

***REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

**March 2, 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  
Terese Ulivarri, Councilor  
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor  
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

***CITY STAFF:***

Sally G. Garley, City Manager  
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist  
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police  
Lawrence Kanishero, IT  
Robert Rimorin, Utility Director  
Cheryl Mora, Belen Police Department  
John Lytle, Belen Police Department  
Wendy McCloud, Belen Police Department  
Robert S. Mackenzie, Belen Police Department

***OTHERS:***

Norman McDonald, City Attorney  
Brent Raffner, VCNB  
Gloria Sanchez, Citizen  
Gilbert Taber, Circle T  
Donna Jaramillo, Belen High School  
Jerah P. Cordova, Our Tomorrow  
Claudette Riley, Belen EDC

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Donna Jaramillo to lead the pledge of allegiance.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda and advised Agenda Item Number 7 be tabled. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo so moved to approve as amended. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***

***Regular Meeting: February 16, 2009***

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for February 16, 2009. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Wayne Gallegos 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. **Gloria Sanchez** was concerned about the vandalism at the 911 Memorial park and wanted security, patrol. She further asked if it would be a possibility to place a surveillance camera there. She had heard that there were security cameras placed in different areas of the City and wanted one at the park. She was advised the park was not one of the locations selected. Her main concern is that the historical artifacts placed at the park are irreplaceable. If a camera cannot be placed immediately she requested the Police Department patrol the park.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised we have been lucky, for the amount of time the park has been there, and that more damage has not been done. People have had respect for the park. Mayor Torres advised he would look into her request. Gloria Sanchez asked for the cost of the camera. Mayor Torres advised he was not sure, Gloria then added that there are cameras in other locations of town. Mayor Torres advised the price of the camera was included with a lot of other work done and does not know the breakdown at this time. Gloria Sanchez asked "where are they located". Mayor Torres advised they are outside of City Hall and within the building but was unaware of any other locations. Councilor Wayne Gallegos advised it was a secret.

City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised the cost of the camera, on the high side is \$2,000.00 as per Lawrence Kaneshiro who is working on the project. Mayor Torres asked if that included the camera only. Lawrence Kaneshiro advised it would depend on a lot of factors; it may be possible to place a camera on the corner of City Hall facing the park. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked about the clarity and if that would be the best location. Lawrence advised these are high resolution cameras, he advised he would need to check if that would be the best location. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone else with a citizen petition. There were no other citizen petitions presented at this time.

***WATER CONSERVATION PRESENTATION: Robert Rimorin, Utility Director***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to Water Conservation Presentation by Robert Rimorin, Utility Director. Robert advised the Council adopted a water waste ordinance in March of 2008. There was a one year moratorium his presentation is to revisit the

ordinance and advise the public the ordinance will go into effect the end of the month. The ordinance can be easily followed with public education. Conservation pamphlets are available at City Hall and the Water Conservation information sheet was mailed to all citizens. A copy of the pamphlet is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

***ACTION ITEMS:***

***PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2009-05 FOR ADOPTION: Claudette Riley***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to presentation of Resolution 2009-05 for adoption as presented by Claudette Riley. Claudette asked council to consider passage of resolution 2009-05 it is a resolution to support the municipality to partner with the Belen Main Street to collaborate on a community economic development downtown revitalization program. The Main Street Program is a program under the NM Economic Development Department the City has applied to try to become a designated “Main Street” community. They have participated in satellite projects with students from UNM with the design planning assistance center while working on the Rail Runner. Last year they received another satellite project thru NM Main Street that provided some design ideas for the Doodle Bug Park. This year the application for the NM Main Street program is due next Friday, there is a seven member steering committee that has been working for the past two months preparing the application. This resolution is required as part of the application. The City would act as a fiscal agent if the Belen Main Street Project were to receive any capital outlay funds. The City would also contribute \$5,000 annually to financially support the Main Street Program which is ½ of the funding that needs to be raised. They are requiring the emerging community, which is the first year of being a Main Street Community, to raise \$10,000. One half of those funds need to public and the other half need to be private. To date they have raised \$4,200 on the private side, and part of the resolution is also asking for the \$5,000 requirement from the City. Claudette added that every year the City contributes \$25,000 to the Belen Economic Development Corporation, \$5,000 of the \$25,000 will go towards Main Street therefore the \$20,000 will go towards the Belen EDC. Claudette Riley advised the funding is already in place the funds are just being reallocated that is if the “Main Street” designation is achieved it is a competitive process. Mayor Ronnie Torres entertained a motion. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

***NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM: Mayor Ronnie Torres:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to nomination of Mayor Pro-Tem and opened the floor for submission of names. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez submitted the name of Councilor Wayne Gallegos. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked for a second to the recommendation. Councilor Terese Ulivarri seconds the motion, motion carried. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Councilor Gallegos if he accepts, he advised “yes”.

## ***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:***

**April Student Liaison:** reported Belen High School is hosting the annual blood drive next Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> and everyone is invited to sign up. Last year they donated 100 units and that is the goal again this year. Wrestlers took second place at state this year good job. The softball team this weekend also won their tournament against Volcano Vista. February 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> students attended the annual Student Council Conference in Rio Rancho for three days and took 1<sup>st</sup> place on projects. The Carnival is a go and it will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> it will be the first carnival ever and the highlight is the competition softball game teachers versus seniors. Academic assembly which honors all honor students will be held March 28<sup>th</sup>. Belen High School academic decathlon competed at state this past weekend at UNM and took 1<sup>st</sup> place. They beat out schools like Monzano, Oate and St. Pius. Donna has some of her medals. The next stop is Memphis Tennessee for nationals. Donna showed her medals she received and her team took first place overall, everyone on the team medaled from Econ, Math, interview, arts, social science and music. Donna had several medals. Other students received scholarships to NM Tech and UNM. They will be headed to Tennessee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Councilor Rudy Jaramillo:** said “congratulations that’s neat. April was talking about the wrestlers there were two state titles. I believe this is the first time they had been first it was a neat thing in Rio Rancho at the Star facility there. Also the basketball is going to state, they are seated seventh they start this weekend. That’s a new thing for us to look at; I think they had the playoff here this last week. Sally and I talked on the little league they are ready to gear up and to get the fields going and I am sure that they will be nice and not wait till the last. Sally said that she will get them going on the fields at Vivian and the High Schools and softball. Roland’s family keep them in prayer, it was a shocker to a lot of us. Roland was with my sister at the flea market Friday morning and now this it is just amazing. I was talking to Anthony this morning and Philip they were just totally still shocked what had happened so keep them in prayer”.

**Councilor Wayne Gallegos:** said “congratulations to Belen High School in a lot of things they have done this year. I have been up with the girls basketball team they did good also the wrestling did well. Everything is going really nice up there. I am looking forward to the carnival. On the Cit side the flyers that have gone out it is a good job I’ve seen the water conservation flyer and there was one for the recreation center and that one was really nice too. It had a list of the gym usage and the times, different people and different groups that go there to use it. The flyer was nice.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> the last month we meet with our engineers and we went over the Camino Del Llano project they are real close on doing some other work on there. We are waiting on that one item from the legislature to see and go on. We went over the drainage master plan the final is almost

ready it needs to be tweaked. These are very important to the City, this drainage master plan for the whole city too, this is the big one for the city this one covers the whole city. I was glad to see it because it is a lot of years of work and history from a lot of people to make it happen

We met on the 18<sup>th</sup> with the Older American program we are working with them and also they are facing a lot of cuts in different things. They didn't lose their money it looks like the kitchen on the Belen side is going to go up and it looks good.

We met on the 26<sup>th</sup> with the fire marshals office over at the airport and that looks pretty good. We are working on something up at the airport and once we get it final we will make it public. It looks promising right now.

Congressman Udall, his representatives were here on the 27<sup>th</sup> that was a good meeting also, that mirrored off of what Congressman Teague' office had it all had to do with stimulus money. They are encouraging us and they are there for us we have some good contacts with those offices they have given us the rules on what to do and the City has jumped on it. The paperwork is out. And they have encouraged us on the FY10 money, the federal money, for us not to forget because a lot of times we get involved on the stimulus and miss the deadline but all that is out also and the staff has been working hard on that also. There is a lot of stuff happening that is pretty positive.”

