

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 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
Terese Ulivarri, Councilor
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Mayor Pro-Tem

CITY STAFF:

Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Audrey Torres, CMC, Procurement Specialist
Robert Rimorin, Utility Director
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Dan Robb, Police Department
Manny Garcia, Fire Chief
Michael Steininger, Finance Director

OTHERS:

Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Ruffner, VCNB
Randy Gettings, Esperanza Street
Nino Trujillo, Nino Trujillo & Co.
Lawrence Sanchez, BHS
Sandy Wells, Photo Memories
Jerrie Romero, Coor, MWNM Cap
Della Willis
Jacquie Flann, MCA
Louis Trujillo
David Leau, BHS
Michael S. Castillo, Coast Range, Inc.
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
John Salazar, Coast Range, Inc.
Doreen Castillo
Damien Adams
Arlene Maestas
Bridgette Chavez, BHS
Ashlee Montoya, BHS

Justin Hinley, BHS
Sebastian Kurtz, BHS
Mike Baca & Family, BHS
Brenda Sanchez, BHS Football Team
Claudette Riley, Belen EDC
Emma Aragon, BHS
Kevin Pena, BHS
John Lerma, BHS
Kathy Hinkle, BHS
Jim Edwards, BHS
Brenda Gurule, BHS
Lorrie Cordova, BHS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Dillon Barba to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special Meeting: November 9, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for November 9, 2009. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: November 16, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for November 16, 2009. Councilor David Lopez moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried. Mayor asked all those in favor signify by "I" all councilors stated "I" Councilor Terese Ulivarri said: "I have a something that was an omission about the point of use ordinance I had a lot of questions about the use and also that I made the comment that we had looked into this a while back and they said it couldn't be done and then they changed it and we could do it so that was left out other than that its good." Councilor David Lopez moved to approve with the corrections and Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion as amended motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to citizen petitions and asked if there were any citizen petitions.

Mr. Randy Gettings: resident of 1016 Esperanza advised he had petitioned the City for speed humps on his street through the Planning and Zoning Department, has filed his complaint of speeders to the City Police Department, has requested information from the City Manager and to date he has heard nothing. Mr. Gettings advised he met all of the criteria requested by the City and received 95% signatures of the citizens petitioned. He was advised today by the City Engineer that other criteria has been added and wants to know what that was all about.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised he recalled a prior meeting with Mr. Gettings and the paperwork has been reviewed that was submitted and there are a lot of things that are too restrictive. For example in order to place a speed hump an engineering study is required etc. Mayor Ronnie Torres advised he instructed the Planning and Zoning Director to review the ordinance and procedures regarding speed humps. The Police Chief, Fire Chief and P&Z Director have been meeting to discuss the ordinance revisions. Mayor Ronnie Torres said “if we go by the ordinance we have now in order to get a speed hump it is going to be almost impossible to get”.

Mr. Gettings added that the other two streets have them. Mayor Ronnie Torres advised that maybe they did not follow the ordinance before and we do have to follow them, we have to go back and review that process and make sure it is less restrictive. Mr. Gettings asked how long this was going to take and if it would take a person being killed before something is done. Mayor Torres said he wished he had an answer but at this time he does not, however it will get done as soon as they can. Even if we did have an answer today City funds are tough. Mr. Gettings said he understood about the funds and maybe the next budget or whatever but he wanted a firm answer on his issue and he has been working on it since March of last year.

Mr. Gettings asked what it would take to get the police department over there to catch speeders especially since it is so close to the school and the crosswalk for the kids which also needs to be painted and there are potholes there too and some kid is going to get hurt. Mayor Ronnie Torres said he would look at the crosswalk and would get that painted as soon as possible. Police Chief, Mike Chavez advised he would step up patrol in that area. City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised the crosswalk would get with the proper department to get the crosswalk painted. Mr. Gettings thanked the City Council.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo told Mr. Gettings he understood his plight for getting the speed humps in the area as he had requested them also and was not able to get them because the criteria was too restrictive.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri said she has issues with a neighbor and they could not get them either. The Mayor is correct the criteria are too restrictive. One of the criteria was that there had to be a lot of citations and if there were not a lot of citations issued in that neighborhood it is not going to happen. The other thing is if it is a major thoroughfare because of the fire department and emergency vehicles they cannot be placed.

