

***REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

**February 15, 2010**

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

***CITY STAFF:***

Sally G. Garley, City Manager  
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist  
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police  
Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director  
Manny J. Garcia, Fire Chief

***OTHERS:***

Norman McDonald, City Attorney  
Brent Ruffner, VCNB  
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T  
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow  
Matthew Ross, State Rep. Elias Barela  
Gloria Sanchez, Volunteer  
Sabbie Rizzo, Breakfast Optimist Club  
Cortez Kibble, Breakfast Optimist Club  
Luoise Ortega, Citizen  
Frank Ortega, Citizen  
Phillip, Shirley & Amanda Baca, Citizens  
Frances S. Otero, Citizen  
Lucia A. Baca, Citizen  
Victor K. Baca, Citizen  
Danielle Baca, Citizen  
Joseph Baca, Citizen  
George McKee, Citizen  
Joseph Baca, Citizen  
Paul Baca, Citizen  
Charles & Diane Hold & Family, Los Lunas  
Gill Mullins, VFW  
John Zollan, Elks

Delmar Wendel, VFW  
Cindy Clark, Pilot Club/Optimist  
Cindy Carter, Citizen  
David Carter, Citizen

*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:*

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Victoria Baca 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.

*CITIZENS PETITION*

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to citizen petition and introduced Marie Baca and asked her to approach the podium. Marie thanked everyone for their time effort and help they put into the recognition and proclamation for Victoria Baca. Victoria Baca stood and Mayor Ronnie Torres read a proclamation aloud a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Petty Officer Victoria Baca accepted the proclamation she was also presented with several gifts from local businesses, organizations and citizens. She thanked everyone including her family for their generosity help and support.

All City Councilors and Mayor Torres thanked and commended Victoria for her bravery and service to our country. Mr. Mullins and the VFW saluted Petty Officer Victoria Baca and also thanked her for her service.

**Manny Garcia:** said "just for your information the Fire Department substation up at the airport is completed which is very good news. We have the fire truck that is supposed to be stationed up there is in the repair shop right now doing some annual preventive maintenance so once that apparatus comes in we can make sure it is stationed up there. Hopefully this week or next week we can have some kind of a grand opening sort of a little celebration. I just wanted to let you know the substation is completed at the airport.

**Gloria Sanchez:** said "I am a volunteer for the City of Belen. Victoria it is very nice to meet you I just have one more issue that I want to bring up. We don't have time to get into a lot of discussion on it but I just wanted to make this clear. I have been involved as a volunteer here for about twelve years lately I have been concerned about some issues, lately one of them is my neighborhood one of them is the fire department, other letters that I have written you and I don't hear from anybody. I don't know what else to do I have made phone calls I did hear from Wayne on something but it wasn't clear what you could or couldn't do. It was kind of elusive, I

also asked you directly what is the status of the old City Hall I was curious and you said you would get back to me and you didn't. I can't get into a dialogue with you right now I just want to say that, you know, it is very uncomfortable as a citizen to want to know what is going on to be involved and if I don't hear from anybody it's very frustrating."

Mayor Ronnie Torres said "have I not returned your calls". Gloria answered "yes you have". Mayor Torres continued saying "we heard about you in Washington DC when we went up there to speak about the fire department that was one of the brochures we took up there to seek funding for that. I think Congressman Teague spoke highly of you. You are an activist and get very involved you have a passion for certain things so he said it was great to meet you.

***PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mike Chavez, Chief of Police***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to presentation of annual report for the Belen Police Department as presented by Chief Mike Chavez who advised he had submitted an annual report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said it was a great report because everything is well explained and identified in detail. Councilor Terese added it was a good report because sometimes there is stuff we don't know is going on she also asked if the local paper had received a copy. Chief Chavez advised they could have a copy if they choose. Councilor Ulivarri said some of the statistics are really good and it shows we are progressing and the fine job the department is doing.

***ACTION ITEMS***

***ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2010-03: AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 2008-10 APPOINTMENT OF SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO THE NEW MEICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to adoption of Resolution 2010-03-Amendment to Resolution 2008-10 appointment of signatory authority to the New Mexico Environment Department as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised Michael met with Stephanie Dubois last week and she recommended we amend the existing resolution on file to allow appointment of Sally as grantee representative and as signatory authority and Michael Steininger in replacement of Mildred Garley.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any comments from City Council. Councilor Terese Ulivarri she so moves to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

## ***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:***

### ***CITY MANAGER'S REPORT***

The City Managers report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Sally G. Garley, City Manager read her letter of resignation which she handed to the Mayor at an earlier date a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “you are the best City Manger we’ve had bar none. You have done a wonderful job and there is so much knowledge and so much experience within that head of yours and I think you can compete with any City Manager in this state and run circles around them with the knowledge you have and the ability to find funding and the ability to find grant money the ability to keep employees working and the City moving in a forward direction. I know it was tuff for you being a woman because a lot of men do not like to see a woman in control but you did a fantastic job and I told you I would not have done it without you so thank you for staying on as long as I was here.”

