

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ronnie Torres called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 P.M.
Roll call taken by Sally G. Garley, City Manager.

PRESENT: Ronnie Torres, Mayor
David Lopez, Councilor
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Mayor Pro-Tem

ABSENT: Terese Ulivarri, Councilor

CITY STAFF: Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Lenore Pena, City of Belen, HR
Manny Garcia, Fire Chief

OTHERS: Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Raffner, VCNB
Clara Garcia, VCNB
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gilbert Taber, Circle T
Duane Glass, 515th CSSB Belen Armory National Guard
Sonny Sanchez, Citizen
Jane Moorman, Self
Leroy Pickens, ESGR
Nikki & April Rogers, Citizens
Jesse Orozco, State Police
John Williams, ESGR
Charles Clark, ESGR
Arthur "Archie" Koenemund, 911 Committee
Jackie Schoeltfeldt, Citizen
B. Paul Ortega, Our Tomorrow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Sandy Battin to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda with the removal of item number 9 and number 10 which will be heard at the September 21, meeting and then on number 11 it should read no 2009-04 and on number 11 it should read 2009-05 Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro-tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special Meeting: July 27, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for July 27, 2009. Councilor David Lopez moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Terese Ulivarri seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: August 3, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for August 3, 2009. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to citizen petitions and asked if there were any citizen petitions. There were no citizen petitions at this time.

Fire Chief Manny Garcia: presented Nicky and her daughter Angel. Angel is a student and last summer started a fire. She had to do community service and learned a valuable lesson on why not to start fires and encourages anyone to be more careful with matches.

B. Paul Ortega: had two announcements and read from a prepared statement stating that "Our Tomorrow is now a registered non profit organization. Mr. Ortega asked Mayor Torres and council to recognize Our Tomorrow. Mr. Ortega mentioned that it was his understanding Mayor Torres would not seek re-election and wished him well in his future endeavors. Mr. Ortega questioned Economic Development ordinance 2003-13, after his review, asked how many applications and benefits has Belen gained by the ordinance. He then mentioned the complaint filed with the Attorney General concerning retirement from Elected Position and appointing the same individual to the same elected position. He asked for an explanation from Mayor Torres. Mayor Torres advised he would provide information requested in writing.

Duane Glass: Human Resources Technician with the 515th Combat Support and sustainment battalion brings greetings from Lt. Colonel Nava. They have arrived in Mozul, all 86 of them, in good health. They are busy settling in and have had the first Red Cross message for one of the

soldiers who had a sister pass away. On Nov 8 a meeting will held with the VFW Commander preparing the family readiness group care packages at the Armory. The care packages will be hopefully put together before Thanksgiving. Everyone is invited to attend.

PROCLAMATION “SANDY BATTIN DAY”: Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to Proclamation of Sandy Battin who retired from The Valencia County News Bulletin after several years of service. A copy of the proclamation is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

911 CEREMONY UPDATE: Gloria Sanchez and Manny Garcia Fire Chief.

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to the 911 Ceremony update as presented by Gloria Sanchez and Manny Garcia, Fire Chief. Manny said it is a pleasure to work with Gloria and Sonny who are leading the drive on the Memorial Celebration. The Ceremony gets better and better year after year. Manny handed out a copy of the 911 Ceremony Schedule a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Manny Garcia, Fire Chief introduced his guest Archie Koenemund a retired NY Firefighter who was also involved in the immediate response of September 11. Archie thanked Gloria, Sonny, Manny and everyone on the committee. Mr. Koenemund said “this year theme is Remembrance”. He noted there we are still losing citizens everyday from 911 illnesses. He complimented Gloria and the City of Belen for their 911 Memorial and all the hard work. Gloria congratulated Sandy on her retirement. She said good job to the Our Tomorrow group. As reported the ceremony is completed and thanked the committee.

RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION IN EMPLOYEES’ SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE EVENTS: Mr. Charles Clark

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to recognition of participation in employees’ support of the guard and reserve events. Mr. Leroy Pickens advised he represented the executive committee for ESGR. They have two main objectives one is to support the guard and reserve and individuals should they have problems getting time off for attending drills, and the other is to assist them when they return with the employer. Mr. Pickens presented Mayor Ronnie Torres and Councilor Terese Ulivarri with a certificate and photo of the Boss lift on the Blackhawk helicopter. Gloria Sanchez was also given a special recognition, certificate of recognition for her support.

ACTION ITEMS:

PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE No. 2009-04 INCREASING PENALTY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE FEES: Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item referring to proposed adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-04 increasing penalty assessment program and schedule fees as presented by Sally G.

Garley, City Manager who advised this was amending Ordinance 2005-10 a copy of the fee schedule is attached. The changes identified are for compliance with state assessments.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions from the Council or comments. Councilor Terese Ulivarri advised if there were no questions or comments she moves to approve. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo, seconds the motion, motion carries.

PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO 2009-05 INCREASING THE JUDICIAL EDUCATION FEES: Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to proposed adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-05 increasing the Judicial Education Fees as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised this was a result of legislation passed during 2009 session and complying with such for cases filed after July 1, 2009.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions from the Council or comments. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moves to approve. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo, seconds the motion, motion carries.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

The City Managers report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: said “schools starts this week already and that’s quick I had a trip planned with my grandkids last Tuesday and two of them could not make it because Los Lunas started school, and I said how can you start school in the middle of August but we didn’t make it, postponed that and summer will go by quick.

Sonny, Gloria for all you guys do thank you, I know you put a lot of effort a lot of time, sometimes we don’t even say thanks when I see you and I apologize for that but I appreciate all that you do. Sometimes we just forget we take for granted that you guys are doing all this, the 911 the Memorial the Yellow Ribbon, on and on and on the things that you two get involved and get committees put together. It has always been a great thing.