Chief Mike Chavez advised that when the committee met one of the problems was that the packet given to the community did not match the ordinance in any way shape form or fashion. In one form or another it gave people hope that there could be a speed bump there when the actual ordinance would not allow it at all so that packet needs to be stopped and not given out immediately. There was where all the problems were because once you looked at the actual

ordinance it did not match the packet given out to Mr. Gettings or anyone else. As far as the traffic there Chief Chavez advised they run traffic there all the time and he has proof, just because you don't see them does not mean they are not there. Mr. Gettings said he saw them for a couple of days and then they pull off and it goes back to the same as it was before.

PROCLAMATION "BELEN HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE DAY": Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to Proclamation of Belen High School Eagle Day and said "I have done a ton of these proclamations since I have been Mayor and this is the one that I am the most proud of, this is the one I am the most excited about, then read the proclamation aloud. A copy of the proclamation is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference

Mayor Ronnie Torres said "you guys have done something that we have been trying to do for twelve years, if not longer, you have absolutely brought this community together. I have seen people, businesses in town that never even put anything on their window-never do anything-and they have these Belen football banners up. Citizens were putting ribbons all over the place, I had people calling me and asking if they could put this or that and I said put whatever you want. We are so excited about these guys.

My daughter just came in from Phoenix, we had a death in the family, and she told me that one of her customers in Phoenix was telling her "wasn't that something about the Belen football team". I had someone from Albuquerque and Los Lunas call me and they were cheering for you guys. This is just really cool that the community has really come together. You have done something that we have failed to do that we couldn't do and I think that it is really cool. It is really cool that you guys went as far as you did and you made us proud. All the mayors were envious of me and that was cool but I had nothing to do with it.

I know a lot of you guys have been together for a long time and all I can think of is that next year we are definitely going to get it. I just know you guys are going to be able to get it. I just wanted to congratulate you guys and your parents. All of the parents that have stood behind you guys and have done things for you and sacrificed to make sure that you get to where you are, also the coaches that have dedicated the hours.

I went to my mother's house after the game and she was all upset, I don't think she even knows what a football looks like but she was just so excited for the team, all people old and young alike. You have made us proud to live here in Belen. We think you guys are the number one team in the entire state so Congratulations. (Belen Eagle team received a standing ovation)

Coach Lerma stood and said "I would like to say something on behalf of the Coaching staff and the football team. The support that we have gotten from the community and the City of Belen has been fantastic. These kids, the parents have been out there in great numbers, I think we had close to six thousand people at this game we have had five thousand and four thousand and so forth. And it is a great feeling, not only for our football players, knowing that they have the community fully behind them but the coaching staff too. So we really appreciate this proclamation we have a special group of young men that it has been our honor to coach him a

fine young man that has been brought up by their families. It has been a pleasure but I just wanted to acknowledge the support that we have gotten from the City. Our school, our student body, faculty and administration have really been tremendous support. And all of this could not have been accomplished without the support of everyone, believe me. We feel like we are building a tradition here, we went to the semi-finals last year, we went to state finals this year and we are working hard to bring that state championship football to Belen, that is our goal and we are not finished yet. I just wanted to thank everyone and for you to take the time at City Council to do this we really appreciate it very much, thank you”.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: “the council is very proud the City of Belen is very proud of you my dad is 91 years old and wanted to know what the heck was going on with the team okay. I graduated from Belen high in 71 it’s a long time ago. But there were actually classmates of mine that came in from all over the state that came in to watch you play, they were so jazzed about this. It was nice it was like homecoming for us. Thank you so much for what you have done for our city you represented us well and nothing but good stuff I have heard from throughout the state where you have played.

