

City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting
City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801
March 19, 2024

Mayor Bhasker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk, took roll call.

Council members present at roll call:

- Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
- Councilor Deborah Dean
- Councilor Nick Fleming
- Councilor Joel D. Partridge, Jr.

Council members present remotely:

- Councilor Anton Salome

Council members absent at roll call:

- Councilor Damien Ocampo
- Councilor Michael Olguin, Jr.
- Councilor Peter Romero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bhasker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of March 19, 2024, City Council Agenda
- b. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. March 5, 2024
- c. Voucher Run

The Voucher Run included vouchers 160968 to 161136 in the amount of \$1,923,334.18 plus Payroll Transfers \$506,838.72 for a total of \$2,430,172.90.

Councilor Fleming made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Dean, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- a. Bid Award – IFB 030124 – HVAC System at the City of Socorro Youth Center

Mr. Pineda stated that four bids were received and opened on March 1, 2024.

- Western Mechanical \$ 75,407.07
- MGS Refrigeration Heating and Cooling, Inc. \$116,150.00
- E-Z-I Construction LLC \$110,000.00
- Jaramillo's Plumbing \$128,500.00

Mr. Pineda recommended the bid be awarded to the low bidder Western Mechanical.

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Councilor Dean made a motion to award the bid to Western Mechanical. Seconded by Councilor Fleming.

b. Resolution No. 24-03-19 – Participation in FY 2024 State Road Fund Program

Donald Monette, City Administrator, stated the city was awarded \$125,000.00 in additional funds from the New Mexico Department of Transportation for Manzanares Avenue Street project.

Councilor Dean made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-03-19. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the city met with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier in the day. The EPA will move forward with the superfund site cleanup at Eagle Pitcher. The EPA asked the city for access to city land on the corner of Newberry Rd. and Lopezville Rd. to have the facility to treat and pump water for approximately 15 to 20 years into the pond located at the northwest end of Newberry Rd. EPA will clean up the Eagle Pitcher building that has asbestos and once cleaned the city will demolish it. Three additional wells will be drilled to help define the plume. EPA has committed to holding a public hearing to explain the process. The city is in the process of obtaining the property where the pond is located and will be used for the discharge of the contaminated water and the EPA will provide the city with a consultant to design a recreational park.

The mayor stated the CDBG project on Cuba Road is approximately \$400,000.00 short and the city will be applying for supplemental funding.

The city has received the two natural gas garbage trucks and three natural gas dump trucks that were obtained through the VW grant.

The city is working with the contractors of the two new projects at the Industrial Park to have the rock placed at the city's facility. The city is working with a vendor to trade the rock for base course.

The monument from the El Camino Real Historic Trail Site, located 30 miles south of Socorro, will be moved to the city's Industrial Park/Convention Center with the funding received from the legislative session.

The Rodeo arena enclosure is coming along and Dezirae Armijo, Tourism Director, and Cheyene Cortez, Asst. Tourism Director, have signed a major artist to perform at the rodeo arena on July 3rd.

Councilor Chavez-Lopez announced that Housing Authority representatives from around the state will come to Socorro to have training at the City of Socorro Convention Center in March and April and she is hoping to get Southwest Narrow to Socorro, which would have representation from six states for a full week of training.

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Mayor Bhasker informed the Council that the land at the Industrial Park/Rodeo Complex will be surveyed for a planned subdivision that will need to be approved by the Council in the future. Administrator Monette stated he will meet with the surveyor and because the land is part of the original land grant it has no legal description. Once surveyed the city can move forward with the middle-income housing project.

Mayor Bhasker stated he received a letter from Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) dated March 13, 2024, in response to a letter sent to SEC on January 23, 2024. The response letter did not, in good faith, answer the seven requests.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Personnel Changes

Councilor Fleming motioned to approve the Personnel Changes as presented by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	REASON	SALARY
Donald Monette	02/15/2024	Administration	Additional Job Duties	H-101 to H-103
Leopoldo Pineda	03/19/2024	Administration	Job Performance	K-70 to K-72
Ruby Lopez	03/19/2024	Administration	Job Performance	N-76 to N-78
Lloyd Martinez	03/19/2024	General Services	Job Performance	NZ-80 to NZ-82
Dezirae Armijo	03/19/2024	Tourism	Additional Job Duties	C-57 to C-59
Cheyenne Cortez	03/19/2024	Tourism	Additional Job Duties	E-47 to E-49
Jakob Gonzales	03/19/2024	Dispatch	New Hire	A-42
Kaitlynn Garza	03/19/2024	Dispatch	Completed Probation	A-42 to A-44
Kristy Padilla	03/19/2024	Administration	Job Performance	S-56 to S-58

Seconded by Councilor Dean.

Councilor Partridge and Chavez-Lopez voiced their concerns for the lower paid employes. Ruby Lopez, Finance Director, stated that across-the-board raises were given on January 1, 2024. Mayor Bhasker stated in July 2024, the new budget year, the city will try to do another across-the-board raise for the lower paid employees if budget permits.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Business Registrations

Councilor Dean motioned to approve the Business Registrations as presented by Mayor Bhasker.

NAME	ZONING	ADDRESS	OWNER	TYPE
Wake Up With Makeup PMU, LLC	C-2	1261 Frontage Rd NW #1	Dejiah Molina	Permanent Cosmetic Tattooing

Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

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c. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Dates and Times

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (111 School of Mines Rd.).

ADJOURNMENT

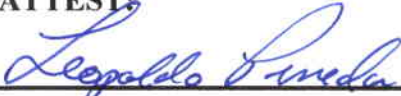
The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation



Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leopoldo Pineda, City Clerk