

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 5, 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 Anton Salome, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Gordy Hicks and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Nick Fleming was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. January 16, 2018

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Christina Ward, from the NM Tech Alcohol Safety Awareness Program, stated that the organization will be hosting a mayoral candidate forum on February 21st at 6:00 p.m. at Sarracino Middle School. Ms. Ward invited everyone to attend.

Bill Stone, the NM Tech liaison, stated that February 5th was NM Tech Day at the NM Legislature. Mr. Stone stated that Lillian Armijo would be retiring from the Community Education Program at NM Tech. Mr. Stone stated that he would be happy to take ideas regarding community education back to NM Tech. Mayor Bhasker stated that employers need a capable, willing and motivated workforce. Mr. Stone stated that Dr. Wells, NM Tech President, is committed to helping the City of Socorro in the area of economic development.

Michael Pino stated that he has been working with the local arts program. Mr. Pino stated that the group is currently working on a large bronze piece which recognizes miners and NM Tech. Mr. Pino stated that the group would like to place the piece in the northeast corner of the City's Plaza. Mayor Bhasker asked Mr. Pino to present a rendition of the piece, which includes where the piece will be placed, so that the City Council can review the proposal. Councilor Romero stated that the group Diamonds in the Desert would also like to do a beautification project on the Plaza.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Michael Hanauer – Festival of the Cranes Update

Michael Hanauer, Festival of the Cranes Coordinator, gave a brief update of the Annual Festival of the Cranes event. Mr. Hanauer thanked the City for supporting the event annually with Lodger's Tax funds. Mr. Hanauer thanked the City's Police Department, Transportation Department and any other City staff that assisted in the event. Mr. Hanauer stated that the Photo Points social media campaign is still moving forward and is set to launch in March. Mr. Hanauer stated that there were issues with visitors getting hotel rooms as the rooms had been booked for other events in the area. Mr. Hanauer suggested that there be a meeting with hotel owners to see if there is a way to accommodate all visitors for all of the events. Mr. Hanauer stated that this year the event had 156 events held over 6 days and due to staffing, next year the event will consist of 136 events in 4 days. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Hanauer for his update.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
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February 5, 2018

b. Memorandum of Agreement – City of Socorro & Friends of El Camino Real Historic Trail Site

Mayor Bhasker presented a memorandum of agreement between the City and the Friends of El Camino Real Historic Trail Site. Mayor Bhasker stated that the agreement allows the organization to house their items at the old National Guard Armory (which is owned by the City) until such time as a permanent place to house the items can be established. Mayor Bhasker stated that these items were previously located at the El Camino Real Historic Trail Site which has now closed. Lloyd Martinez, Division Director, stated that the area where the items are stored is climate-controlled and alarms have been installed. Councilor Olguin inquired about insurance as the agreements states that “no agreement as to coverage is being made at this time”. Mr. Martinez stated that he believes the Friends have their items insured and will give the City a copy of the inventory.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement between the City and the Friends of El Camino Real Historic Trail Site. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jaramillo. Councilor Chavez-Lopez made a motion to amend the original motion to include the language “the City of Socorro will be named as an additional insured”. Seconded by Councilor Olguin motion passed unanimously. The motion to approve the memorandum of agreement between the City and the Friends of El Camino Real Historic Trail Site with the added language of “the City of Socorro will be names as an additional insured” passed unanimously.

c. City of Socorro Mural Project

Karen DeBont stated that at a previous City Council meeting, the idea of a competition for a mural to be painted on the side of City Hall was discussed. Ms. DeBont presented the RFP for designs for the mural and stated that upon approval, the RFP will be posted to the public. Ms. DeBont stated that the contest is for Socorro County residents. Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated that the City Council will need to appoint a committee to narrow down the entries. Mr. Monette stated that the public will then vote for the winner.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the RFP. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

d. Letter of Support – El Camino Real Housing Authority – Permanent Supportive Housing

Mayor Bhasker presented a letter of support from the City for the Permanent Supportive Housing Project being applied for by the El Camino Real Housing Authority. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the facility will have 40 units and various services will be offered within the facility. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the land, located on Highway 60, will be donated by the City. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that the land is near Socorro General Hospital, Good Samaritan Village, Socorro Mental Health and other necessary facilities.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the letter of support. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously. Councilor Chavez-Lopez abstained.

e. Approval of Job Description – Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor Bhasker presented a job description for the position of Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Bhasker stated that the person who previously performed this job has retired and the job description has been updated to reflect the current needs of the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that the former employee also performed duties in the areas of floodplain management and building inspection. Mayor Bhasker stated that the building inspection will now be handled by the State and

