

***REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

**February 16, 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, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

***ABSENT:*** Terese Ulivarri, Councilor  
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor

***CITY STAFF:*** Sally G. Garley, City Manager  
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist  
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police  
Lenore Pena, Safety Director  
Jonathan Abeita, Belen Police Department  
Tommy Sanchez, OEM  
Robert Miller, Belen Police Department  
JP Abeita, Belen Police Department  
Phillip Montano, Belen Police Department  
Gerald Espinoza, Belen Police Department

***OTHERS:*** Brent Raffner, VCNB  
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T  
Tony Savilla, Citizen  
Tom Green, Belen Chamber

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Chief Mike Chavez to lead the pledge of allegiance.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***

***Regular Meeting: February 2, 2009***

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for February 2, 2009. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez 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.

1. **Gilbert Tabet:** said "I just wanted to bring up the deal about the road going up to Camino Del Llano they had said about six months ago that in February they would get that thing going. I was just wondering because it was the middle part of February". Mayor Ronnie Torres advised there was a meeting set with the Engineer to go over that exact same question. One of the reasons they did not begin with the demolition of the road right away was because they were afraid it would get too cold and get stuck with a road that would not be able to be paved. But the project is still going to happen. They are actually doing a lot of other stuff, not tearing the road apart, they are doing surveys.

***PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARD: Chief Mike Chavez***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to presentation of a life saving award to be presented by Chief Mike Chavez of the Belen Police Department. Chief Chavez addresses the Mayor and Council and began by stating: "On January 26, 2009 at approximately 5:04 p.m. Senior Officer Jonathan Abeita was dispatched to 619 Edith in reference to a possible overdose. He arrived on scene at 5:07 pm and made contact with Jose Silva's mother who advised officer Abeita that her son had possibly overdosed and was lying in the back bedroom of that residence. Senior Officer Abeita located Mr. Jose Silva in the rear of the residence lying prone in a puddle of his own emeses. He noticed his face was dark purple and found him to be hot to the touch and was not breathing. Officer Abeita noticed that Mr. Silva's nasal and oral cavities were filled with emeses and manually removed as much as he could. At that time Officer Abeita attempted CPR with negative results. Because of Officer Abeita was unable to clear the airway because of the obstructions he inserted an NPA (nasal per angle airway) so secure a better airway. This instrument is a rubber tube that is inserted into the patients' nose in order to maintain the patients' airway. At that time Officer Abeita started CPR by the use of a BBM, Officer Abeita continued rescue breathing until Emergency Services could take over and transport.

I believe officer Abeita's actions on January 26 saved Mr. Silva's life, if it was not for Jonathan Abeita Mr. Silva would not be with us anymore. Lt. Miller was on scene at the time and could

not speak more highly of Jonathan's actions. I wish I was there to witness what he could do. His training to be able to do everything he did and to physically respond, even after all the bodily fluids that were involved, he reacted to clear airways and still try to save this persons life with the knowledge to do what he did. It is a great honor for me to present Jonathan Abeita with the Life Saving Award from the Belen Police Department". Jonathan then stood and received the award and presented it for viewing to the public. Chief Chavez advised there were also pins with the medal to pin to his uniform.

Mayor Ronnie Torres then read aloud the life saving award presented to Jonathan Abeita, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Officer Abeita was thanked by the Council and commended for his actions.

Senior Officer Jonathan Abeita said "thank you for this award this is my second chance at law enforcement so I thank you deeply. None of this would have been possible without your support. Mayor and Council I promise to do my best and not let you guys down".

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Officer Robert Miller about his participation in the Torch Run. Officer Miller advised that each officer had a leg to run for instance run three miles and be off for about twelve and then run another four. When you get ready to go into the cities you gather as a large group so that we each run in formation. Different officers from all over the world were there to represent the diversity, you give speeches then you run out of the city as a group and after that you start running single lanes again.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Officer Abeita if the lifesaving technique he delivered came natural or what were you thinking because this type of stuff does not just happen every day. Officer Abeita advised he was just thinking natural.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos added that he knew Jonathan from when he worked at the Fire Department and he is crossed trained in fire. He also holds a license as an EMT Basic. The first responders any time, the more training they get of course, the more chance of survival on that golden hour for anybody. Although they did not have a rescue unit there or an I.V. bag with him or anything like that or any drug to give to this patient. He stuck to his, what is called the ABC, airway the breathing and the circulation of this patient. Chief Chavez is correct if the individual would have stayed without oxygen for more than six minutes he may not have had this chance by the time rescue comes to give them special drugs to come around. He did a good job.

Chief Chavez advised that Officer Abeita does bring his EMT bag along with him on patrol. Sometimes an extra two or three minutes during the wait for rescue to get together to come he is first on the scene and this is not the first time he has started things off for rescue. We are fortunate we have his expertise. Also Officer Gilbert Montano was introduced he is the new officer for the Belen Police Department. He is FTOing (field training officer) riding along with Officer Abeita so maybe he can catch some pointers there. There were several other officers that attended the council meeting and spoke highly of officer Abeita. Mayor Ronnie Torres said his congratulations are well deserved. Lenore Pena advised she was on the scene and the mother of the patient thanked the department, and the individual came out of the home sitting up on the stretcher. She also advised she has tried to get him to join their department. Mayor Ronnie Torres said they need help in Los Chavez too that is okay.

