

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 15, 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, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Lawrence Kanishero, IT
Kathryn Baldonado, RSVP Director
Annie Sanchez, RSVP/Public Transportation

OTHERS:

Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Raffner, VCNB
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Klapper, RCA
Sonny Sanchez, City of Belen
Norma Law, RCA
CSM Paul T. Martinez, 515th CSSB, NM National Guard
CPT Bradley K. Bock, 515th CSSB, NM National Guard
CPT Jason Peete, Rear Det CDR, 515th CSSB, NM National Guard
Charles Anderson, COC
Maj. AL Pugh, 515th CSSB, NM National Guard
Gloria Sanchez, Citizen
Mike and Mary Wood, VCAC
Loretta Tollefson, MRCOG
Jacquie Martinez, Molzen-Corbin & Associates
Jerah R. Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Bruce Prater, Citizen
Ken Gibson, Weeping Tree Nursery
Sue and John Moraw, VCAC
Liz Sangrestino, RCA
Joseph Rizzo, 77 Norma St

George C. Moscona, Rio Communities Association, RCA
Della Gaul, Hospital
B. Paul Ortega, Our Tomorrow
Dianne Mattson, Our Tomorrow
Albert & Alice Chavez, Our Tomorrow
David Pennington, Los Lunas Corridor Study
Alice J. Torwivt, VCAC
Sara, Bill & Alfred Stein
Mark Sharpp
Dick Burton
Michael Eauss
Tom Greer, Fast Forward Mgmt.
Cindy McCall, Fast Forward Mgmt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked George Moscona 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:

Regular Meeting: June 1, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for June 1, 2009. Councilor David Lopez advised there was a typographical error in the minutes, page 3 paragraph 4 need to change the "&" and place a "\$" instead. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

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

1. **Albert Chavez:** said "my petition is requesting for a complete Council Meeting Agenda for all future meetings be publicized in the newspaper. I am addressing all council members starting with (pointing a finger) Rudy, Wayne, Ronnie Torres, Terese and David all of you and our City Manager. Why is it that it's so hard to publicize what the agenda is on these meetings? I had a hard time finding about this meeting through friends I found out what was going to go on in this meeting. I cannot come to every meeting but I'll tell you what the issues impacting my quality of life and the quality of life for a lot of these people is regarding the goes on in this room, and if we don't know what's going on, we can't come to all meetings okay".

Mayor Ronnie Torres when we send them to the newspaper how do we send them, addressing the City Manager who advised they are faxed and sent by email.

Mr. Chavez interrupted and said “one sentence in the paper, I didn’t know about that, I guess there’s going to be a hospital discussion today”

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised “no”.

Albert Chavez continued “so my question to all council members is why not publicize a decent agenda in the newspaper, what goes on in this room every two weeks.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “you know we can take that up with the paper and ask them”.

Mr. Chavez interrupted again and said “is it the papers responsibility to publish or is it somebody over here that I am facing right now.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “we send this, holding up the agenda, is this not what we send-posing the question to the City Manager-who advised yes. Mayor Ronnie Torres advised this is what we sent.

Mr. Chavez said “that is the complete agenda, why is it that other governments, I read the paper, and other governments have a complete agenda with regards to what is going to go on in that meeting except for the exception of the Belen News.

City Manager, Sally G. Garley said “we send them in a timely manner to the newspaper and the agenda is in the newspaper and this one was sent Friday morning.

Mr. Chavez said “I am not talking about this agenda I am talking about every single meeting that goes on here. We don’t know what’s going on this is a self government. City Manager, Sally G. Garley said “we send them every meeting Mr. Chavez”.

Mr. Chavez said “the only we can find out is if they publish a full and complete meeting agenda with regards to what goes on between all of you. And that’s the only way, I am a concerned citizen very concerned and I am being impacted by what you people decide in this room.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “we can ask the paper why they are not doing it if they are doing it for other people”.

Mr. Chavez said “can you guys give me an answer individually as to why not.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri said “let me ask a question I have the floor. We sent the agenda it is not published in the legal-posing the question to the City Manager, Sally G. Garley who advised it was not. Mr. Chavez said it is in the back side of the front page. Councilor Terese Ulivarri said “I know what you are talking about but I thought it was also published in the legals”. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised it is sent to the radio, it is posted on the website-Mr. Chavez interrupted again and said “I don’t have a

computer”-and it is emailed and faxed to the newspaper and everything goes out Friday morning.