Above all you are great students, it doesn’t work you can’t be an athlete unless you are not a good student first. Congratulation on what you have accomplished, nothing to hang your head about it was a fantastic game it could have gone either way but it was just a fantastic game to be at and so proud to be there. So thank you for what you have brought to the citizens and to the city.

Councilor David Lopez: “I just want to say congratulations to the Belen football team also you guys are like our kids, we went to school with a lot of your parents. I know Dante his grandparents are neighbors of mine when we were growing up. Danny Jaramillo it seems like just yesterday he was jumping on the trampoline with the sprinklers on. Dillon Barba we used to coach you in Jr. Wrestling you guys, that is what horrible about people knowing your parents you don’t know who we are but when you are causing trouble. You guys really took it to them they were, when I looked at them I said they must have been corn fed they were huge kids and you guys took it to them. My wife also decorated the windows and it looked very nice but unfortunately she did it from the inside so if you look at it from the outside it’s backwards but the thought was there and congratulations again”.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos: “just to tell you guys you guys lit it up, you guys lit up this whole city. It took you guys to do things that we couldn’t do; maybe we just don’t know how to look outside the box sometimes as you could see ordinances and things we have to do to try to get the city going. It took the spirit of you guys, what you guys had in you, to light it up and you guys did that and congratulations.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: “it’s like our Mayor said “you guys brought this City together” this is one time that Belen was here as a unit. You saw just hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people in businesses just right there because of you guys. It is something that we have been trying as a Council and Mayor for some time and you guys did it in a sports event, congratulations on the 12-0. We played hard at that state game and Terese is a 71 I don’t even want to tell you where but I was at the game when we lost 3-0 to NMML.

We have guys, Brent got to visit with some, that came from our class of 1967 and we all wrapped ourselves around to cheer for you guys, these guys played for the Eagles in those years and they were all rooting for you and guys that sat there that were in 63 team that were on the sidelines they were all here rooting for you guys and I know that you guys are going to do great. Coach Lerma you have done a great job I've supported Belen sports, not just the football team, but through the whole sports and everything that you guys do-cheerleaders, basketball, baseball, soccer and volleyball I have been there for you guys and I plan to still be there. I am a Belen graduate and a Belen Eagle and I never played football but I am rooting for you guys.

Dillon I have known you since you were just a little kid and Pasqual Armijo his grandpa played in that team and Steven his grandpa was one of our classmates and you guys just, Pat your dad my goodness I saw you on the football field when you were just little you were at the restaurant. Here you are a grown man it is good to see you all. Jason, my goodness, if that guy doesn't go division one it's because someone is not looking that guy is a football player and I'd like to see that colleges recruit him he has done great, congratulations guys".

Mayor Ronnie Torres: "congratulations to you guys, if you noticed we have the "Go Eagle" posters right there. I got in trouble for putting those up in my business. Someone called me and said "you think that they Mayor of this town could get a bigger sign than that" but I told them I had three of them. I told them next time we will get a bigger one. Now the meeting is going to get boring so you guys can leave. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING ON TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP; AL'S MINI MART: Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item and opened the public hearing in reference to the transfer of ownership for Al's Mini Mart as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised this was a public hearing for transfer of ownership of liquor license made by 8 J's LLC. Part of the requirement is to hold a public hearing in order for them to continue to process the application.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were questions or comments. There were none presented at this time. Mayor Ronnie Torres closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROJECT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELEN, NEW MEXICO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS LP AND SIGNET SOLAR: Claudette Riley, Belen Economic Development Director.

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item and opened the public hearing in reference to the intent to adopt an ordinance authorizing the execution of a project participation agreement by and between the City of Belen, New Mexico Development Partners LP and Signet Solar as presented by Claudette Riley, Director Belen EDC who advised-on October 5th an ordinance was passed to get into a project participation agreement to accept three million dollars from the New

Mexico Economic Development for the Signet Solar project which would be located at the Rancho Cielo energy hub.