***ACTION ITEMS:***

***APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND FRANCHISE AGREEMENT: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to approval of first amendment to the Solid Waste Collection and Franchise Agreement as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised the City currently has a solid waste agreement in place and is due to expire on March 1, 2009. The Procurement Specialist, Audrey Torres, is in the process of preparing a request for proposal. At this day and age we have to get the most for our money. This will be the first amendment to that agreement and will be for six months.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked is if there were any questions from Council. Councilor Wayne Gallegos asked “is this Waste Management, have they ever brought up the deal that we talked about a year ago on the recycle center north of town that we were supposed to get going”. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised we are still talking about that and we need funding to prepare the site. Right now we currently have an employee on staff Mario Sisneros and he is certified and we have the permit for the recycling center it is just a matter of getting the funding in place to prepare the site. Waste Management is currently working with us on this however after the RFP, whichever company is awarded the bid, we will still move forward with the recycle center.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez asked if there are no further questions he moves to approve. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion.

***ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-02 NM DOT PROJECT NO SP-3-10(938)CN M3 00123 FOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS STREETS- COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PROJECT: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to adoption of Resolution No. 2009-02 New Mexico Department of Transportation Project No. SP-3-10(938)CN M300123 for construction and improvements to various streets as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised the resolution is part of the application that is submitted yearly. This year the application is in the amount of \$133,000. The project includes Delgado, some improvements have been done recently but there are other improvements needed. The City participation is 25% of the amount of award. The applications are due March 15 and the resolution is a requirement for the application, funding cycle 2010. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions or comments and if none he so entertained a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moves to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised “if anyone noticed that project, on Delgado, it was relocation of sewer lines and now we are coming back with funding from a different source to do the overlay of the project.

***ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2009-03 CONTRACT FUNDING NM STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2009/2010 MUNICIPAL ARTERIAL PROGRAM (MAP): Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to adoption of Resolution 2009-03 Contract funding New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department for participation in the 2009-2010 Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised this is very similar to the project explained earlier. This funding requested is for the Becker Street, we have been fortunate in the past to have received funding for this and this is the application for 2009/2010. This request is for 2.1 million which again the City would have a 25% match. This project would consist of First and Second Streets on Becker Street. A copy of the Resolution is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor Pro-Tem David made a motion to approve if there are no questions. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

***ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2009-04 CONTRACT GRANT APPLICATION TO NM DOT FOR AN AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to adoption of Resolution 2009-04 contract grant application to New Mexico Department of Transportation for an automated weather observation system as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised this is an application being submitted on behalf of the Airport. This is a project \$200,000 and the City participation would be 2.5% of the \$200,000. This resolution is required for submission with the application with the grant; the total would \$200,000, 2.5% City and 2.5% State. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions or comments and if none he so entertained a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved to accept. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez 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:***

**Councilor Wayne Gallegos:** “welcome to the new officer that left Gilbert Montano, he is in good hands with our Police Department and it looks like he is on with Jonathan which is good. Also again to Jonathan he did a good job and Lieutenant Miller we have been following him all the way through and then that last photo where is, it just looked cold. I am glad he represented us well.

Just another couple of things there’s a lot of meetings coming up this week but we lot two people in the community and one of them was Officer Purdy and they held his services today at Calvary and there was a good turnout with all the first responders.

And then the next one Mr. Mel Sanchez the owner of the music store on Main Street he was a great guy to visit he had a lot of history of this community of musicians. If I would go talk to him and he would say do you remember so and so and I played with so and so and he knew them by name and knew what instrument they played, what type of music. The one think I had in common with him is that we both loved music. It was nice to have that store around and he will be missed”.

**Councilor David Lopez:** “just would like to say to Mike “the officers are a real asset to the City of Belen and some of the things they do as extracurricular activities is a plus for us it gives us national recognition”. “Officer Abeita, in recruiting better officers for the city, it shows in what they do to go above and beyond the call.

As far as all these projects we have there is a real tight funding issue this year in Santa Fe and they are hoping that one point seven billion dollar package comes in. Everyone is already fighting for a piece of the pie especially the schools in Albuquerque are really anxious to see what they are going to get out of it, and hopefully we can get some funding.

In talking to the Mayor I was encouraging him to take a representative and possible himself to go to Washington and put a bug in their ear because the squeaky wheel gets the grease so whatever we can do to try to get more funding.” Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised “we are meeting with Congressman Teague’s office tomorrow, representatives tomorrow, and I believe he is coming too no sure but either way we are having that meeting”. It is scary everyone is bothering for money and everybody needs it. With the price of gas this summer that was so high we were getting these massive amounts of funding and once the gas prices fell so did all the funding so whatever we can do would be good.

**Mayor Ronnie Torres:** “motion to adjourn”

**Councilor Terese Ulivarri:** Absent

**Councilor Rudy Jaramillo:** Absent

***ADJOURNMENT:***

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

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

/ss  
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

/ss  
Sally G. Garley, City Manager