

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
January 16, 2018

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 Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Anton Salome and Councilor Nick Fleming. Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Toby Jaramillo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. December 18, 2017

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

PUBLIC FORUM

a. Farmer's Market – Nick Kellar

Nick Kellar thanked the City of Socorro for allowing the Farmer's Market to use the Plaza. Mr. Kellar presented a memorandum of agreement between the Farmer's Market and the City of Socorro for consideration. Mr. Kellar stated that the Farmer's Market will provide liability insurance with the City named as an additional insured. Mr. Kellar stated that the Farmer's Market uses a room in Finley Gym for the winter season but requested that they be allowed to use the yoga room instead. Mr. Kellar stated that the Farmer's Market also operates in Alamo and Magdalena. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration will review the MOA and present it for consideration at a future City Council meeting.

Councilor Hicks arrived.

Al Smoake, from the Community Kitchen, who operates under the auspices of the Farmer's Market, also thanked the City for allowing them to use Finley Gym. Mr. Smoake stated that the Community Kitchen employs 5-10 people on a part-time basis. Mr. Smoake stated that the Community Kitchen has operated for approximately 8 years. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Smoake for attending the meeting and requested that the Farmer's Market and Community Kitchen provide the City Council with an update once or twice a year.

Lillian Armijo, the NM Tech liaison, stated that the spring semester had started. Ms. Armijo stated that Dr. Wells was currently attending the legislative session in Santa Fe. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that during future NM Tech orientations, the City is interested in providing a tour of Socorro to new students and parents. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Transportation Department is still working on providing a local route for NM Tech students so that they can get into town to grocery shop, etc.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Introduction of New Business – Danny Gerard

Danny Gerard explained that Gerard Distilling Company is a manufacturer of whiskey, bourbon and rum who would like to place their business in the City's Industrial Park. Mr. Gerard stated that he is currently working on obtaining state and federal licensing for the business. Mr. Gerard stated that

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the company would like to initially lease 6 acres of land with the option of 21 more acres later. Mr. Gerard stated that the business will provide 90-125 jobs for local residents and that he would also like to work with Socorro Schools and NM Tech to provide internships. Mr. Gerard stated that the facility will eventually be 100% solar, waste free and carbon neutral. Mr. Gerard stated that pecan trees will be planted and used in the distilling process. Mr. Gerard stated that the business plans to source their grains with local farmers.

Councilor Olguin asked if the company qualifies for LEDA funds. Mr. Gerard stated that it does qualify and that he has been meeting with the owners of Solaro to gather information as they are also utilizing LEDA funds. Councilor Olguin suggested Mr. Gerard meet with the NM Department of Workforce Solutions to see what programs they have for employee training. Mr. Gerard stated that he will work with Terry Tadano on a proposed industrial park lease and send it to the City Administration within the next week. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated Mr. Gerard on his new business venture.

b. CDBG Project Update

Tappan Mahoney, from Dennis Engineering, stated that the City was awarded the full amount for the CDBG project (Texas Street Area Improvements). Mr. Mahoney stated that the City's CDBG application was quoted by the committee as being the "best application submitted" resulting in a very high ranking. Mayor Bhasker thanked Dennis Engineering, Mr. Monette, Polo Pineda and everyone else who had a hand in developing the CDBG application. Mr. Mahoney stated that design for the project is completed and he expects there to be a 90-day construction period. Mr. Mahoney stated that the City had previously approved Dennis Engineering as the engineer for the project and requested confirmation that the company continue to provide engineering services through the construction phase.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to reconfirm Dennis Engineering as the engineer for the CDBG project. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 18-01-16a – Open Meetings Resolution

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-01-16a. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Open Meetings Resolution is passed several times a year including the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and after an election. Mayor Bhasker stated that the resolution follows requirements made by New Mexico State Statute for open meetings.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-01-16a. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Resolution No. 18-01-16b – Re-Adoption of Governing Body Rules of Procedure

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 18-01-16b which, if approved, reaffirms the Governing Body Rules of Procedure adopted April 7, 2014 and recognizes those rules as the method by which the Socorro City Council meetings are conducted. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Governing Body Rules of Procedure are re-adopted at the beginning of each calendar year, the beginning of each fiscal year and right after an election.