Moving forward from October through now the Belen EDC office with the help of the City Attorney, legal counsel for NM Economic Development Department as well as legal counsel for Signet Solar and the NM Development Partners has developed the project participation agreement and according to the City Ordinance on our local Economic Development Act we have to adopt the project participation agreement as a whole, as an ordinance, and we also have to have the public hearing. There might have been some confusion as to what was the difference between what we did on October 5th to what we are doing today, but October 5th was to get into it and now it's like we have the document the project participation agreement which will be signed between the City the NM Development Partners and Signet Solar. The document itself will be adopted as an ordinance which is included in the packet, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

To give a brief outline of what the project participation is all about-it basically states the project which is for the build out of infrastructure to the 80 acre site where Signet Solar will be located. There will be a development of 600 jobs within seven years from Signet Solar and they are going to construct a 600 thousand square foot, 300 megawatt per year production facility for Signet Solar Inc. at the Rancho Cielo energy hub.

The rest of the project participation agreement just outlines ins and outs of the project, if the City were not to receive any of these funds the City is not at fault, if Signet Solar does not provide those jobs within that certain time frame then the money has to be paid back, if Signet Solar doesn't get any money then they don't have to. Just a simple agreement which basically protects all parties involved in regards to the funds that the City will be receiving through NM Economic Development.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if the funding was in jeopardy. Claudette advised she believes that all state funding at this time is in jeopardy, when everything went through with the special session they were in the process of developing the document and when she spoke with NM Economic Development she was advised to continue with the process and see how it goes so the funds should still be in place.

Claudette advised they are still moving forward as if the funding is there and if they pull it they pull it there is nothing at stake. Since it is ready for us to go then we are going to be ready to accept it because we have followed all the steps that are required within the City's ordinance and through the state local economic development ordinance.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if the project as a whole would be jeopardized if the project is pulled. Claudette-"in terms of Signet Solar coming down from what I understand I don't think it is contingent but that's just from-just like any project that comes through the state, this is one of the biggest incentives that was offered to Signet Solar to locate here in New Mexico. I am sure they will probably have to go back and revisit how the three million dollars is going to affect that because this is going to provide the infrastructure to that particular site.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were questions or comments. There were none presented at this time. Mayor Ronnie Torres closed the public hearing.

ACTION ITEMS:

***APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP; AL'S MINI MART:
Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item referring to approval or disapproval of transfer of ownership of liquor license-Al's Mini Mart. Councilor David Lopez moved to approve. Councilor Terese Ulivarri seconds the motion, motion carried.

***APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELEN
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROJECT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITYOF BELEN, NEW MEXICO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS LP AND
SIGNET SOLAR: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to approval or disapproval of an ordinance of the City of Belen authorizing the execution of a project participation agreement between the City of Belen, New Mexico Development Partners LP and Signet Solar.

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

Mike Castillo from Coast Range Investments said "we are working very hard to make this project happen and we will continue to do so and personally in addition to the excellent football team and putting Belen on the map in terms of athletics and City spirit I am hoping that we can do that from an economic point of view I would recommend that anyone who has friends in the legislature who might be able to help us keep this money you should talk to them and try to convince them to secure the funding for the City of Belen".