Councilor Terese Ulivarri said “you have done an outstanding job and I think we are crazy to not believe that you didn’t. Once again like the Mayor said the knowledge and experience and the contacts is another one you need to know who to call when you need to call and then you have enough respect out there that they will call you back. A lot of our projects have moved forward simply because of you and you knew who to contact you knew how to proceed you knew how to get stuff done a lot of these projects (unable to transcribe) the last ten to twelve years and probably the last part of that has all been you and what you have done has been incredible for this community and I know you love this community you live here you grew up here and your family was raised here and you did an outstanding job and I can’t give you enough credit for what you are taking with you things change and it is too bad that they do but thank you so much.”

Councilor David Lopez said “thank you, every time I needed assistance with something or someone to knock me on the side of the head you were there for us. You were very professional with the public even when we have to deal with very irate citizens you always showed your professionalism and gave them the answers that they needed. I want to reiterate what everyone else said and thank you very much.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos said “Sally good job and you know it is like it goes when things go well the politicians will take that and we get the credit and if things go bad well its management. I too have worked with a lot of managers, and I have seen some good managers and I have seen some managers that I don’t know where we got them from I really don’t. The City was in bad shape a few times and there were other corrupt things that happened I mean bad things that people go to jail for and I am glad that I have seen you come up from the ranks and that is what I am most proud of. Starting from where ever you started to work to a clerk to collecting you know in the front desk I should point back to the old city hall that I remember you from just working, working through procurement and public records and so much knowledge

that you have that you've learned through the years. You don't just come out of college and say here I am and I know everything. You really worked your way up and like everybody else has said the experience and the contacts when we are in a bind and you can get on the phone and you know the name and who to call when we have a deadline it really means a lot to us to the whole city. So thank you.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo said "Sally thank you so much for the work the professionalism, any time I've ever called you, you were very responsive anytime I needed to be in your office you were very professional and a job well done. Sometimes we think we are the ones that get the funding I think a lot of times at Washington it is you that they really know about and it is just us in the back scenes and I know Jeff Bingaman's office thinks the world of you I know that a lot of funding came through them because of you and we just go back there representing the City but it is has always been you as City Manager that has the connection funding that's come through because of you I appreciate that. I think you have been great I knew you grew up in the same neighborhood you still live now your parents lived there or just around there. It has been just good to have you.

#### ***COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:***

**Councilor David Lopez:** said "this weekend I coached the Jr. Wrestling, I am one of the coaches for the Jr. Wrestling program. We had our state tournament this weekend in Bernalillo and our kids did very well it was a good turnout. We had a lot of our kids place we had two kids take the state championship-Jeremy Flores and Estevan Chavez. We had a lot of second and third places and if you know wrestling it is very hard just to get a medal especially at that point out team did very well. We have a few kids that are going to wrestle at the southwest tournament so that is going to be in a couple of weeks so wrestling is not entirely over but we are still coaching.

We have a grantee board meeting in a week or so they are going to retrain the board just like the Council a board gets elected every other year and they need to be trained on how to be a good board how to use the Roberts Rules of Order and if you are in a board you need to support that board, if you are in a committee donate to that committee back it as much as you can. According to the people on the board I am involved in it is a board composed of five counties and there's very good people involved in it they support the community they support the kids they donate a lot of money, not only to head start, but to various other organizations like La Vida Felicidad which is also in Valencia County, the head start programs the older American programs there are so many programs that everybody needs help and there's no funding. Everybody says why don't you do something with this or that but the bottom line is that there is no funding and you can't go forward. The board does its best to raise a lot of money to keep these programs going and we have been very successful making sure a lot of needy families get fed during the Christmas holidays and the thanksgiving holidays and that is always a big push to hit all of our resources to raise monies for these families.

**Councilor Terese Ulivarri:** said "the committee for revamping our speed hump ordinance met last week and we came up with some improvements and a little more specific on what we are going to be doing. We are going to meet again at the end of this week and try to finalize that and

bring it to the council for approval. We did find a lot of things that were not making sense and our forms are totally a mess and that's getting redone and so we will bring it to you when we are ready. It looks like it may come to a final probably by the next meeting.