**Mayor Ronnie Torres:** said “thanks to David for being Mayor Pro-tem for the past year and good luck to Wayne. Also I never told the rest of you thank you for your help when you were Mayor Pro-tem so thank you, well it has been eleven years maybe about time I said thank you. In my absence whenever I can't do something it is easy to call on them. But what is always good about it is even if I call the Mayor Pro-Tem and they can't do it I can call any one of the Councilors and they are really good about standing in. In reference to the drainage master plan gosh I have been reading it and I am learning a lot, I just may go apply for a job when I am done. Someone was talking about drainage stuff, Rudy was, and I remembered reading about it in this book so in case you don't think we read this, we do. It is very, very good; well maybe not top ten sellers but interesting.”

“As Councilor Wayne Gallegos said we met with Congressmen Udall and Teague representatives. Sally G. Garley advised it was Congressman Teague and Senator Udall. Those are hard to remember. The representatives were very helpful with a lot of different things. What was the total, Andrew submitted some stuff too for the solar for the stimulus. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised it was \$20,470,956 for the Clean Energy Initiative. I should listen when she talks. Usually I am telling you guys “didn't you hear it”. Someone asked me the other day and I told them it was about 30 million we had asked for from the stimulus total. So if anyone asks you if Belen is asking for money from the stimulus yes we are. I don't know if we will get a penny off of it but we have put in our request and I think they are very good requests.

Also we met with some of the Historic people, Sally and I, they are closing up the Aragon project and we are looking at one of the historic buildings there that they are giving us some stipulations on what we can and cannot do.

My sympathy goes to David and his family. Ending on a positive note I am so very proud of the students at the High School.

**Councilor Terese Ulivarri:** said, “Some of the meetings I have attended-we had a Martin Luther King wrap up and that is really self explanatory. We had a parks and recreation meeting with the parks committee and we discussed the use of the money that had been given to us by the legislature and the federal groups. We discussed the drainage issues at the park and for the city, how they are all intertwined and interconnected, and how money has been spent on drainage at the park. Our new shade structures are up. And Sally just to let you know I just saw there are people parking underneath those things at the softball fields, we may want to jump on them. They are not for parking. I was going to call the guys but I had the wrong number for the community center I got the fax machine”.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if they could have an updated phone listing. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised they are in the process of getting one updated but they are installing new phones once that is complete they will get a new list.

“Councilor Terese Ulivarri continued saying “also we discussed a trial that’s within the park updated it and how it is going to go, which brings us to the High School Principal/Athletic Director, Coach Danner came in and asked us if we would be willing to tie in with the tennis complex they are going to build. They are building six, we have four, so that would make ten courts and we would be able to host some really nice tournaments. We said we would love to join in on that deal so we are looking at that”.

“I attended the RTPO which is the Rural Transportation Planning Organization meeting with Andrew, they were talking about the stimulus package and two of the things that were in there were our cross area for the Rail station into the Historic part of Belen which encompass some elevators and then that’s on that project. Also the Camino Del Llano was on the RTPO once again if they are shovel ready they really looking at them to possibly fund as quickly as possible so those two look pretty good”.

“We attended a retirement luncheon for Pat Gallegos who was a police officer and retired after twenty years, very young. I was reading, we got a news letter from Municipal League and it looks like they are trying to get the retirement to thirty years instead of twenty five for service. But it would not be retroactive it would start this year if it passes, so we won’t have the young ones retiring anymore”.