Councilor Olguin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-01-16b. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

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e. Transportation Department Drug & Alcohol Policy Update

Jay Santillanes, Transportation Department Director, presented updates to the Transportation Department's Drug & Alcohol Policy. Mr. Santillanes stated that the amendments are provided by the USDOT and will be effective January 1, 2018.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the updates to the Transportation Department's Drug & Alcohol Policy. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

f. Approval of Poll Workers for the 2018 Municipal Election

Mayor Bhasker presented a list of election poll workers for the March 6, 2018 municipal election. The list also shows which position each worker will serve in, the precinct they are assigned to and the location of the precinct.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the list of election poll workers for the March 6, 2018 municipal election. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

g. Socorro County Emergency Operations Plan

Mayor Bhasker presented a copy of Socorro County's Emergency Operations Plan and stated that the County would like the plan approved by the City of Socorro. Councilor Fleming stated that he had concerns regarding the plan including the fact that Comcast was referenced (as they no longer have a business in Socorro) and that there is an emergency alert system that the City's 911 office is not familiar with. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration will share those concerns with Socorro County.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Socorro County's Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

h. Budget Resolution No. 3 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are Transfer from Special Utility – Requirements are Local Street Projects – Amount is \$46,700.94 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolution No. 3. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

i. Permanent Supportive Housing – Letter of Support

Mayor Bhasker stated that the El Camino Real Housing Authority is requesting a letter of support for the construction of permanent supportive housing in the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration supports the project. Mr. Monette stated that he is in the process of writing the letter and a copy will be provided to the City Council at a future City Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker pointed out that Councilor Chavez-Lopez is the director of the El Camino Real Housing Authority.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve a letter of support for the El Camino Real Housing Authority Permanent Supportive Housing Project. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously with Councilor Chavez-Lopez abstaining.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Olguin stated that he recently took a tour of the NM Borderplex which has provided over 4,000 new manufacturing jobs. Councilor Olguin stated that he has information that he will provide to the Council regarding the NM Borderplex.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez thanked the City's Recreation and Parks departments for assisting with the food distribution. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that food is distributed every third Tuesday of the month to people ages 55 and older with the most recent distribution feeding 145 people.

Councilor Hicks stated that the Mounted Cowboys Shooting Association are interested in holding their state finals at the City's rodeo arena.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Donald Padilla, Library Director, stated that his last day as director will be January 19th. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Padilla for his years of service with the City. Mr. Padilla stated that 100 people attended the library's Christmas event. Mr. Padilla stated that the winter reading program is ongoing. Mr. Padilla stated that the library has sponsored several cultural events and hopes to add more this year.

Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that operations at the City's airport and Auto Maintenance Department are normal. Mr. Santillanes stated that the Transportation Department is short one employee and a recent job opening yielded no qualified applicants. Mayor Bhasker stated that with the recent retirement of Mike Czosnek, Mr. Santillanes will take over flood plain management. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will hire a part-time employee for code enforcement and the state will take over building inspection.

Cindy Rivera, from the Recreation Department, stated that recreation programs such as the after-school program, basketball, football, volleyball, music lessons and baseball are ongoing. Ms. Rivera stated that she is working with Socorro Schools to utilize their gyms for practices. Ms. Rivera stated that blood drives and food distribution will still be housed at the youth center. Ms. Rivera stated that a water leak in the roof will be repaired at the gym. Ms. Rivera stated that staff painted the bleachers at the gym and that she is getting estimates on repairs to the gym floor.

Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the Parks Department has been pruning trees/shrubs, removing trees and planting bulbs. Mr. Martinez provided a copy of the City's tree inventory. Mr. Martinez stated that the Production Department has been cleaning lift stations, working at the arsenic treatment plants and answering water/sewer calls. Mr. Martinez stated that the Wastewater Department replaced one of the sludge pumps at the wastewater treatment plant and continues to perform daily maintenance of the plant. Mr. Martinez stated that frost free hydrants were installed at the rodeo area and crews will now work on replacing the dirt in the arena. Mr. Martinez stated that the Special Projects crew installed playground equipment at the rodeo arena and reseeded the soccer fields. Mr. Martinez stated that climate sensitive alarms were installed at the old armory as some of the items from the El Camino Real Heritage Center will be stored in the building. Mayor Bhasker stated that some of the items from the now closed heritage center will be displayed at the Alamo Art Gallery. Mayor Bhasker stated that now that the rodeo arena is complete, the City will work towards renovating the old armory into a convention center.

Demecio Silva, Street Department Director, stated that City-wide cleanup is ongoing. Mr. Silva stated that Street Department crews have also been working at the rodeo arena, cleaning drains and assisting with code enforcement issues. Mr. Silva stated that the street sweeper goes out twice a week.

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Mike Winders, Police Chief, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Police Department stats from November and December 2017. Chief Winders stated that the Toys from Cops to Tots program was a success. Chief Winders stated that since the recent shooting at Aztec High School, he has been working with local emergency response groups on active shooter issues. Chief Winders stated that there will be a women's march and rally on January 20th in Socorro. Chief Winders stated that the department has 2 police officer positions open and he is currently interviewing candidates.