2. **Mike Wood** said “thanks for allowing me to speak, at the commission meetings they usually have the sheriff’s office there I see you have called in the Army (several members of the Army National Guard were present in the audience for presentation of the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony). I think the gentleman who was talking was talking about is the hospital on the agenda because the people that I work with, I had called them because I had got a call from a lady that was at your last meeting, when she was asking questions about the hospital and she was told, as I get it, to come back to the next meeting and you people might have some answers for her. Well we can help you answer some of the questions but, she is also with our group and the problem we have is our group meets at the same time your group meets that’s why Jerah is always at your meeting because he prefers to be on the camera and we don’t have a camera. Anyway that’s the story so that is not oversight of their-speaking to Mr. Chavez-it was just kind of a screw-up one way or the other. But we do want to hear about the hospital”.

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “what I did was, in fact I don’t see her (Della Gaul) here today-oh there you are, I have a number for you. I called and I talked to Peggy Gutchar and she has been going to the meetings with a lot of different people and she has the most rounded information possible she said she is not an expert at it but I can explain to here everything that she has learned from the different meetings that she has gone to. The information I got was pretty much what Norm McDonald, City Attorney, said at the last meeting.

Mr. Wood said “we are trying to get our meetings set up at different locations so that we can bring in people that are really opposed to the hospital and we can have educated discussions and so forth. But my big concern, and it really worries me, the little town of Belen and I did join the chamber, with the little stores and all these stores closing why aren’t there signs on all these windows “build our hospital” I will tell you and give you the answer. There’s a small group of people that are intimidating the hell out of people, scaring them, and that is not right. So you people are the key to this city. And I can tell everybody in this room it was at the meeting when you had a vote from every commissioner every council person and every one of these people is for this hospital, every one of them. Then we had full page ad in the paper “we support the hospital”. But doesn’t that boggle your mind when you don’t see signs in stores saying “build this hospital” because it is a hand full of people. That’s it and so far as where it is at right now we are number 17 on the Civil Appeal Roster and the month of May and June the judges didn’t hear any of them, we will see if they hear any of them in July. Will they work us up to the top will be decided and we should win and we should start a hospital. Other members speaking in support of the hospital were Clark Medcalf and Susan.

LOS LUNAS CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE: Dave Pennington, Dave Pennington and Associates/ Loretta Tollefson MRCOG.

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to the Los Lunas Corridor Study Update presented by Dave Pennington of Dave Pennington and Associates and Loretta Tollefson who

introduced herself as a Special Projects Manager with the Mid Region Council of Governments and presented the Council with a handout, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference, explaining the presentation is called the Los Lunas Corridor Study. It is called the Los Lunas Corridor Study even though a good portion of the study is not going to be in the Village, the goal of the study is to provide relief to NM 6 Corridor and for that reason Los Lunas went to the State and acquired some funding for the study.

The Corridor study reviews NM 6, Rancho Cielo including existing roadway systems, increased use of alternative travel modes, new east-west roadway and a combination of. The study mentions public improvement activities which include public meetings with affected neighborhoods, landowners, elected officials and citizen advisory committees which are identified and includes their role. The Corridor study activities include initial corridor analysis, alternatives analysis and environmental documentation. In conclusion the study included an eighteen month schedule to complete the corridor study and environmental document as follows: May through September 2009, Initial Corridor Study; September 2009 through February 2010, Alternatives Analysis; February 2010 through October 2010 Environmental Documentation.

YELLOW RIBBON CEREMONY PRESENTATION: Lt Colonel Kenneth Nava/Gloria Sanchez

Mayor Torres read the next agenda item referring to the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony presentation given by Lt. Colonel Kenneth Nava and Gloria Sanchez. Lt. Colonel Nava introduced himself along with other members of the Battalion: Command Sergeant Major Paul Martinez who is a senior enlisted member of the Battalion; Captain Brandy Bach-Headquarters Company Commander; Major Al Pugh Executive Officer; Captain Jason Pete Rear Detachment Commander. Lt. Colonel Nava turned the podium over to Gloria Sanchez and advised he would give the Council an update once she concluded with her presentation.

