

**City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**December 4, 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 Gordy Hicks and Councilor Michael Olguin. Councilor Toby Jaramillo was absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 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. November 20, 2017**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Nancy Bohling, a NM Tech student, explained that as part of their web design class, several students had developed a web page for the City's animal shelter. Ms. Bohling stated that once the City approves the page, the class will turn the web page over to the City to maintain. Ms. Bohling stated the page includes sections such as adoptable pets, lost pets, pet of the month and shelter events. Mayor Bhasker thanked the web design class for creating the page. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's IT Director can place a link on the City's website to the new page.

Cindy Rivera, Recreation Director, stated that on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, she and City employees Taylor Saavedra and Ambriel Mauldin, heard a cry for help. Ms. Rivera stated that Taylor and Ambriel immediately responded and provided first aid to the person in need. Ms. Rivera stated that the two girls remained calm and provided first aid until EMT's responded to the scene. Ms. Rivera stated that she is impressed by the way the two young ladies responded, without hesitation, to assist someone in need. Mayor Bhasker presented Taylor and Ambriel with a certificate of recognition for their actions on that day. Taylor and Ambriel were present to accept their certificates.

Ms. Rivera stated that the next blood drive would be held at the youth center on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rivera stated that this year, the American Red Cross is willing to donate \$200 for 20 pints of blood, \$300 for 25 pints of blood and \$400 for 30 pints of blood to the Toys for Tots from Cops program. Ms. Rivera stated youth center employees will be accepting canned good for the Toby Jaramillo's annual food drive during the blood drive.

Ms. Rivera thanked the Parks Department, Street Department, Police Department, Tourism Department and all of the City employees who helped make the Christmas lights parade and event on the plaza a success.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that City crews have been busy cleaning the cemetery where an illegal dumping area was found. Mr. Silva stated once crews finish that area, they will clean several areas of illegal dumping in various alleyways. Mayor Bhasker urged residents to take their trash to the landfill.

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**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

**a. Retirement – Ray Calkins – Fire Department**

Mayor Bhasker congratulated City employee Ray Calkins who retired from the Fire Department on October 31, 2017 after 14 years of service. Mr. Calkins did not attend the meeting. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council thanked Mr. Calkins for his many years of hard work and dedication to the job.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. AYSO Region 364 – Delilah Walsh**

Gwen Valentino thanked the City of Socorro for supporting the Turkey Tune-Up soccer tournament. Ms. Valentino stated that 13 teams participated in the event. Ms. Valentino stated that participants appreciated the gift bags provided by the City. Ms. Valentino also thanked the NM Tech students and SHS students who volunteered at the event. Councilor Olguin stated that AYSO soccer is a great organization for local youth.

Ms. Valentino also stated that members of the Hot Shot Robotics Team took home three top honors at a recent competition.

**b. NM Department of Health – Jackie Muncy**

Jackie Muncy, the Health Promotion Specialist for the NM Department of Health, invited everyone to attend Chronic Disease Self-Management Program training on January 18-19 and January 25-26 at the Socorro Public Health Office. Ms. Muncy stated that she would also like to help educate the community on mental health issues and hopes to develop a branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in Socorro. Ms. Muncy stated that she would like the Socorro Mental Health Foundation to be involved. Ms. Muncy stated that she is also working with SCOPE, the Socorro County Prevention Coalition and the NM Tech ASAP Program. Mayor Bhasker thanked Ms. Muncy for the information and stated that he feels the programs should be supported at a City level.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Olguin asked if anyone attended the Opioid Crisis in New Mexico workshop sponsored by Attorney General Hector Balderas. Mayor Bhasker stated that he did have background information from the workshop but did not attend. Councilor Olguin asked if the City was going to join in AG Balderas' lawsuit on behalf of the State of New Mexico against the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of opioids. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City had not been asked to join the lawsuit. Mayor Bhasker asked Ms. Muncy if she would be interested in following up on the status of the lawsuit to which she replied yes. Councilor Olguin stated that he feels the City of Socorro should support the efforts of AG Balderas.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Reporting on Personnel Changes**

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

Theodore Ygbuhay – 11-16-17 – Fire – Certification – B-33 to B-36

Abie Baca – 12-31-17 – Gas – Retirement

Mike Czosnek – 12-31-17 – Administration - Retirement

Seconded by Councilor Salome, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

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

The Hip Hop Shop – C-2 – 202 B California Street – Andres Lueras – Smoke Shop

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 12:00 noon in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:36 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**