Lupe Tarango, Dispatch Director, provided a handout to the Mayor and Council of Dispatch Department stats from December 2017. Mr. Tarango stated that with the new year, a new employee training cycle has started with the first training being held February 28th and March 1st in Socorro. Mr. Tarango stated that one of the dispatchers recently graduated from the academy. Mr. Tarango stated that there have been some equipment issues but that the vendor has been notified and they are scheduled to come and repair the equipment. Mayor Bhasker asked how it has been since the state police dispatch office closed. Mr. Tarango stated that it has been a tough transition as there are communication issues and jurisdictional issues. Mr. Tarango stated that state police has new staff and no mapping system which has also made the transition harder.

Michael Lucero, Sanitation, Landfill and Recycling Superintendent, stated that operations are normal in the Sanitation, Recycling and Landfill departments. Mr. Lucero stated that Mr. Martinez's crew recently helped install a fence at the landfill. Mr. Lucero stated that Mr. Silva's department lent the landfill a water truck as the landfill's truck needs to be repaired. Mr. Lucero stated that crews continue trash pickup throughout the holidays and continue to pick up cardboard from local businesses.

Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the Finance Department has not received gross receipts revenues yet for January. Ms. Gonzales stated that she had asked all the departments to curb their spending and she thanked the departments for being cooperative.

Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk, stated that the election process has begun. Ms. Saavedra stated that absentee voting starts January 30th and early voting starts February 14th. Ms. Saavedra explained the absentee/early voting process. Ms. Saavedra stated that once absentee voting begins, Mayor Bhasker has agreed to take his daily meetings in a vacant office on the other side of City Hall.

Mr. Monette stated that he had sent a request for funds for improvements to Fairgrounds Road. Mr. Monette stated that he has a meeting on January 19th with a company who is interested in relocating to Socorro. Mr. Monette stated that he has been reviewing the proposed animal control ordinance and after the next committee meeting, the proposed ordinance will be sent to the City attorney for review and then on to the City Council for consideration. Mr. Monette stated that he has been working on contracts for return-to-work employees which include changes to hourly rates, weekly hours and holiday pay changes. Mr. Monette stated that each contract will include a section regarding the department's succession plan. Mr. Monette stated that he met with the Chamber of Commerce regarding changes to the mural agreement which will be presented to the City Council at a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Bhasker stated that he is still talking to a company regarding city-wide broadband who he hopes will come to a future City Council meeting and give a presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Appointment to the Senior Advisory Board

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Councilor Salome to the Senior Advisory Board.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Mayor Bhasker's appointment of Councilor Salome to the Senior Advisory Board. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

b. Personnel Changes

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

Donald Padilla - 1-19-18 – Library - Resignation

Jedi Angel - 1-1-18 – Fire – Certification - B-33 to B-36

John Rhodes - 1-1-18 – Fire - Completed Probation & Certification - A-30 to A-33

Agusta Amaro-Lucero - 1-17-18 – Dispatch – Certification - A-21 to A-22

Gabriel Lopez 1-16-18 - Animal Shelter - New Hire*(Kennel Assistant) - A-20

Alfredo Garza - 12-27-17 – Police - Completed Probation - A-38 to A-40

Kevin Vega - 12-27-17 – Police - Resignation

Placido Chavez - 1-16-18 – Water - New Hire*(Water Department Crewman) - A-17

John Patrick Silva - 1-16-18 – Parks - New Hire*(Sports Complex Groundskeeper) - A-17

Sebastian Alvarado - 1-16-18 – Parks - New Hire*(Parks Department Crewman) - A-17

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, Wade Dixon, Stacy Greenwood, Marcia Amaro, Eva Chavez

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

Referees (5), Zumba/Yoga (5)

Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

c. Business Registrations

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

Coal Basin Recycling LLC - C-2 - 1311 State Road 1 - Adrian Limas - Metal Recycling

Addus Healthcare Inc. dba Addus Homecare - C-2 - 705 B California Street – Corporation - Home Care Agency

Socorro Dental Care Inc. - C-1 - 204 B Neel – Corporation - Dental Clinic

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Criterion Supply Inc. dba Interior Logic Group Property Services - Out of Town - Albuquerque,
NM – Corporation - Floor Covering Sales & Installation

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Voucher Run

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 143464 to 143712 in the amount of \$631,612.71 plus Payroll Transfers (\$324,652.29), for a total of \$956,265.00. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

e. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – Monday, February 5, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:57 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Stephanie Saavedra, Deputy Clerk