

Ivy Avalos
Mayor

Ruben Reyes
At Large

Cesar Nevarez
District 1



Alejandro Garcia
District 2/Mayor Pro Tem

Rudy Cruz, Jr.
District 3

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
District 4

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JULY 6, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ivy Avalos
Ruben Reyes
Cesar Nevarez
Alejandro Garcia
Rudy Cruz, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos (*joined virtually at 6:10 pm*)

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Lorraine Quimiro, City Planner
Jim Martinez, City Attorney

Estevan Gonzales, IT Director
Victor Reta, Rec Centers Director
Chief David Burton
Charles Casiano, Finance Director
Jason Stanzione, Deputy Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:05 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance led by Tigua Next Generation Interns;
Sylas Ballejo, Akira Bigelow, Sarah Cebollero, Karan Lopez, Jacob Lopez,
Sebastian Monroy, Lena Rojas, J.D. Sublasky and Damian Tarin

3. Establishment of Quorum

Quorum was established with five council members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. PUBLIC COMENT

Rene Rodriguez spoke during Public Comment.

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos virtually joined the meeting at 6:10 pm.

A motion was made by Rudy Cruz, Jr. seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *move up items twenty-two (22) and twenty-one (21) to be next on the agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT BY SBNG CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

ADRIANA RODARTE

Tello Cabrera spoke and presented on this item, See Exhibit "A"

Rudy Cruz, Jr. stepped out of the meeting at 6:14 pm

Rudy Cruz, Jr. returned to the meeting at 6:15 pm.

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE DUSTROL, INC. TO PERFORM HOT-IN-PLACE RECYCLING/PAVING FOR RIO VISTA ALAMEDA TO NORTH LOOP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,736.00.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twenty-one (21)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

PRESENTATIONS

5. PROCLAMATION: TO RECOGNIZE THE MONTH OF JULY AS THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S RECREATION APPRECIATION MONTH. VICTOR RETA

Proclamation read by Mayor Ivy Avalos.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.** **OLIVIA NAVARRO**
7. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2023.**
OLIVIA NAVARRO
8. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE MAY 2023 DEPARTMENTS MONTHLY REPORT.** **ADRIANA RODARTE**
9. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING MAY 2023 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
10. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING MAY 2023 CASH RECEIPTS REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
11. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING MAY 2023 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
12. **INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING OF BLOCK 1, LOT 2, SOMBRA DE PIRO, LOCATED AT 566 BUFORD, SOCORRO, TX FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-1 (LIGHT COMMERCIAL) TO ALLOW FOR A PARKING AREA. LORRINE QUIMIRO**
13. **INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING OF TRACT 1-A-8, LEIGH CLARK SURVEY #293 ABST 6257, LOCATED AT 1221 JAIME ROAD, SOCORRO, TX FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR COMMERCIAL TRUCK PARKING. LORRINE QUIMIRO**
14. **INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S MASTER PLAN AND REZONING OF LOT 4, BLOCK E, VINEDO ACRES, LOCATED AT 345 TOKAY AVENUE, SOCORRO, TX FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RM-1 (MOBILE HOME SUBDIVISION DISTRICT) TO ALLOW THE PLACEMENT OF MOBILE HOME(S). LORRINE QUIMIRO**

15. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AN ORDINANCE TO RATIFY THE UPDATED BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS; CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES, DIVISION 3. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS OF THE MUNICODE.

LORRINE QUIMIRO

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO AWARD BID 23-06 FOR GENERATOR FOR POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, AND PATROL BUILDING TO STAR MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$219,541.05.

CHIEF DAVID BURTON

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number sixteen (16)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

PLANNING AND ZONING

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 756 APPROVING A PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR HORIZON PARK UNIT ONE SUBDIVISION, BEING ALL OF TRACTS 2A, 3B1, 4C1L. AND 9A2, BLOCK 3 SOCORRO GRANT, CITY OF SOCORRO, TX.

LORRINE QUIMIRO

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number seventeen (17)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

CITY MANAGER

- 18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING NOTIFICATION FROM EPATS, LGC TRANSIT SERVICE IN THE CITY OF SOCORRO ON THE BEGINNING OF REDUCTION, INCLUDING FULL ELIMINATION, OF TRANSIT SERVICE WITHIN THE CITY OF SOCORRO CITY LIMITS. STAFF IS REQUESTING DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL ON HOW TO PROCEED.** **ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Rudy Cruz, Jr., to *opt for Option C, to establish the city's own transit service and direct staff to obtain cost and study, see Exhibit "B"* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

- 19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID BURTON.** **ADRIANA RODARTE**

Chief Burton has agreed to discuss this item in Open Session.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number nineteen (19).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

- 20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SEARCH FOR NEW CHIEF OF POLICE.** **ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number twenty (20).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADVICE RECEIVED FROM CITY ATTORNEY IN CLOSED SESSION, AND ACTION TO APPROVE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION; AUTHORIZE FILING OR SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL ACTION; AUTHORIZE EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERT WITNESSES AND CONSULTANTS, AND EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LEGAL MATTERS. ADRIANA RODARTE

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, JOB PERFORMANCE OF EMPLOYEES, REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION AND RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING THESE MATTERS.