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 5, 2018

floodplain management will be handled by current City employee Jay Santillanes. Mr. Monette stated that the employee will be working part-time and the Administration would like the employee to become certified.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the job description for Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

f. City of Socorro Committees – Discussion Only

Mayor Bhasker presented a current list of committees and committee members. Mayor Bhasker asked that anyone interested in being on a committee, or presenting the name of someone for a committee, should let Mr. Monette know for future appointments. Mr. Monette stated that an ad-hoc mural committee will be added to the list.

g. Four-Day School Week - Discussion

Mayor Bhasker stated that City staff recently met with staff from Socorro Schools to discuss the City's role should Socorro Schools change to a four-day school week. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the City's concerns is not being able to handle the increase of students that would go to the youth center on Fridays. Councilor Chavez-Lopez stated that she feels students will be getting one day less of learning and expressed her worry about how some students would get meals on Fridays. Ron Hendrix, Superintendent of Socorro Schools, stated that 20% of teachers in Socorro are currently minimally effective and since pay for teachers is so low, the only thing he could offer to draw teachers to Socorro is a four-day school week. Mr. Hendrix stated that the amount of learning will be the same as there will be a change in the hours for the four days of school. Mr. Hendrix stated that he is working with an independent company who would come to Socorro and provide services in a school facility for students on Fridays. Mr. Hendrix stated that the school board will vote on the proposed four-day school week at their second meeting in February. JC Trujillo, a school board member, thanked that City for sharing its concerns and stated that the school board will consider how the change will affect the achievement of the students, the community and the economy. Some discussion followed.

h. Budget Resolutions

1. No. 4 – Sedillo Park Renovation Fund

Resources are Transfer from General Fund – Amount is \$6,000.00 – The transfer is needed to allow for cash flow.

2. No. 5 – Health Council Grant Fund

Resources are Department of Health Grant, Administrative Fee Income & Miscellaneous – Requirements are Contractual Services, School/Per Diem & Other Administrative Expenses – Amount is \$34,455.00 – The increase is needed to allow for the grant award.

3. No. 6 – Street Improvement Fund

Resources are NM Highway Co-Op & Transfer from General Fund – Requirements are Map Project – Amount is \$380,313.00 – The increase is needed to allow for Map Project Funding and expenditures.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 4, 5 and 6. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 5, 2018

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bhasker introduced Cindy Rivera, who has taken over as director of the recreation and youth center departments. Ms. Rivera gave an update on current and upcoming sports. Ms. Rivera stated the recent arts party at Finley Gym was well-attended. Mable Gonzales, City Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the Finance Department set up a credit card machine at Finley Gym so that parents who are interested can pay for registrations in that manner.

Mayor Bhasker introduced Chelsea Lyons, currently the Adult Services Librarian, as the new director at the library.

Mayor Bhasker introduced Isacc Angel, currently a Foreman in the Gas Department, as the new Gas Department Superintendent.

Chief Winders introduced Joe Rodriguez as a new police officer recruit for the Police Department.

Mayor Bhasker asked the Utility Committee to meet to discuss base charges for natural gas. Mayor Bhasker stated the City currently has a monthly base charge of \$5.00 and the average in the state is \$11.00.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated that in regards to code enforcement, residents should call the City for issues involving weeds/trees or any other code enforcement issue. Mayor Bhasker stated that Construction Industries Division does not handle those types of complaints.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Randall Dewey Sauls - 1-16-18 - Auto Maintenance - Resignation

Joshua Kerns - 1-22-18 – Recreation - Resignation

Peter Gonzales - 2-5-18 – Police - Promotion to Corporal - D-40 to D-41

Joe Rodriguez - 2-5-18 – Police - New Hire*(Police Officer) - A-35

Chelsea Lyons - 2-1-18 – Library - Promotion to Library Director - C-40 to C-43

Isacc Angel - 2-1-18 – Gas - Promotion to Gas Superintendent - T-42 to T-47

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

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

Day's Inn – C-2 - 507 N California Street – Corporation - Hotel

Amador Complete Recycling Inc. - C-2 - 1006 S Hwy 85 – Corporation - Metal Recycler

Socorro Family Eye Care PC - C-2 - 122 Plaza St – Corporation - Optometry/Glasses/Contacts

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
February 5, 2018

Seven Point Farms Inc. - C-2 - 124-B Manzanaras Ave – Corporation - Medical Cannabis Dispensary

3C Certification Learning Center LLC - Out of Town - Veguita, NM - Cassandra Gillis - Training for CNA/CPR

Seconded by Councilor Anton, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:17 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