

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 1, 2008

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, Mayor Pro-Tem
Terese Ulivarri, Councilor
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

CITY STAFF: Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Lawrence Kanishero, IT Specialist
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Manny Garcia, Fire Chief
Mildred Garley, Finance Director
Robert Rimorin, Utilities Director

OTHERS: Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Ruffner, VCNB
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gilbert Tabet, Citizen
Liz Sybold, Barboa Court
Daniel Jaramillo, Belen High School
Lisa Pino, Teen Court
Ida Lopez, Teen Court
James Flores, Teen Court
Joseph Dorn, Teen Court
Samantha Aragon, Teen Court
Eli Sanchez, Teen Court
Alix Aragon, Teen Court

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Lynette Pinkston to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo so moved to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: November 17, 2008

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for November 17, 2008. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Wayne Gallegos 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 presented at this time.

PROCLAMATION "TEEN COURT DAY: Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item in reference to a proclamation for "Teen Court Day" and read the proclamation aloud, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Mayor Ronnie Torres presented the Proclamation to James and Jacob of teen court.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked the representatives of Teen Court if they would like to stand and address the City Council and said, "This is a great thing you're doing". Samantha Aragon stood and advised she is with Valencia County Teen Court she gave a brief description of what teen court is doing for teens in Valencia County. Samantha thanked City Council for the proclamation, which will be presented at the state wide teen court convention, which will be hosted by the local Valencia County Teen Court on December 12, 2008.

Eli stood and said he would like to use himself as an example; he said, "I came in here with several charges, which were shoplifting and possession. I am going to be honest about this, I have changed, and not only because of what they are doing to me-I mean it is not like torture or anything-but it was because my brother was there when I was picked up from jail. He is my little brother only seven and just turned 8 last month, and seeing the tears rolling down his cheeks as my handcuffs were pulled off it just changed me. When they said I had to do community service hours and help them with their program that opened my eyes and made me realize this could help me out.

Mayor Ronnie Torres added it is good to meet other people that there are in the same situations sometime and you can learn from each other and know that you are not alone. What you did may not have been right but there are ways to change and ways to help someone else making the same mistake or going through the same problem.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo said that he remembered the first meeting he and Councilor Terese Ulivarri attended he was impressed with what they were doing and how the jurors were their own peers. The jury discussed infractions and the sentence was handed down. He said he wants to stay involved with the teen court and the youth maybe it was because when he was younger if someone would have taken him to some type of teen court he would not have been in some of the scraps. The future is here these young people are here for a purpose and for a reason and we if we as City Council, Mayors and City Attorneys and others can give them a boost it would be a good thing. This teen court is a good thing because it gives them a second chance because if you go to jail it can ruin your life.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri said: “one of the commendable things this shows is, now you know how the law works. It is not just one sided with the police, there are three parts to the law and you are participating in one of them here. You have the opportunity to say what goes on with your peers, it is a lot easier to take any kind of punishment if it is from someone your own age as opposed to an adult telling you this is what you will do and pointing a finger which is not comfortable. This way I think a lot of you feel a lot more comfortable and are willing to accept the consequences of your actions because your peers care enough to be there for you. I know it is tuff some of the stuff they hand down but I think you learn valuable lessons from it. I would like to congratulate Linda and Joseph for coming together and putting this program in place you are to be commended”.

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 David Lopez: he reported he did not want to steal the thunder from everyone on the Christmas Light Parade but he did show up just in time. He attended a Belen Jr. Wrestling team event at Rio Grand High on Saturday they had to go early to get everyone ready by eight AM. The kids wrestled and they were very excited, it is wonderful what a little piece of metal can do for a child’s spirit. He commended the City staff on the organization and presentation of the parade, which was well attended. The firework display was really great, and he got many positive comments of the blue lights down Becker Street. Thanks to the individuals who are sponsoring teen court.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: attended quite a few meetings along with Mayor Ronnie Torres, the Main Street planning meeting for all the businesses up and down Main Street and the planning meeting for the HUB areas around the Rail Runner. The Meeting is planning for the future to see what it is going to look like, what you can do with it, and how it will affect people ½ mile to ¼ around the vicinity. She also attended a Martin Luther King meeting and they handed out four

holiday baskets this year. They are planning for the MLK candlelight vigil, she hopes that more people can become involved just contact her. One of the biggest compliments she received is the “star” she was happy to see it, it was a job well done. The star is the first thing she sees when she walks out her door and is glad to hear it will stay lit all year round. She asked Chief Chavez to please tell his officers they did a good job, and Sally, City Manager thanks to City Staff for their hard work she heard nothing but good comments.

