

City of Socorro Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
May 5, 2014

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Donald Monette, Councilor Toby Jaramillo, Councilor Nick Fleming, Councilor Michael Olguin, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Peter Romero and Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Councilor Gordy Hicks was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

a. April 21, 2014

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

Councilor Hicks arrived.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

a. Proclamation – Cannon Ball Centennial Ride Day

Mayor Bhasker presented a proclamation declaring May 5, 2014 as Cannon Ball Centennial Ride Day. The proclamation honors Erwin Baker who rode across the country (through Socorro) on a motorcycle in 11 days in May 1914. The proclamation recognizes the Cannon Ball Centennial Ride which is recreating the original ride 100 years later. Mayor Bhasker stated that the riders would be getting together at the Capitol Bar at 7:30 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

PUBLIC FORUM

Brad Winton presented the City of Socorro with a signed soccer ball as thanks for use of the City's new soccer fields for a recent soccer tournament. Mr. Winton stated that the ball was the first ball kicked as a goal at the new fields and signed by the UTEP Miners who scored the first goal. Several of the NM Tech players also attended the meeting. Mr. Winton stated that he received positive feedback regarding the fields from many of the players. Mayor Bhasker thanked Mr. Winton for the acknowledgement.

Lynn Branvold asked about the status of the sewer line extension project on Hope Farms Road. Lloyd Martinez, Wastewater Superintendent, stated that the project will be going out for construction bids soon and construction should start mid-June. Mayor Bhasker stated that there was a lot of preparation that had to be done before the City could proceed with the project.

Marie Watkins described the lengthy time frame it takes for members to get bylaws approved by the Socorro Electric Cooperative Board. Ms. Watkins stated that she has requested a member list for District 4 which will be used for recall election purposes. Mayor Bhasker provided a handout which shows residential energy costs around the State and lists Socorro as having the highest costs. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has continued to pursue information which would help the City acquire the SEC. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City's attorney has sent a letter to the SEC asking for information the City needs to move forward with the acquisition. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has had inquiries from PNM regarding a potential relationship between the City and PNM. Mayor Bhasker stated that he has asked the City's attorney to attend the next City Council meeting to discuss the possibility of an acquisition.

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Robert Rincones stated that on April 26, 2014 at 2:00 a.m. there was a fire in his home which was determined to be caused by a neutral that was loose on the Socorro Electric Cooperative's line. Mr. Rincones stated that damages totaled \$18,000. Mr. Rincones stated that it took a while for the SEC to respond to his call after the fire and when they finally arrived, a lineman told Mr. Rincones that the fire was the SEC's fault. Mr. Rincones stated that the lineman told Mr. Rincones to turn in the bills to the SEC for reimbursement. Mr. Rincones stated that he has called the SEC several times to check on the status of the reimbursement and he has not yet received an answer.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

a. Amendment to Engineering Agreement – Dennis Engineering – Waterline Replacement Project

Steve Williams, of Dennis Engineering, presented Amendment 2 to Task Order 13-02 which reduces the additional phase services for the Waterline Replacement Project by \$4,655.60. Mr. Williams stated that the FONSI is currently being advertised and once that advertisement is finished, the City will advertise for bids.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Amendment 2 to Task Order 13-02 which reduces the additional phase services for the Waterline Replacement Project by \$4,655.60. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams stated that for the sewer line extension project on Hope Farms Road, the City received approval from the NMED to advertise for bids. Mr. Williams stated that a pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 3rd and bids will be opened on June 10th. Mr. Williams stated that the bid will be awarded June 16th and construction should start July 1st.

b. Resolution No. 14-05-05 – GPS Policy

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 14-05-05 which, if approved, approves the use of GPS units in City vehicles and adopts a policy regarding the use of GPS units. Mr. Salome stated that the City policy states the City will use the GPS information for ensuring adherence to City policy, ensuring compliance with traffic laws, assisting in meeting safety goals and to carry out the goals and objectives of the City. Mr. Salome stated that the information is not intended to be used for reasons unrelated to City operations. Mr. Salome reviewed the form that will be required when a request for GPS is made. Councilor Monette asked if the information is public information. Mr. Salome stated that if the Inspection of Public Records Act applies to electronic records, then it is public information. Mr. Salome stated that City Administration would have the City's attorney review such a request to make sure it complies with the Act.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 14-05-05. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

c. Organizational Chart – Community Services Division (Recreation & Tourism)

This matter was postponed from the April 21, 2014 City Council meeting. Mayor Bhasker reviewed a new organizational chart which includes the Recreation Department, Youth Center and the Tourism Department as well as new job descriptions for Sports Coordinator (Seasonal), Tourism Clerk and Community Services Superintendent. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Administration is trying to consolidate what is currently in place and that the Chamber of Commerce could assist the City with events if needed. Mr. Salome stated that as the City's personnel changes, the Administration tries to maximize the resources currently in place by altering flow charts. Councilor Olguin stated that he feels tourism relates more to economic development and stated that he would rather see the Tourism Clerk position replaced with an Events Coordinator position. Councilor Olguin stated the Events Coordinator would work with the Economic Development Director/Tourism Director/Chamber of Commerce on events. Mayor Bhasker stated that the Chamber of Commerce already performs some economic development duties for the City and that they also assist with some tourism-related items and event coordination. Mr. Salome stated that the Administration created the new organizational chart due to changes in City staff as well as Chamber staff. Councilor Olguin stated that he would like to keep the Tourism Clerk position but would like to see it placed in an Economic Development Department. Mr. Salome stated that there still needs to be someone at the Tourism Department to do the day to day duties such as answering the phones and in-person inquiries. Mr. Salome suggested that the Administration make a note on the new chart which states the City will look at the Tourism Clerk position in the future and if need be, modify which department it is in.