ADOPTION OF ELECTION RESOLUTION NO. 2009-17: Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item referring to adoption of election resolution No. 2009-17 as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised this is the beginning of our election process. The municipal election will be held on March 2, 2010 we have elective offices of Mayor for a four year term, two City Councilors for a four year terms and Municipal Judge for a four year term. We have precincts that are identified in the resolution also which precinct 21 will be at the Belen Schools Administrative office, precinct 23 will be at Jaramillo School, precinct 26 and portions of 35 and 31 will be at the Belen Public Library, precincts 25 and 27 will be at the Multipurpose Park, it also identifies the absentee voting which will start Tuesday,

January 26 through February 26, early voting will commence on February 10th through February 26 also. Both absentee and early voting will be administered through the City Managers' office. Persons desiring to register to vote need to do so prior to February 2nd, 2010 at 5:00pm; there are applications for voter registration in the office of the City Manager. The declaration of candidacy will be on Tuesday January 5, 2010 between 8 and 5 and that is the only day that candidates can actually declare their candidacy. A candidate handbook is being prepared it is not completed as of yet but we hope to have it complete on or before January 5th. Those will be handed out at the time the declarations are filed in the office of the City Manager. Once a candidate declares it is public record so we will be releasing that information to the media. The resolution is in English and there is a Spanish version also. City Manager, Sally G. Garley requested council approval for publication twice.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked on Section D number 4 the address seems incorrect she advised the name had been changed to Eagle Lane. City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised that was correct and the street name would be changed prior to publication.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo asked also for clarification on the name of the building if it was the Belen Community Center or if it is Belen Eagle Park Center. City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised it is called the Belen Community Center and the park is Eagle Park but the facility is Belen Community Center.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if there were no further comments or questions she so moves to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

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:

Bridgette Chavez-Student Liaison: said "this Saturday we are having a dance at the High School, from seven to eleven, to honor the football players. We are still selling luminarias until next Friday so if anyone wants any let us know.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: said "of course congratulations to the Belen football team a job well done for them. Also Fire Chief Manny the awards banquet so well presented and professionally done, everything was great the food was perfect. Thank you guys for doing what you do out there with the emergency and fire crews and stuff like that.

David and I went to a ground breaking for the Soil Conservation on Saturday at the Whitfield area it was a nice turnout. The facility is just tremendously well designed for young people it is a good place for field trips.

Our Christmas light parade, Mayor that had to have been the largest at least it sure looked like it, it was raining and people did not leave. The bad thing was that when the festivities dwindled to nothing and the vendors did not do well. The parade was well organized and there were many floats”.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos: said “I will start with the Aztec –Belen football game, I thought we were going early and it ended up being a little later I guess it was full of people so we had no other choice but to go to the other side. Over there were about four or five hundred people from Belen on the other side. I thought it was cool so we sat there and we were listening to these people from Aztec and they had a lot of good things to say about Belen. Also the people that would come in from other classes, and I would look at them and they would say aren’t you so and so and so on from the seventies and I would introduce my wife and this is so and so. At one time I thought it was someone I knew but it wasn’t it was my friend from another place. But you see a lot of that and that was throughout the different games. I thought that was pretty neat. I really meant it when I told them they “lit it up” because they did, the whole town the community and the media went nuts. It was nice to see the little town of Belen move.

We are working on a cleanup in March with some students from a school in Albuquerque it is going to be a community service type that they have to do so we are looking at parks and we are looking, at of course at seniors because I participate a lot with seniors, to do some cleanup so I am going to be working with the planning and zoning with some people that are maybe in violation or need help. Also I want them to do some mulch they don’t want to just pick up trash and not learn. I think it is good for them to learn while they do this. We are working on that right now.

The recycle center I am glad it’s like almost finally here. I won’t believe it until the door opens I have learned, because we say tomorrow and it doesn’t happen sometimes in government. I am really glad to see that I know a lot of people won’t use it right away but once they are taught and get used to it I think it will be used so that is neat.

The fire banquet good job Manny we had a lot of nice people in that area and they got recognized, the EMT’s and fire fighters’ of the year.

I know I missed the last couple of meetings but it was in the minutes but Chief Chavez on that tazer class that we took that information was really good. We showed up at that class where they are defending it and telling you the pros and cons and what it is all about and it was at that level. It did not train us on how to get tazered or tazer anyone but the effects of the whole thing and the benefits of it and I thought it was really positive that was a nice afternoon.