ADRIANA RODARTE

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.

ADRIANA RODARTE

26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION OF EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT AN INTERIM FUEL REFUND [551.071].
JAMES A. MARTINEZ

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to delete items twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24), twenty-five (25) and twenty-six (26).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

27. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to adjourn at 7:16 pm.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:



Ivy Avalos, Mayor



Olivia Navarro, City Clerk





Date minutes were approved

EXHIBIT A



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' REPORT - 2022

Presented by:
Abigail Tellez
Tello A. Cabrera, CPA

July 6, 2023

SBNG
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Today's Agenda

- Presentation of Audited Financial Statements for City of Socorro, Texas– Year ended September 30, 2022.
- 5 Year Trend Analysis.
- 2022 Audit highlights.
- Audit Recommendations.

EXHIBIT V

SBNG
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

- Total Assets \$84,101,000 (22% increase).
- Total Liabilities and deferred inflows \$47,717,000 (29% increase).
- Net Position \$36,562,000 (13% increase).

See Page #6 of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

- Total cash on hand is \$1,899,000.
- Total restricted cash is \$18,013,000.
- Total investments is \$8,113,000.
- Total infrastructure and equipment is \$50,672,000.
- Total balance of Certificates of Obligation is \$33,953,000.

See Page #6 of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

- Total Revenue for fiscal year 2022 is \$19,966,413.
- Total Expenses are \$15,736,000.
- Total Net income is \$4,229,000.
- Capital outlay of \$4,386,000 not counted as expense.

See Page #7 of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

- Property tax revenue is \$11,039,000. This represents 50% of total revenue. The ad valorem rate for 2022 is \$0.803158, per \$100.
- Federal and state grants are \$2,167,000. Funds were used for infrastructure, capital improvements, equipment and police salaries.
- Third largest source of revenue are sales taxes at \$2,311,000 (12% of total revenue).

See Page #7 of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

- Largest expense is Police Department at \$5,668,000.
- Infrastructure Department is second largest expense at \$4,772,000.
- Government Administration expense is \$2,841,000.
- Interest expense is \$542,000.
- Depreciation expense is \$1,772,000.

See Page #7 of the Financial Statements.

FUND BASIS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Fund basis assets are \$38,488,000.
- Fund basis liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are \$20,572,000.
- Fund balance is \$17,916,000.

See Pages #8-15 of the Financial Statements.

FUND BASIS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FUND	ASSETS	FUND BALANCE	INCOME (LOSS)
General Fund	\$9.9 Million	\$7,326,000	\$(193,000)
Special Revenue- Grants	\$5 Million	\$351,000	\$46,000
Special Revenue- ARPA	\$8.4 Million	\$0	\$0
Special Revenue- TRZ	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Special Revenue- TWDB	\$3.4 Million	\$0	\$0
Debt Service	\$906,000	\$543,000	\$36,000
Capital Projects	\$3.1 Million	\$2,346,000	\$(627,000)
Capital Project- TWDB	\$6.5 Million	\$6,573,000	\$6,573,000

See Pages #8-15 of the Financial Statements.

5-YEAR ANALYSIS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Property Tax Revenue	\$7,162,000	\$8,115,642	\$9,476,101	\$9,348,348	\$11,039,073
Sales Tax Revenue	\$1,567,000	\$1,517,123	\$1,713,701	\$1,993,152	\$2,311,393
Grant Revenue	\$7,924,000	\$8,962,000	\$556,643	\$3,114,264	\$2,167,249
Infrastructure	\$33,151,000	\$42,259,000	\$43,508,918	\$48,059,022	\$50,672,777
Long-term Debt	\$21,268,000	\$31,420,259	\$30,023,901	\$28,669,213	\$34,036,736
Total Assets	\$41,547,000	\$59,543,000	\$60,956,000	\$69,199,080	\$84,101,335
Total Cash	\$3,989,000	\$4,036,000	\$1,259,821	\$5,320,113	\$1,899,551
Total Investments	\$240,238	\$242,517	\$9,847,678	\$2,552,527	\$8,113,480

