

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 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 Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist.

PRESENT: Ronnie Torres, Mayor
David Lopez, Councilor
Rudy Jaramillo, Mayor Pro-Tem
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

ABSENT: Terese Ulivarri, Councilor

CITY STAFF: Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Lenore Pena, Safety Director
John Best, Engineering Department
Manny Garcia, Belen Fire Chief
Robert Rimorin, Utility Director

OTHERS: Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Raffner, VCNB
Robert Mitchell, Ramstone, Inc.
Josie Campos, VC Older American Program
Donna Jaramillo, BHS
Jerah R. Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gilbert Tabet, Citizen
Britney Lardner, BHS
Cassandra Hurbina, Citizen
Nick Hurbina, Citizen
Melissa Cordova, Citizen
Dennis Miranda, Enhance Construction & Mfg.
April Chavez, BHS
Tony Savier, Citizen
Benni Torres, Citizen
Dan Dieterichs, Total Eye Care
Barbara A. Dieterichs, Total Eye Care
John Tellez, Molzen-Corbin & Associates

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Benji to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: March 2, 2009

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

Jerah Cordova approached the podium and advised he was representing Our Tomorrow and read from a prepared statement in reference to the stimulus funding. A copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes.

Councilor David Lopez wanted to assure Mr. Cordova the Governing Body was doing all they could to keep on top of the stimulus funding. Councilor Lopez also advised it is difficult to fund a two million dollar project and funding availability is less than half. This is when projects have to be phased in order to complete. The City of Belen has a tight budget and most of the travel has been eliminated the City Council did not make it to Washington DC this year. The Governor was making all kinds of promises with the gas tax revenue and now the revenues are down and those promises can't be met. The Rail Runner took a big chunk of that funding and since it is one of the Governor's pet projects he wants to see that completed. Do not think the Council as an entity has not done anything we have been in touch with constituents in DC they know what our requests are.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos thanked Jerah Cordova for his information, concern and offer of help. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos advised he was not aware we had to go through another hoop; he thought Santa Fe was a clearing house for the stimulus and was not aware they were going to start playing games.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised we have sent all the paperwork in and it was also sent to the Governor's office. We have two projects that are shovel ready a lot of people think that they have a project shovel ready but there are a lot of other things they need to have. An environmental studies need to be complete they need to have environmental impact study done to

make sure there are no negative impacts on birds. We have two projects that are ready and they are Becker Street and Camino DeLlano and they are ready to go out to bid within the next couple of weeks. All the information on these projects have gone to the Governor's office. The hard part is that they are coming up with new rules for the stimulus every day.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone else with a citizen petition. There were no other citizen petitions presented at this time.

CITIZEN AWARD OF HEROISM: Fire Chief, Manny Garcia

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to Citizen Award of Heroism as presented by Fire Chief, Manny Garcia who advised that on Saturday afternoon, February 21st the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on South Main Street and Camino DeLlano, as they arrived they were able to find one vehicle involved. Upon further investigation this vehicle had struck other vehicles on Main Street. The male occupant, only occupant, had some sort of medical episode before colliding. We are not sure how the incident happened with the medical condition but the male subject did pass away at the hospital. During the investigation of the scene there were some witnesses that stated there was a female citizen that came out of no where, like superwoman, and jumped on the truck and attempted to stop the vehicle and she did. It was because of here effort that she actually helped the patient from further damage and especially from hitting another vehicle. Chief Garcia advised that super woman was in the audience and her name is Casandra Herbina she was presented with an award for Heroism for her bravery and courageous effort that she helped a stranger in our city. She was accompanied by her parents and employer Dr. Dietrich.

Mayor Ronnie Torres congratulated Casandra on her act of Heroism and continued saying that there are so many people who say that would do this or that but when it comes down to doing it they freeze and can't do anything. Casandra however did something for a citizen in need.

ACTION ITEMS:

***RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD BID SENIOR CENTER KITCHEN RENOVATIONS:
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to recommendation to award bid for Senior Center kitchen Renovations as presented by Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist who advised the City received ten bids for the Senior Center kitchen renovations that were received and opened on March 5, 2009 at 2:00. The bids ranged from a low base bid of \$108,100 to a high of \$195,069 and these figures do not include gross receipts tax. There was an apparent low bidder including alternates number one and two which is Ramstone Inc. the recommendation to award for the amount of \$159, 331.32 which includes base bid alternate one and two and gross receipts tax.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos advised the bids range was from \$108,000 to \$195,000 and the bid that received the award was in between was there a reason why they did not go with the low bid? Antonio Aranda III with Molzen Corbin and Associates advised the way it happened is the bid was awarded which included both alternates.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any further questions if no he so entertains a motion. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to accept the bid to Ramstone. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

***RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE
PLAN: John Best/Kevin Eades***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to recommendation for approval of the drainage and maintenance plan. John Tellez of Molzen-Corbin and Associates and John Best, City Engineer were available for questions. Councilor David Lopez noted he wanted to make sure the plan was in place before the next rains came. John Best, City Engineer advised most of the maintenance has already been done by City personnel. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos advised he just wanted to comment that the Drainage and Maintenance plan was very important. He has worked with this for a very long time and every time it rains we know what we have to deal with. Every time we have an emergency we call up the state and even the feds and apply for grant money and do some mitigation and clean it out again. We have always winged it and have never had a drainage and maintenance plan. City Employees do most of the work but there was nothing written detailing what exactly needed to be done. He continued stating he wanted to see a plan for the entire City. A master storm drain plan was recently approved and that is new also and it took a long time. However a plan is only as good as it is utilized. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos also asked if elevation markers could be put in as soon as possible so that every time it is cleaned we do not go too far.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any other questions from Council, if none he so entertains a motion to approve. Councilor David Lopez moved to approve Drainage and Maintenance Plan. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:

April Student Liaison: reported the Blood Drive did not reach their goal so the plan for next year is to have two Blood drives. Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day and student council will be passing out shamrocks and necklaces to all students as they arrive at school. The academic

assembly is coming up and council was invited to attend it will be held March 22 which is the Friday before they go on spring break. Junior class starts AYP testing next week.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: said “the boys and girls basketball went to the quarterfinals but then lost but the program has done well for a lot of years. The baseball teams will be playing now so we will see how we do. Jerah thanks for all that you do and Our Tomorrow gets to look at things and information that is out there and it is time consuming. Like Dave said we do get out and look for funding even though we didn’t go last year. But I feel that the Mayor and someone else from the City should go to DC and not stop altogether to make sure that they see us to get funding for any sort of thing. These trips need to continue. Some people say that they go up there to have fun, well he said he did not ever go there to have fun because he has a business to run and he goes there because the City needs funding and the only way we will get it is if the people see you. They are not going to do it with neither a phone call nor a letter. So I feel the Mayor and the City Manager need get up there.

John, about our drainage it is something that has been needed up there and we have been working hard to get something up there at the Eagle Park, those run offs just move and there is nothing to stop it. A lot of times the City gets blamed for stuff like that but our crews try hard sometimes without sleep and I have seen our Mayor out there and working on these floods. This is something that we have been working as a City to try to get this plan or at least to prepare for it. The School also has problems with the rains coming through those channels.

Casandra thanks for your efforts in helping another citizen, congratulations that is something. You put your self in a predicament but got thing under control. Thank you.”

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: said “just a couple of items to let everyone know the preparedness of the high winds and of course the fire danger, Manny I know you have been getting prepared also. Just to let everyone know the high winds are here and everything is dry just be very careful around your own homes. We hear it on the news but our own homes we tend to forget.

Thanks to all the departments, we have been working on the budgets, for all their help in staying within their budgets with the money crunch and everything it really takes everyone to cut back. Our budgets are in good shape there is not a lot of money out there and looking at the numbers on the budgets I would like to tell them all thank you.

Casandra thank you, we used to have a hero every once in a while come out and it is not too often for fires or wrecks. There for a while the Chamber when they had their monthly meetings we would get to announce acts like this and we got away from that. I am glad that Manny is doing it again and this is the place to do it. Thank you again.

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said, “Casandra thank you again. We are still working on the stimulus package we are hoping to get our piece of the pie just like everyone else is hoping to do. We have done everything we can and have given them every piece of information they have asked for. I hope it will be good enough, now we just have to keep pushing to make sure we do get it.

We will be traveling the Santa Fe on Wednesday for the Main Street Meeting to do our presentation up there. The individuals who will be going will be I, Andrew and Claudette. We will be giving it our best shot to see if we can make it for a “Main Street Community”. There are six individuals on the committee Jerah is one of them and we have been working very hard to see if we can get this certification. I think we have a good chance it comes down to money, if there is enough money in the legislature then we may get funded if not hopefully they will put us on the list so we don’t have to go through this again. Either way we will do whatever we need to do. Thanks to Chief Chavez for catching some of those graffiti people.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: absent

Councilor David Lopez: said, congratulations Casandra and I am sure your parents smacked you behind the head and said “are you crazy”. Thank you for everything that you did. Congratulations to the basketball team they had a good season. As far as the Multi-purpose Park the kids keep taking me up there so I have seen all the work that has been done on those ponds. Judging by the depths of those ponds and compared to the day we had the flooding and the water was going over the road that was an enormous amount of water. Three inches of rain per hour is a lot of rain. It is good we are addressing these ponds. There is a lot of activity at the parks. Jerah in reference to these stimulus funding I am sure you have heard that there are more regulations the president has put on it. When you have an entity that vies for funding you hear that Los Lunas got offered this money and didn’t want it but we will take it. But when you get it and see all the red tape it is hard to get it. With all the problems on Wall Street and all the crooks the government is going to keep close tabs on this money and hold people accountable. Jerah thank you for keeping everyone honest and voicing your opinion. Thanks to the City departments for keeping within the budget. The people we have on staff are worth their weight in gold we basically have them for free it is a wash. For what they do and all their expertise we are getting a hell of a bang for our buck.

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