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Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the organizational chart and job descriptions with the understanding that the City will look at the Tourism Clerk position in the future and if need be, modify which department it is in. Seconded by Councilor Fleming, motion passed unanimously.

d. Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilor Monette stated that he would like to make a motion to nominate Councilor Romero as Mayor Pro-Tem as he feels Councilor Romero is best-suited for the position. The motion was seconded by Councilor Olguin.

Councilor Pargas stated that he asked for the item to be placed on the agenda as Councilor Hicks, who is the longest-standing City Councilor, was interested in the position. Councilor Hicks asked if two people could be nominated and the City Council choose one of the people for the position. Mr. Salome stated that since there was a motion on the floor, a vote had to be taken on that motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilors Chavez-Lopez, Olguin, Monette and Romero voted yes. Councilors Pargas, Jaramillo, Fleming and Hicks voted no. As there was a tie, Mayor Bhasker broke the tie and vote no. Motion failed.

Councilor Pargas made a motion to nominate Councilor Hicks as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilors Fleming, Hicks, Jaramillo and Pargas voted yes. Councilors Chavez-Lopez, Monette, Olguin and Romero voted no. As there was a tie, Mayor Bhasker broke the tie and voted yes. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Jaramillo stated that the committee to create goals and objectives for the new Police Chief will be meeting soon.

Councilor Fleming stated that the Budget Committee continues to meet. Councilor Fleming stated that the Budget Committee hearings were held last week and several requests were received.

Councilor Olguin stated that the Economic Development Committee is working on an Economic Development Director job description and that they had recently met with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Bhasker stated that the Utility Committee will need to meet soon.

Councilor Hicks stated that there is a SCCOG meeting in Socorro on May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker stated that he will invite the City's attorney and a representative from PNM to the next City Council meeting to discuss the possible acquisition of the SEC.

Councilor Romero stated that he was asked if the City could place a Police Substation at the middle school. Mayor Bhasker stated that there is already a school resource officer at the high school. Police Chief George Van Winkle stated that supplying an officer to the high school and the middle school would leave the department short-handed. Chief Van Winkle stated that maybe a grant could help fund an additional school resource officer.

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OLD BUSINESS

a. City of Socorro Ordinance Codification Update

Mr. Salome stated that the codification of City ordinances is now complete. Mr. Salome stated that General Code is sending the final books to the City along with an ordinance that will need to go through the ordinance process. Mr. Salome stated that the ordinance, if approved, adopts the codified ordinances for the City. Mr. Salome stated that the last time the ordinances were codified was 1977. Mr. Salome stated that the City will pay a yearly fee to General Code so that when an ordinance is passed, the City sends it to General Code and they update the ordinance book/online.

Councilor Romero stated that he was informed about a problem with the card reader at the airport. Mayor Bhasker stated that the matter and resolution has been discussed with the complainant. Mayor Bhasker stated that one of the complaints was a glare on the screen which the City will address. Mayor Bhasker stated another complaint was that there was a \$300 limit on the pump but that the limit is similar to that of a regular gas station. Jay Santillanes, Division Director, stated that the issue with the button is due to repeated use and that the touch pad will be replaced.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bhasker stated that he would like to appoint Savannah Morris to the Mayor's Dug Task Force. Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

a. Reporting on Personnel Changes

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

Rebekah Claussen – 5-9-14 – Library – Resignation

Victor Savedra – 5-5-14 – Police – New Hire (Police Officer) – A-35

Toby Jaramillo – 5-16-14 – Fire – New Hire (FF/EMT) – A-27

The motion was seconded by Councilor Monette. Councilor Pargas, Councilor Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Olguin, Councilor Fleming, Councilor Monette, Councilor Hicks and Councilor Romero voted in favor of the motion. Councilor Jaramillo abstained from the vote and in accordance with the Governing Body Rules of Procedure, stated that his son was on the list to be approved. Motion passed.

b. Business Registrations

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

Bennett's Amusements Inc – Out of Town – Moriarty, NM – Bill & Debra Bennett – Carnival

Eagle IT, LLC – Out of Town – Espanola, NM – Jorge Lucero – Information Technologies

Aragon Enterprises – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Fernando Aragon – Contractor

Universal Communications Inc. – Out of Town – Albuquerque, NM – Corporation – Cable TV/Century Link

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

c. Next City Council Meeting Announcement

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next City Council meeting would be held on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:18 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Olguin, motion passed unanimously.

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THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation

/s/
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/
Pat Salome, City Clerk