Gloria said “we are here to present our Yellow Ribbon Program. The yellow ribbons were designed by Amor Flowers and the Banner was designed by Bruce Prather. The yellow ribbon ceremony will be held on this coming Saturday, June 20 at the Heart of Belen Plaza beginning at 10:00 AM. We are also here this evening, of course you all have programs (a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference) but we would also like Colonel Nava did very well he did a good job. I have been so nervous working with the military group, we have always invited the 1 200th and now the 515th to perform at some of our ceremonies at 911 and Memorial Day and they have always been very generous with their time and this is the first time that I have worked with them directly. They have had to guide us on the proper sequence for the Yellow Ribbon. The Yellow Ribbon Ceremony is to actively express our home front support to the Guard and their families. How many times have we heard the words “freedom is not free” these brave men and women, along with soldiers from all over our nation, love support and defend our country, they put their lives on the line for the freedom we enjoy today. Not only do they defend our country but they are also crucial to the disaster relief efforts here at home. We pray that our continued support will remain on their minds and hearts for a safe return home to their families and communities. We salute them for their dedication valor and patriotism. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony Saturday we need a lot of help.

Lt. Colonel Kenneth Nava took the podium and stated “I can tell the people that are here in attendance about the unit and what is going on with us. Our unit is prepared to deploy, we will leave on the 22nd of June to camp in Indiana. We spend the last forty days training doing individual training tasks, everything from convoy operations to traffic control points to military operations in urban terrain. They Mayor went out to visit us at Stallion Range camp where we conducted our individual weapons qualification. We will be working later on collective training tasks. About early August time frame we should be moving to Kuwait we will spend a couple of weeks acclimating to the different temperature and getting ourselves through the jet lag, do some additional training and then move to northern Iraq. We will be there for one year.

I can’t thank you enough and citizens of Belen, actually the whole Valencia County for the great support and welcome that we received. My battalion headquarters has been in Socorro for the last five years we moved to Belen in March. The first battalion infantry that was here moved to Las Cruces my battalion moved here. In that short period of time that we’ve been here we have felt nothing but great love and support from the community of Belen, everything from the various businesses that have been offering to buy my soldiers food to just everything just a lot of wonderful support.

The Yellow Ribbon Ceremony and I hope to see you all there is not a fun thing for us it is a somber event we are sad, we are leaving our families for a year it will be a very emotional day. Again thank you so much for all the support we received from you we look forward to be back here in a year and having a big party because we are back. Thank you very much.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “it is us that should be thanking you for everything you do”.

ACTION ITEMS:

SECTION 5311 STIMULUS MOA GRANT ACCEPTANCE: Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to Section 5311 Stimulus MOA grant acceptance as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised she wanted to first introduce Kathryn Maldonado as the new RSVP Director. Annie accompanied her and was influential along with Veronica Gamboa in submitting the proposal for the Stimulus funds. The Memorandum of Agreement is accepting the grant in the amount of \$128,245 and it is under the Section 5311 the funding is being programmed to purchase three 15 passenger shuttle busses. This would extend the public transportation services.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions if none he entertained a motion. Councilor Terese Ulivarri recommended to accept the Section 5311 Stimulus Memorandum of Acceptance. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos, seconds the motion, motion carries.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: said “Kathryn welcome to that position I know you will do well. Annie also I know you have done a lot through the years you’ve been there and the work you guys do for funding that you get transportations and stuff really good for that. And also to our soldiers I myself as a City Councilor as a Citizen of Belen and an American Citizen I commend you for what you guys do I know it is hard to get out there and leave your families behind we have what we have because there are men like you that stand, and women. Gloria for putting stuff together, Sonny thank you guys for these people and I appreciate you.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos: said “just again, I’ll say again in the meeting, welcome to the orange barrels in the City because the economy as bad as it is but we still had orange barrels showing that there’s improvements getting done in some of the City. Of course there’s a long list a lot of the City means that we are an old city but I know it is just think it’s a good job that everybody’s done on that. I hope to see more of that.