The Senior Center we had our thanksgiving luncheon and just thanks to the people who went to help us serve the seniors that day. They are planning another one already for the Christmas and I

think that is very important for the seniors. Sometimes they are out there and they really like it when they are sitting there and all of a sudden we are serving them. Thanks to all of the people who went to help that day.

The last think I have here is the Miracle on Main Street not just the parade that has been here for a long time but all the activity and the changes sometimes from the park to the street let's try something new-the balloons we didn't talk a lot about the balloons that took a lot of coordination to bring in that many balloons and those people and everything around that. Also to wake up the next day and people were seeing them in town, I don't know if because it was new or they knew but they didn't know or something. But I think that is a good start to something so for all the work everyone who worked on that, that was good".

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said "we have been having the Christmas festival for twenty two (22) years and I am sure there are still people in town who don't realize we even have one. But I guess there are a lot of rocks in town that we all hide under. It turned out really well, I wanted to thank Brenda she did a fantastic job putting this event together.

This event "Miracle on Main Street" is more than just a small town event it is a bigger event it's a larger caliber than what we are used to doing here. She did such a fantastic job with the balloons, with the fireworks, with everything. We had a little over fifty entries and something that we didn't mention were the Grand Marshalls' who were Tim and Janice Lardner they did such a fantastic job in years past and also they are the ones that are responsible for having our Santa Clause float. They are the ones who put the Santa Clause float together. And if you noticed this year for the parade we started it different.

We had the Belen High School football team actually lead the parade off which is something we have never done but I thought it was important enough to have them lead the parade and I thought it was great that they did. Then we had Santa Clause because he is so slow that it kept the pace for the rest of the parade so that we don't have these large gaps. So it went really well.

Thanks to all the businesses that participated and like I said to Brenda and her staff and Leroy and his staff for all the decorating they did, they did such a good job and I was very proud of them.

With the Signet Solar and everything going on there with Rancho Cielo it's a different thing now it's is NM Development Partners LP best of luck with everything you guys are doing. I think it is fantastic all the work you guys are putting into this and you are not slowing down even though the economy has come to a screeching halt you guys are continuing to work as if there were no recession. This is great and the sooner we get out of this you guys will be ready to go with everything. Hopefully that Signet Solar will put Belen on the map once again too for solar energy and I think it is great that we will have some good jobs for a lot of people to actually work at that is more than just minimum wage so that is fantastic.

Claudette thanks for all the work that you have been doing on this whole economic development thing and also the Main Street project I know you have been working on that quite a bit so it is very good.

The other thing was-Randy thank you for coming in on that, we have a lot of ordinance that are worth about two cents in our books and it is just not right and until someone actually comes in and we have a problem with it a lot of times that is when we seem to fix it so we will look into those and see if we can get that corrected as soon as possible to see if we can get this ball moving. I appreciate you coming in and talking to us and bringing it to our attention again, I know it seems like we are not doing anything but you know the wheels of government are the slowest darn things I have ever seen in my life, and I am part of it but we are trying to push it forward and we will try to move it as quick as we can for you.

Another think is that, this is the second letter that we have received from the Attorney General- and I know Jerah Cordova, the president, I just wanted to let you guys know that we have been sent to the Attorney General twice for different complaints for non-compliance for different things but once again I got a letter coming back saying that-“it appears the City did not violate the open meetings act”. I am glad to show although we have been turned in twice we have come in clear and I appreciate what you are doing to check on us but we are trying everything we can do comply and I know we are doing everything we can to make sure that we do everything correctly. So just so that everyone knows we did nothing wrong on this particular violation but it is good to have people always checking to make sure that government does what they should do and I am glad that we are, and if we are not please don't hesitate to let us know.