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said he was at the same three meetings with Councilor Terese Ulivarri. He wanted to thank Brenda Gurule she did a fantastic job during this festival. It is not something that just happens overnight it takes a lot of planning and many months to plan. She pays attention to every little detail. If anyone has ever had to do this type of event will know just how much work goes into it. Mayor Ronnie Torres remarked that the professionalism was stepped up a notch from the past events. Leroy and his crew with the parks department did a fantastic job of decorating the City. Tim Lardner did a great job on the Santa Float there were over 50 floats in the parade. Jerah Cordova did a brochure on the parade and people just loved it, it, was professionally presented, every thing from the star to the brochure to the entertainment. There were quite a few people attending who rode the Rail Runner, and in walking the street you could hear people on their mobile phones saying they were in downtown Belen and “it is cool you should be here”. It is nice to see there are people from other areas who came here to our community, which is something we are trying to do. Next year it will get bigger and bigger. Everyone seemed to have a good time, all the businesses up and down the street gave out tons of hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies, and everyone got into this event.

We all really wanted to the High School Game and we tried to get the game changed, so we could all go up there and support them, but of course, they said “no”. However, we were behind our team one hundred percent and they did a fantastic job going as far as they actually did.

The Main Street meetings are a lot of work that are going to be going on. We are planning to attend another meeting on Friday. We had several people that showed up at the meeting, Councilor Gallegos showed up a little later, it was nice to see different businesses want to get involved in what we are doing in the community. If we become an actual “Main Street City” certified then we will be able to apply for different funds that we are currently not eligible.

Mayor Ronnie Torres continued to thank the entire City Staff for they work, Councilor Wayne Gallegos for the music, Councilor Terese Ulivarri for placing the red and green paper over the lights at the library. It is good to know that you have not just Councilors but people who are out in the middle of the night who are out doing things and getting things done for the community.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: reported the kick off meeting for the Main Street was at a business on Becker as reported by the Mayor hopefully it will bring in opportunities for grants, which are desperately needed. He attended an Older American Program meeting and most of the concerns are with budget cuts this year, they are trying to come up with some planning. Congratulations to the football team they did a good job this year.

Miracle on Main Street was very well attended, thanks to all the people involved that made that work. The star was well done, this was started a long time ago but this year Manny took on the

task, Luke did a great weld job, and it is permanent. Officer Hub looked great in the parade, just a note, he was edited by Marie Padilla of Belen PD. The RSVP was the clearinghouse for the thanksgiving baskets, there were about three hundred baskets sent out this year. Councilor Gallegos said he delivered two of the baskets personally and one of the families did not have a place to cook the turkey however, arrangements were made to have someone cook the turkey for them. Many people in this community are in need. The thanksgiving luncheon was served by firefighters, Councilor Gallegos and City Manager, Sally G. Garley, it was also well attended.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: thanked Joseph and Linda for their involvement, support of teen court, and hope this program takes off. The Belen football team fell short of a win but they did a good job. Miracle on Main Street was really fantastic, people who worked on it did a good job, and there were so many people in the streets. Rail Café said there were many people that rode the train. Santa Fe connection will be starting in a few weeks and now we will have those folks able to travel to our town. Thanksgiving has come and gone, time off from work it was nice. There are many people utilizing the sidewalk on Delgado, his vision is to see the sidewalk go all the way to 10th street but that takes money.

Student Liaison-April Chavez: the High School is extremely proud of the football team and this Thursday at 1:30 there is a pep assembly for the football team and fall sports that made it to state and competed in state and for all the winter sports. December 15 NHS will begin wrapping for Toys for Tots.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri wanted to add thanks to the folks who participated and volunteered to be under the Gazebo. They were singing Christmas Carols. Without volunteers, many things would not be done. So thank these folks when you see them.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

/ss
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

/ss
Sally G. Garley, City Manager