The fiestas there were here and a lot of people, just yesterday there were people from everywhere. We had no hail and no rains thank God it was a neat thing and people were remembering what happened last year”.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos: said “the fiestas were a lot of work for the committees a lot of people. The true meaning of the fiestas is the celebration of Our Lady of Belen but the visitors and the impact it has on the community is great it is a big long weekend. I still have family at the house from Barstow, California. It brings people from all over back to Belen and it is a big for the community. It is the 216th Anniversary, I believe, this weekend.

The 911 I happened to be the Fire Chief on September 11th when it all happened and it was pretty intense. That was the one day I remember the community became one not just the Fire Department in Belen but Valencia County, Los Lunas, the State. By mid morning we were meeting at the Court House as a community pulling together to see what we could do and how we would react to all this. It had a big impact and I saved a lot of the magazines from back then.

Our Tomorrow congratulations non-profit.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said “welcome Michael you a got a lot of work ahead of you but I hear you know exactly what you are doing and you are going to be really great. It would be good to have you walk along Mildred, and that is why we actually did that to hire you six months prior so that you guys can learn from each other. You can learn what she has done because she has done such a wonderful job all these years and she has been such a great asset to the City and she can share all her knowledge with you and you can take it from there and run with it.

Sonny and Gloria thank you fore everything you guys do as always volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. Manny good job on the flyers”.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: said “we had two community functions the past two week we had National Night Out, my congratulations it was a good show with help from the Fire Department. That is an annual event and I was talking to the originator of it which was Magistrate Judge Danny Hawks and it has been going on for 14 or 16 years. He brought it from somewhere and brought it back here when he was a police officer. Congratulations for keeping that up the tradition alive and for the longevity. I think it is the longest running one in the state, congratulations on it which was very well attended.

The fiestas’ is a big community event and brings the community together. I was fortunate enough to be one of the Chili judges, which was fun. I got up and was proud to announce it’s the 12th annual Salo Garcia Chili Contest. Salo was one of the mainstay’s chili producers in Belen and his sister Eva, everyone knows her blue ribbon chili, so that family goes back a long way but it was fun.

I also attended the teachers’ banquet, Chamber of Commerce, and we welcomed all the new teachers on board. Friday night the Mid Region Council of Governments recognized both the Mayor and Sally Garley for lifetime achievement for their dedication to the City of Belen as well

as to the region. Congratulations to the Mayor and Congratulations to Sally. Very well deserved, we were very proud of Belen that night it was cool.

Welcome aboard Michael you look sharp and make us look terrible. Sally G. Garley, City Manager said she had told him he does not have to dress like that. Councilor Terese Ulivarri continued saying are you getting your picture taken why are you wearing a tie.

Gloria and Sonny as usual fantastic job that you do for this community and the ceremonies are just fantastic so thank you so much for what you do.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres: added saying “on the lifetime achievement award on Sally’s I think it was such a great honor, I think, for her to receive this and, like I told the people at the banquet that we attended. Sally has absolutely worked her way up from the bottom she started off as a Clerk and she has been with the City over thirty years and I think it just goes to show that you can start working here with the City and you can end up being City Manager. The great thing about it I know when we were interviewing for her position, the first time we had her position open she did not apply. People asked me why didn’t you hire Sally and I told them she didn’t apply. So the second time the position came open she did apply and one of the criteria the people wanted to put on it was that she had to have a degree or someone had to have a degree to fill that position.

I think it is fantastic to have a degree but I think that a lot of good people get passed up when you require just a degree. People who have worked their whole life in a department or a municipality to do the job that they need to do. So I didn’t feel that we needed to pass somebody up with this caliber. It’s great that she is where she is and she may not have the degree but she has more knowledge than pretty much anyone I know about this community and about the position. She can go work in any City and do them proud and know exactly how to do grant finding know exactly how to do customer service, she is fantastic at that, working with employees, dealing with problems.

When she is out there I always tell her it’s lonely at the top because everything that happens you are going to get the blame for it. Right or wrong they are going to blame you for it. If it is to their advantage they are going to love you and if its not they are going to say you are nothing. But she has more backbone that probably most men I have ever met she has more integrity than anyone I have ever met and I think she has been a great asset. I think this was a very well deserved award.”

Councilor David Lopez: said “I would like to make a few comments like everyone said the fiestas’ were this weekend and a lot of people put a lot of hard work and effort towards that and people were very happy last night at the conclusion. Thanks to the Belen Police Department and the Sheriff Department for their security efforts. I did not see anything out of the ordinary and people were very pleased with that. Also the Belen Fire Department was there it is good to see the community work together for a good cause. I would like to thank Sally and the City who was instrumental in providing the necessary equipment that was needed for the events.

The Council of Governments, we had a meeting Friday night, and it is the annual COG meeting to inform the state as to the accomplishments of the COG during the course of the year and all the stuff that they work on. Ronnie did get the lifetime achievement award along with Sally and also Elias Barella, the representative from this district, was acknowledged for his help with the quiet zones through the Rail Runner passage.

Like Rudy said school started and most kids are not too happy with that but what can you do.

Mayor Ronnie Torres: added saying “also the fiestas was a lot of work but David and Wayne did a lot of work over there they did a lot of volunteering with the fiestas for quite a few years so it was good to have you there. And of course Tinky was there every year with me doing the Navajo tacos but this year you didn’t because it was your year off.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked for a motion to adjourn tonight’s meeting.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to adjourn this meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

/ss
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

/ss
Sally G. Garley, City Manager