Also thanks to all the businesses who decorated up and down Main Street I know I called Jerah and asked him to throw some lights up so they put some lights up and it looks good, I know a lot of businesses did too. Hopefully next year we can have more businesses put some lights up in their buildings-posing the comment to Nino Trujillo. Mayor Ronnie Torres commented to Nino and said “you know what I did is I know those luminarias that you put up are very difficult to do there is a place in Albuquerque, I was looking at a book, there is a business in place that actually comes and put your electric luminarias up for you, the put them up and take them down because we have had them at the shop several times. They fall down and fall down and fall down and we just go crazy-we put them up with bricks, we put them up with 2x4's and they it is almost dangerous, we sometimes put them up with liquid nail and then to take them off we pull off the stucco, but there is a company in case anyone is interested in putting stuff like that, just kidding-posing the comment again to Nino Trujillo.

Councilor Terese Olivarri: said “I attended another levy meeting and once again, I actually had a complaint today somebody's is having to get flood insurance because of the levies how they have been proclaimed by FEMA. It is going to affect not just Albuquerque there are about seventy thousand homes in the Albuquerque area that are going to be effected by having to buy flood insurance they did not have to buy before because of our, what we got here are not really considered levies they are just put up. I got the complaint today that they are going to have to buy flood insurance and I say hey we are working as much as we can and that thing is going to hit like it or not and if you have a mortgage you are going to have to buy flood insurance so good luck to everybody. Everybody is upset about this whole situation there is nothing we can really do it is going to get done.

I attended a Martin Luther King meeting and we are getting ready for the candlelight vigil and at that meeting we also prepared four baskets for four different families in our area. We sponsor those every year.

I attended the substance abuse dedication in Los Lunas that is a facility that is going to serve the entire state and this is the first in New Mexico and that is fantastic, that should be up within a year.

I attended the conservancy ribbon cutting for one of the levies that was actually fixed in the South Valley, millions of dollars and all you could see was dirt that was piled up and then pressed down but millions of dollars worth of movement of material so those people will not have to buy the flood insurance and that's pretty wild how this whole thing is coming together.

I attended the pilot reception for the balloonists and they were so excited to be in Belen. There are so many places to land so that's what they are so excited about in this town. People welcome them in open arms. One balloon landed in somebody's property they were so excited and took out the cameras. Belen is welcoming, they are getting a lot of restrictions in some other areas and they said this is just a fantastic place to fly and they actually encountered that next morning we are going to call it the "Belen Box". You know how Albuquerque has this where you fly and then come back well Belen is cool and they are doing the same thing here in town and so they go south come back over the freeway and then come back over where they had landed picking up passengers and they did that whole thing it was really cool to watch. But they are so excited with Belen so there is another notch in our belts. Mayor congratulations to you and Brenda for bringing them in and doing such a fantastic job they felt very welcomed.

The electric light parade and that whole thing it started to rain and people were still out here roasting marshmallows and just having a great time so congratulations on that. It's just neat to participate.

Manny congratulations on your fire department banquet and you put on a class act that was really nice and good job.

I attended a retirement reception for Lawrence Rael who has now left the COG and they are searching for a replacement for him.

I attended the Whitfield Wildlife dedication on Saturday and its-the property was given by the Whitfield family for the wildlife center. It is also part of the flyway that goes through Belen all the way to Bosque del Apache. There were actually some sand hill cranes out there it was really cool. That is an excellent facility take your kids take yourself out there and check this out it is really neat to have it right in our back yard is fantastic, it is it is for educational purposes for the children of Belen and the surrounding communities.

Some good news the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad gave the City of Belen a thousand dollars for a fence so that we can put us a play ground equipment up at this park right across the street from Buckland Pharmacy. We tore that playground out because it was very unsafe. Last year they gave us some money so that we could buy some playground equipment and we couldn't put it up because we didn't have a fence so now they gave us money for the fence. So they are partnering with us really well and if you see any of those guys that work for BNSF thank them for us.

Lastly, toys for tots I know the Chief and the police department is putting together toys for the kids in the area I don't know how successful you have been so far Chief but I thought I would put it out there so that people will know we are still taking toys and donations.