“And then also I would like to ask Sally, because I have been seeing this a lot and I don’t know what we do with these, I know we clean up as much graffiti once we find it but there is actually graffiti on signs that belong to businesses and we can’t go cover up their sign so what do we do there”. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised we could give the business the name of the vendor to contact so they can purchase the graffiti remover and clean their signs. Councilor Terese Ulivarri added “I don’t even know if they know they are up there it is the sign connected to Hub Furniture, it’s on the sign that is on the side. There is one, unless you are really looking you don’t see it, it is on the Reinken Overpass, on the overpass basically used the same color of paint but when the sun hits it just right you can see the graffiti and I don’t know what we can do with that. If we could look into that, also there are some stop signs that have been hit fairly

recently they are older and faded and need to be replaced”. Robert Rimorin advised he is aware of the issue and is in the process of replacing about twenty signs. City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised there was a survey of the Community because of the faded signs and we have a current list and it is ongoing. Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if we reused the signs. Robert Rimorin, Utility Director advised we do recycle them.

Congratulations to the High School everyone is doing so well up there in representing our City, you realize you are representing the City of Belen not just the High School. Congratulations on all the things that are happening and all the good stuff that you do.

**Councilor David Lopez:** said, “I have a lot of fractured footnotes here so, as far as the wrestlers taking second place that’s a very big accomplishment they had a good chance of taking first. This was the last year that my wrestling kids wrestled High School so we are going to have a gap for five years. On the flip side the kids that we started with are coming with and coaching the Jr. Wrestling program so that is a positive note.

Also I don’t know if I mentioned this the last time the Rio Grande Fire Department had a chili cook off fund raiser and I don’t’ know who, if anyone got to go, but the chili was pretty good and they were really appreciative that some of the City went.

I did not attend this meeting, I had some problems with the family, but I read the notes, we have this lady by the name of Gene Block and she is a Guru in teaching boards how to be a good board and it teaches all the do’s and don’ts and I think I have talked to you about that Jerah, on stuff that we do to become a good board. For the most part the City Council is right on. The rules change a little here and there every year that is why you have to have ongoing training. Situations happen that are a little iffy so they change the language and they had that on Saturday.

As far as the Multipurpose Park, Sally it seems like a little bit of rain came and everything starting to fire up again, I was up there last week and the baseball team is doing their thing, the tennis team is doing their thing. All the kids were playing baseball and running through those fields and it is looking really good that is a very positive thing the city has to offer the community.

What was crazy about it is that boys are getting into skating and we were watching the skate boarders do their thing on that little park it is amazing what they can do. All the bicycles and the skate boards, there were about twenty or thirty people doing that. There were about 200 kids utilizing the park that day so it is good to know the park is getting that much usage.

I am glad to see the carnival is going to be a go. Anything the City can do to help the High School in joint venture is always positive.

Being in the Council, and in reference to Economic Development, and the Council can vouch for this we hear the City of Belen is dying, business is shutting down. What are you guys doing to stimulate new business, but I am starting to hear people in Albuquerque say the same things when they see all these “solid” businesses that have been open for many years begin to close their doors. They way the stock market is falling and the quote of recession or depression take

your pick so it is just so scary what is going on globally it affects everyone. I know for the Council we have had to cut back on trips and training.

It had been a little over a year but I got three "Thank You" on the trains. They said isn't it wonderful to see those trains go by and not have to hear all that loud noise. This weekend it happened and it is the first time in three years it was really good to hear. A lot of members on the council went through a lot to try to get this. I am glad that the citizens are taking note of the quiet zone through the City of Belen.

Last but not least as Rudy said my brother in law I believe had a massive heart attack and passed away at the High School Friday night. Chief Mike I would like you to thank your boys were up there, as far as the fire department they did an excellent job, they worked on my brother in law from here to Albuquerque they didn't stop they never gave up on him and I really appreciate that

Also I read in the paper I believe the Police Department is selling T shirts for a fundraiser and I wish you would get up at citizen petition and sell your fundraiser. Even if it is out in the paper it is always good to know what the Police Department does to raise funds. I have your donation right here like I told you I always do and I will get with you after the meeting.

If you could really tell your boys I really appreciate it, how professional they were. With a tragic situation like that happens the family wants to go in and start telling you what to do and you're boys were very courteous and let us know they were doing all they could do and kept everyone at bay. It is not until after the fact that you realize how well they were doing their job. Thank you.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

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

Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved to adjourn this meeting. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried.

/ss  
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

/ss  
Sally G. Garley, City Manager