Gloria I just talked to you on Saturday I think or whatever I am still looking at, I talked to Lisa in our Planning and Zoning today and I was going to call you tomorrow but since you are here I may as well give you a little update. Some of the ordinances that we have are just too broad to do anything with and then some are vague so you can't really do anything with those either so we need to sit down and look at a lot of our ordinances, especially when it comes to planning and zoning and do something with them. Some of them the fines may not be there because they are probably not done since the 70's or 80's so the fines, doesn't matter to people because they think I will just pay it and get it over with so those need to be brought up. And we need to really tighten some of these big sentences that don't make much sense at all. A lot of things the planning and zoning cannot do because our ordinances are just not good so we need to go back and start looking at those. Lisa and I are going to get together and we are going to start working on that as soon as we can. I tried to address some of the issues you have had with our ordinances and one of them is we cannot because they are just too vague you can't work with them.

**Gloria Sanchez** said: "I appreciate the conversation we had the other day but I feel sometimes that constituents hold back on their concerns and their issues to bring them in front of the council and it makes it difficult for us. I think you are a mutual admiration society it is very obvious and it's great we can all work together and I guess it has to click that way. Sometimes as a constituent and a volunteer for the City I have experienced some employees that are not that comfortable with my presence when I come to City Hall I am not going to mention any names but that is just my experience. The constituents vote the council in so that you can listen to us and when we don't get a response as I mentioned earlier you get discouraged and then when you do come to the council you guys get irate. We are not professional speakers so you come up here and because sometimes they feel they are not being listened to and then it gets worse and worse. Just from my perspective I really feel that the Council is voted in to overlook the Mayor and the City Manager you still have to work with them but your job is to, the priority are the constituents that voted the council in, you are supposed to overlook the work that the Mayor and the City Manger. You hate to be going to the mayor you want to be able to go to the council and Tinky and I had a great discussion the other day and that was great. I felt like she listened and she understood where I was coming from.

**Mayor Ronnie Torres:** said "Mr. Carter there was a letter that you wrote to the editor it was fantastic. I read it and I was just like "wow" can't we just blow this up and stick it on everyone's door. It was really, in fact we were talking about it at the beauty shop and people were talking and mentioning it and I told somebody when we remember kids things being as kids we remember things being better than they were so I think even the fiestas were bigger than they are which I am sure they were but they weren't state fair but they were till good. For you to remember stuff like that and what you wrote it was really good and the way you put it it's, we can only do so much as a city but the citizens all need to take part and they need to step up to the plate and I was telling people one day if we want the city to clean up, if everybody would just clean up their yard they don't have to have a new house or anything but if they were to cut the weeds in front of their house and the front of the street is always the city's when people need something to be taken care of and it is always theirs when the don't want to city to do something

to it. But yet I see some people out there and they mow it they sweep around their properties and stuff they clean their alleyways because that's theirs that's their own little part of the city. It's great that you wrote that in and I wish everybody would take a little bit more pride and overnight this community would be beautiful. I want to commend you (David Carter) on that the letter was really good, I didn't even know who you were, the other day you came in I opened the door you opened the door and vice-versa and I said what a nice man but I didn't know who you were, until I found out and you were the letter write and that was good. Thank you.

I just passed by the Doodle Bug and that fence is finally up, it looks fantastic. If anybody hasn't seen it you go by the Doodle Bug you will notice the wrought iron fence that was done up there with funding we got from state appropriations and it looks really nice. We are happy to see that finally done.

Also there was a boy scout, he will probably be coming at the next meeting but he used that as a project and he put some railroad ties in there and did a good job. There was another boy scout that did some landscaping and finished it up a little bit so it is a good community project, the Doodle Bug.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos:** said "I was glad to hear about that booster pump station I guess all that is needed is the generator up there and that is very important we have been wanting that for a long time especially needing that for the service for protection up there you know where you turn on your hydrants and now booster station isn't manual anymore.

Also the newspaper article the only thing I didn't know was that one apple orchard you said I used to hit the one east of you because I use to live east of you so I used to hit that one but the other one I was not familiar with but we all grew up on the same road on Aragon, but that was positive and that is a good way to put things, some people can blast people and mail things out and won't even sign them they won't put their names on them. You put something very positive and brought it toward the people of Belen and I thought that was great and you actually signed it and that was pretty neat.

**Councilor Rudy Jaramillo:** said "again Victoria is gone but I think we did a great thing for her and I think we should continue with those soldiers that are coming back home and really boost them up because of the time that they spend away from their families.

We had a Valentine's party for our seniors and we went there to help serve it is a neat thing to help those people out to get over there and get excited they dance. It is really neat for them the holidays and Terese was there and Wayne, Jerah, Tibo we all had a good time.

Several business individuals met at Ninos and we were concerned about this thing that came out about what is happening on the north exit. We are really trying to do some things to try to change. We are trying to make them realize what a bad deal it is to not continue with that project even if it is just to open the interstate even if Signet Solar doesn't come down it doesn't make a difference if it isn't open to the west side there is nothing that is going to happen there.

***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.

*/s/*  
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

*/s/*  
Sally G. Garley, City Manager