Chief Mike Chavez also noted they are raffling of a Harley David motorcycle remote control toy. They are going to feed four families with that. And the toys for tots they don't go anywhere else they stay right here in Belen. We help the families' right here in Belen it does not go to Albuquerque or to anywhere else and I have been asked that a lot. If we are fortunate enough to get a little bit of extra toys they are donated to Valencia County. Also if anyone wants to donate toys we are taking them at the PD.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri continued saying: "that's all I had except that I saw Robert at the game at the game he came down from Santa Fe, your brother Mr. Castillo. Mr. Castillo stood and said you know "Robert you know is very athletic he was very athletic here and we have a nephew Orlando Castillo that started for the team here, James' son, so we are very proud of the team."

Mayor Ronnie Torres said "so did you like your balloon ride Terese, you got mooned" Councilor Terese Ulivarri said "so did you" you know this is pretty wild we were with Mayor Rodger Baldwin, well he used to be the mayor of Bosque Farms and he said that is the first time he has ever been mooned. And he has been ballooning for a long time and he could not believe it but one of Ronnie's friends, a seventy eight year old man not a pretty sight."

Councilor David Lopez: said "I don't think there is anything left to say. We all attended the same meetings over the past week and a half. I just wanted to comment on the parade a lot of people from Albuquerque do come down for the parade every year and they did comment on how nice it was even if they did get wet. The parade in Albuquerque was the same time so if they wouldn't have that parade we would probably get a lot more people here. Los Lunas had their parade Saturday night and that went well also. Jr. Wrestling team we wrestled at Del Norte and the young wrestling team and just about every person on the team got a medal and were very excited."

Nino Trujillo stood and wished to address the Council and said "first of all you are crying to the choir here first they asked me to get the luminarias out this year but we didn't put them out due to the fact that construction is way off for Kenny in the building business and he asked me not to put them up this year to cut down. And I was going to get up when the Eagles were here because I was going to tell them that I played in 1958 but if they would have seen what they would look like in a few years they probably wouldn't want me to be up here. They did a great job-but I do want to introduce John Salazar here, he is associated with Rancho Cielo, I don't even know what firm he is with, John is from Belen and tell them a little about you.

John Salazar said "Belen High School in 1961 is my class I actually played football with Emilio Valles I was a senior when he was a sophomore as I recall he was pretty good as a sophomore and you all know what he went on to do so that was pretty impressive. The house I grew up in, someone was talking about the park that was just funded, which is right next to where my house used to be, I grew up in that red brick house that was right there caddy corner to Buckland's' it

burned down and it is an empty lot now, that was the house that I grew up in. I am with the Rody Law Firm and I am real pleased to be involved with this project. Mike and I were talking about it coming down here because it is exciting for Belen it will mean a lot of jobs, economic development, gross receipts tax, and as you said Mayor, it is something positive that keeps moving even with the rest of the economy kind of down. These folks have got a lot of confidence in the future for Belen so that is pretty exciting and I am glad to be a part of it.

Mayor Ronnie Torres-“and now that we know that you lived in a historic house if you have any pictures of that historic house or of the neighborhood or anything like that please share them with me because I am making a collection and we have stuff for the City so if you look and see anything like that any snapshots small or whatever I would appreciate.

Nino Trujillo-“another thing he forgot to mention is that his son is the sportscaster on Channel 7 his name is John Salazar. Rancho Cielo is bringing in a great team of local people.

Jerrie Romero-advised she is the coordinator with the Midwest New Mexico Community Action Program serving Belen residents and wished to announce the food pantry has inspection for tomorrow and is located at the Del Rio Plaza next to Bealls Dept. Store. We are accepting volunteers every day. The food pantry should be operational next week. With the help of NM Workforce, the ISD office LIHEAP working on utilities they have been servicing those needs as well. There is a high volume of need we are a non-profit.

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