2022 AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNMODIFIED** opinion issued for 2022 – This means the financial statements are fairly stated with no departures from accounting requirements.
- **UNMODIFIED** opinion on compliance requirements for Highway Planning and Construction Cluster of programs (TXDOT grants) (ALN 20.205)

2022 AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- Reconciliation of Expenditures in Special Revenue Fund – ARPA to Grant Reports:
 - We recommend that management perform a full reconciliation of all the expenditures incurred in the Special Revenue Fund-ARPA to the detailed project progress reports submitted to the granting agency.
 - We also recommend a formal determination be made as to whether expenditures that will not be reported and allocated to ARPA funds will be reimbursed by another eligible source of funds.
 - In addition, we recommend that a reconciliation of the Special Revenue Fund-ARPA activity and the ARPA program reports be prepared in writing and retained to support the preparation of the City's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.
- Significant accounting estimates, concentration, and contingencies have been evaluated and properly disclosed in the financial statements.

QUESTIONS?

For more information

Please feel free to contact:

Tello A. Cabrera, CPA
Joanne Nugent, CPA
jnugent@sbngcpa.com
tcabrera@sbngcpa.com
915-544-6770

Presentation to Council

July 6, 2023





City of Socorro



A City with a Mission

LGC is reducing transit services in Socorro

- Letter from EPATS, LGC dated June 16, 2023 explains that “LGC Board voted unanimously to provide notice to the City of Socorro that the LGC will begin to evaluate the reduction, including full elimination, of transit service within the City of Socorro”.
- City Council direction is requested on how to proceed.



City of Socorro



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Options

- A. Join LGC in FY 2024 - cost is unknown at this time
- B. Join LGC in FY24 and work towards establishing the City's own transit service through a transit study to identify service needed.
- C. Establish the City's own transit service. Develop transit study to identify service needed. If LGC eliminates transit service in Socorro, the City is able to provide temporary transit services, survey community transit needs, and establish MOU with the City of El Paso to allow use of their transfer stations.



City of Socorro



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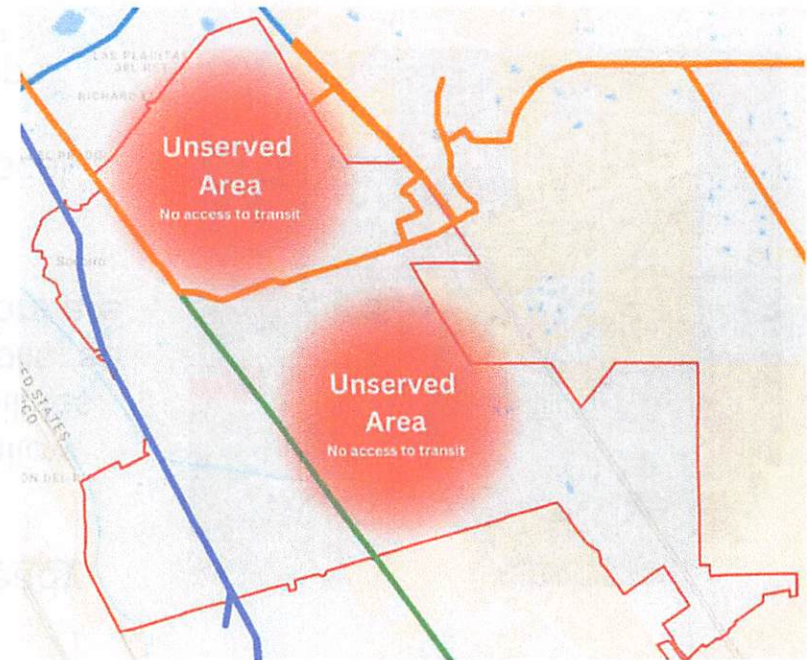
Challenges

- Ridership data for Socorro transit users is **not available**
 - EPATS LGC and Sun Metro **do not** capture ridership data for Socorro
- Gaps in transit infrastructure (sidewalks, ADA-access, bus shelters) limit access to transit for vulnerable populations



Challenges

- Existing transit services leave large areas of Socorro completely unserved and without access to transit
- A transit study is needed to identify and document local demand for transit, destinations, gaps in transit service, and barriers to access





City of Socorro



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Existing Resources

Paratransit transportation services are already available:

- Three (3) ADA-accessible vehicles will allow service to seniors and people with disabilities. Vehicles are available to the general public, so long as people with disabilities and seniors are targeted and served
- The City is pending purchase of two (2) additional ADA-vehicles in the coming fiscal year
- Vehicles can be used while COS develops transit study, to transport users to COEP transfer stations
 - Costs are \$5,000 per transfer station





City of Socorro



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QUESTIONS ?