that the Gladiators play professional indoor football in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Councilor Romero arrived.

Mr. Lopez stated that the organization would like to reach out to neighboring communities to see how the communities can be included in their events. Mr. Lopez stated that the organization provides a family environment during each game which includes tailgating, food, a DJ, jumping balloons, free youth haircuts, mommy massages and more. Mr. Lopez stated that the organization is also an official purple heart team with the designation being awarded because of their continued support of the military. Dominic Bramante, Head Coach, stated that youth athletics are very important as participation builds self-esteem. Mr. Bramante stated that ways the team can become involved in the Socorro community include hosting their 2-week camp in Socorro, visiting the schools or hosting a camp for local kids. Mr. Lopez stated that he would like to meet with the City Administration and local businesses to see how the Duke City Gladiators can be a part of the Socorro community. Some discussion followed.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. SERVivor's Volleyball Team - Update

Cecelia Sanchez, a member of the City of Socorro SERVivor's Volleyball Senior Olympic Team, thanked the City of Socorro for sponsoring the team at the Senior Olympics. Ms. Sanchez also thanked the City's Recreation Department for assisting the team with their practices at Finley Gym. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks and the City Council congratulated the players in their participation at the Senior Olympics.

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b. Socorro County Prevention Coalition - Update

Savannah Morris provided a handout and gave an update regarding the Socorro County Prevention Coalition's activities for 2017. Ms. Morris stated that some of those activities include receiving a \$25,000 grant for teen suicide prevention, partnering with Kelly's Pharmacy to provide prescription lock boxes to the community and collecting 426.5 pounds of unwanted prescription medications. Ms. Morris stated that the SCPC also merged with SCOPE, NMT ASAP and the local health council. Kirstina Ward provided a handout regarding NM ASAP (NM Tech's Alcohol Safety Awareness Program) and stated that their mission is to increase protective behaviors and decrease negative consequences associated with alcohol and drugs in the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks thanked Ms. Morris and Ms. Ward for their update.

c. Beautification Committee – Mural Agreement

Karen DeBont and Beth Wells stated that they would like to discuss the proposed mural for City Hall. Ms. Wells stated that the Beautification Committee would like the City to invest up to \$4,000 for the mural and then hold a competition and allow artists to submit an idea for the City Hall mural. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that Mayor Bhasker would like the public to be able to vote on the mural as it would be painted on public property. Ms. Wells suggested a committee to review the submissions and narrow it down in order for the public to vote.

Councilor Romero made a motion to allow the City Administration to draft an agreement regarding the City Hall mural. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 17-11-20 – 2018 Municipal Election

Ms. Saavedra presented Resolution No. 17-11-20 for the 2018 Regular Municipal Election. Ms. Saavedra stated that the resolution contains information regarding vacant elective offices, polling places, consolidated precincts, absentee and early voting information, filing day information, voter registration information, designates the method by which voters will cast their votes and how they will be counted. Ms. Saavedra stated that the resolution must be approved both in English and Spanish. Ms. Saavedra stated that Election Day will be March 6, 2018. Ms. Saavedra stated that candidate packets are available for anyone interested in running for office.

Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve Resolution No. 17-11-20 both in English and in Spanish. Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Donald Padilla, Library Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Padilla stated that there was a leak in the roof during the last rain. Mr. Padilla stated that the Youth Services Librarian position has not yet been filled. Mr. Padilla stated that approximately 45 people attended the Dia de los Muertos event and that staff is currently planning the upcoming holiday event. Mr. Padilla reviewed the library's grants and donations.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the airport fuel credit card machine is in working order and that a part is still needed for repairs to the lighting system. Mr. Santillanes stated that operations are normal in the Auto Maintenance Department. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Transportation Department provided transportation during the recent Festival of the Cranes event.