Also once again I met with the advisory RSVP advisory that was my last meeting that on for this quarter. Just the experience, once again Annie I don’t know how to say that you know we do use a lot of experience from people that retire and I did like the change out that we had by inviting the new people in along with the advisory to me it’s very close to me what we do with the seniors in that are and all the volunteers throughout the whole county. So I see that one going good. Also I have a meeting that I’d be attending next week and it’s the Older American program I’ve been appointed by the County for the City and the County to attend and it will be my first one. I look forward to it and it’s to represent the Older American population in this County that will be held this week in Albuquerque.

As for the Yellow Ribbon good job once again to Gloria, Sonny and all the people that helped because I know it takes a lot of people to make it happen. We look forward to whether it is a hospital not a hospital a bridge not a bridge if our roads need improving or not this is one thing that we do need to support these people will be away from their families for a whole year and we just, it is hard to say, but thank you thank you guys and welcome to Belen”.

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said “while we were at the Stallion Range we saw Blackhawk helicopter was really cool, Andrew DiCamillo went with us Terese, Sonny and we all had a fantastic time. They flew us up there and showed us how they do their training and shooting and the tents they live in and the food they eat. The heavy packs that they have to wear in fact I put one and it was heavy and that was only part of it. It is amazing the strength that you guys (soldiers present) have to have physically, not to mention the mental state that you guys have to be in to be able to go over there. When I was at the range it broke my heart because I was talking to some of the people and they were telling me some of the kids they have the families they have and to be sitting there and thinking that these guys are going out for a year and they don’t know if they are going to come back home. We hope to God you all come back home. But it is a terrifying thought for you guys. I thank God that there are people like you that volunteer to do this. You are not drafted into this you actually go out and you volunteer to go over there and make sure that all the crazies back here can do what they want to do because you guys provide us our freedom. So thank you so much for everything, we wish you the best of safety, the best of luck and the best of health while you are there”.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: said “I represented the City at the last COG meeting and what they did was ratify the new representation for the membership per all the towns and cities within the COG within our region. Belen is not the only one that has to replace stuff, the Gas Company of New Mexico or NM Gas company, can’t remember which one it is, they are replacing a line on Baca I know it is over fifty years old because I live on Baca and I am over fifty years old. That’s the part of town that floods and I guess from all the flooding that has gone on over the years it corrodes the lines so they found out they have a pretty bad line over there so that line is going to get replaced. So it is not just the city, just so you’ll know that. Hospital group thank you for being here, I don’t understand what the problem is. My sister had to happen to be in the hospital in Las Vegas New Mexico and they just built a new hospital a year ago and it was built by a company out of Texas and they actually run the thing for that County and it is a gorgeous hospital it is up to date computer and everything and it runs well and it is supported by the same tax that we voted on. I don’t see why that can’t happen here it doesn’t make sense to me at all but thank you for your support and your push.

Gloria thank you so much for all that you do and Sonny for this Yellow Ribbon Ceremony it is going to be incredible I think it is Belen’s first one and it is not something we are looking forward to but I think it is something everybody needs to attend to see the sacrifice you men give to your country for us. And to your families we pray for all of you and wish you the best. Thank you for the boss lift, talk about a professional organization, very professional. Everybody knows what they are doing and they can explain it well. We had the pleasure of talking to the Captain and it is incredible what the military personnel can do and it was just an honor to be with you and thank you so much for showing us what you do because we don’t know and now we can tell people what you do and be able to explain it and don’t be foolish about it and thank you for everything.”

Councilor David Lopez: said “to sum up what the council said to you soldiers that are being deployed good luck and God Bless you. A lot of families are very emotional when they see their sons going off to Iraq, I know a lot of families that they are constantly praying for their kids and it is hard to imagine what is going through the families mind when they see footage on the news

and wonder about their sons. Good luck with everything you do, as far as the military involvement with the City of Belen a couple of years ago for Tamara Longs services a helicopter came down and the Kirtland AFB personnel allowed all the children to go in there and check out the helicopter and they were pushing buttons and all over and all I could think of was if those could fly after all the kids messed everything up but they did. Everyone had a good time and it was good collaboration with the military and it did inspire a lot of kids. About the Yellow Ribbon ceremony Gloria and Sonny thank you. There is a beautiful yellow ribbon tied to a tree at the corner of Mesa and Reinken.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Councilor David Lopes moved to adjourn this meeting. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried.

/ss

Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

/ss

Sally G. Garley, City Manager