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Joe Gonzales, Fire Chief, stated that one ambulance is in the auto shop for repairs and should be done by next week. Chief Gonzales stated that employee training is ongoing. Chief Gonzales stated that the annual matanza fundraiser will be held December 2nd at the Plaza. Chief Gonzales stated that the funds raised are used to buy gifts for local children during the holiday season.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that crews finished work on the Mariposa Street drainage pond and on the cross-country track at the sports complex. Mr. Silva stated that crews will now begin work on the 5th Street drainage pond and will install the holiday lights on California Street. Mr. Silva stated that the street sweeper is in the auto shop for repairs. Mr. Silva stated that the Socorro County Road Department will be assisting the City with work on potholes that are near the outside of the City limits. Mr. Silva stated that in 2017, the City improved Melody Lane, Pinon Street and Short Street and the department hopes to do 3 or 4 street improvement projects each year.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that the water truck is in the auto shop for repairs. Mr. Lucero stated that the Sanitation Department purchased a used truck. Mr. Lucero stated that the Recycling Center at the landfill is receiving a lot of recyclables.

Abie Baca, Gas Superintendent, stated that all Gas Department vehicles/equipment are up and running. Mr. Baca stated that during the recent bout of cold weather, the gas pressures were good.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the Parks Department crew prepared Isidro Baca Park for the Veteran's Day ceremony and will now work on decorating the Plaza for the holidays and pruning trees on School of Mines Road and the medians. Mr. Martinez stated that Production Department crew painted at the arsenic treatment plants, replaced valves at the arsenic treatment plants, installed new electrical panels at the Cuba Road lift station and replaced effluent pipes at the Otero Street lift station. Mr. Martinez stated that while everything is now online at the wastewater treatment plant, there have been some issues with power surges. Mr. Martinez stated that the Water Department crew ran 2,000 feet of water main lines at the sports complex and will be adding frost free hydrants for portable stalls. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew is installing playground equipment in 2 locations at the rodeo arena/sports complex and will be working on the trees in that area.

Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from October 2017. Chief Winders stated that officers recently attended training regarding the new requirement that officers carry Narcan. Chief Winders stated that the department provided security for the photography equipment at the recent Festival of the Cranes event. Chief Winders stated that the department will provide active shooter training at the Socorro Public Library on November 22nd. Chief Winders stated that department recently completed their annual firearms training. Chief Winders stated that the department recovered a stolen vehicle, is working on a local fraud case and are moving forward with a past burglary case. Chief Winders stated that department is now accepting names for the annual Toys from Cops to Tots program.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from October 2017. Mr. Tarango stated that calls have increased in the last 2 months. Mr. Tarango stated that one dispatcher will soon be leaving for the academy. Mr. Tarango stated that all equipment is up and running and employee training is ongoing. Mr. Tarango stated that now that the State Police dispatch office has closed, all of the dispatch equipment, including the generator, will be moved to the Dispatch Department as the City owns all of the items.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jaramillo stated that he is starting work on his 48th annual food drive. Councilor Jaramillo thanked the City for their support of the food drive during the Turkey Bingo event. Councilor Jaramillo stated this this year's food drive is in honor of his wife, Ermelinda, who passed away in June of this year.

Mr. Monette stated that Healthy Kids was awarded a grant for an outside gym which will be placed at either Sedillo Park or the rodeo facility.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech Liaison, stated that NM Tech will be doing an event during the week of December 4th through 8th which will include food trucks parked along Leroy Street.

Mr. Monette stated that Mayor Bhasker signed a letter of support encouraging that the City of Socorro be made a STEM community.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks suggested that the City Council be provided with tablets or laptops.

a. Personnel Changes

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

Brittany McDaniel - 10-3-17 - Municipal Court – Merit - \$9.74 per hour to \$12.00 per hour

Barbara Scarborough - 10-3-17 - Municipal Court – Merit - 3% Increase - \$3010.00 per mo to \$3100.00 per mo

Shanon Crespin - 12-31-17 – Street - Retirement

William Brannan - 11-6-17 – Police - Transfer from Police Officer to Security Guard - B-37 to B-30

Lucario Mirabal - 10-27-17 – Police - Completed Probation & Certification - B-35 to B-40

Temporary New Hires: Stacy Greenwood, Marcia Amaro, Eva Chavez, Virginia Vivian

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, Wade Dixon

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

Referees (5), Zumba/Yoga (5)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

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MRC Pro LLC – Out of Town – San Antonio, NM – Mario Amaro – Construction/Home Inspections

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Voucher Run

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve vouchers 142901 to 143242 in the amount of \$684,019.30 plus Payroll Transfers (\$261,573.80), for a total of \$945,593.10. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, December 4, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hicks stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:27 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