

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 19, 2010

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Rudy Jaramillo called the Special Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00P.M.
Roll call taken by Audrey D. Torres, City Clerk, CMC

PRESENT: Mayor, Rudy Jaramillo
Councilor, Lorenzo Carrillo
Councilor, Wayne Gallegos
Councilor, Mary T. Aragon
Councilor, Jerah R. Cordova

CITY STAFF: Mary Lucy Baca, Interim City Manager, CMC
Audrey Torres, City Clerk, CMC
Dan Robb, Interim Police Chief
Roseann Peralta, Finance Department
Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director
Dale Tafoya, Wastewater Plant
Stephanie Wallace, Library

OTHERS: Donna Hernandez, Citizen
Louella Jaramillo, Citizen
Imelda White, Citizen
Ronald White, Citizen
Albert Chavez, Citizen
Pete Armstrong, Citizen
Jason W. Brooks, Citizen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rudy Jaramillo called the special meeting to order and requested approval of the agenda. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Mary Aragon seconds the motion, roll call vote taken:

Councilor, Lorenzo Carrillo	Yes	
Councilor, Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor, Mary T. Aragon	Yes	
Councilor, Jerah R. Cordova	Yes	motion carried.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CITY PRIORITIZATION OF OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS: Michael Steininger, Finance Director

Mayor Rudy Jaramillo read the first agenda item in reference to review and discussion of City prioritization of operations and projects as presented by Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director advising her only intends to address general fund because that is his purpose. Also he wanted stated for the record and clear that anything he says is only his opinion he is not speaking on behalf of the management, council or anyone else, he just wanted that clarified and understood.

Michael reported the city has a total of six million in cash \$358,000 is available for operations, \$2.9 or 3 million is committed to projects, \$2.6 is committed to mandatory reserve accounts and \$101,000 is committed for water meter deposits, so of the six million there is only \$358,000 available for city spending after allocations-general fund is overdrawn by \$425,000 so it is continuing to draw from cash generated from all other funds. As of Sept 30 the City owes a total of \$820,000 in accounts payable \$497,000 is to one vendor leaving \$312,000 for everyone else. Payroll is made every other week and we are not wondering if we have enough to get through it and in order to keep it going is one of the reasons we are here tonight.

Six months ago when the City took the action that was necessary that action was to do one thing and that was to stem the cash hemorrhaging, that was done successfully. General fund still has \$666,514.00 budgeted deficit to deal with. He is looking for guidance from council, as elected officials, as to their priorities. Administration does not have an issue with executing a plan or doing whatever needs to be done yet the administration was not elected to make the decisions of what is more important than somebody else. If the city has another month as it received on Friday where the gross receipts came in at \$380,000 when \$435,000 is required in order to sustain the success, he needs to have an idea where council wants to begin applying corrective measures. For example do they eliminate capital purchases, all except necessary spending does the administration have to start looking at making further reductions in different departments, the direction is needed at this time.

Michael P. Steininger, finance director advised it was his consideration to have the council take one department at a time and rank essential city services, he requested suggestions, ideas or some idea as to what is important to the council and what they are still willing to pay for it. Administration will execute whatever is necessary but it is still crucial to know what is important. The reductions made six months ago-today-were based on what was thought to be the importance of the city and he caught a lot of flak from a lot of different people and that is fine, at this time Michael advised "we are going to have to start cutting into meat", this is where the council is elected and they win.

At this time a lengthy open forum discussion ensued. Mayor Rudy Jaramillo, in conclusion asked Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director to come up with at least five items which will have immediate impact. Councilor Mary Aragon advised for a start to begin with collecting the taxes from the County and move forward on the water issues. Mary Lucy Baca, Interim City Manager advised all the issues brought up and discussed, during the open forum discussion, have already been discussed by her and the Finance Director and noted "it takes money to make

money” but they are looking to what can be done and it is frustrating to sit and listen to the same discussions she and Michael have already had yet they cannot make those decisions. Councilor Jerah Cordova reiterated the administration needs to come back to the council with at least five items in order of impact for council decision.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF CITY PRIORITIZATIONS OF OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS: Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director

Mayor Rudy Jaramillo read the next agenda item in reference to approval or disapproval of City prioritizations of operations and projects as presented by Michael P. Steininger, Finance Director and asked for a motion. Councilor Jerah Cordova moved to table the action item. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion-roll call vote:

Councilor, Lorenzo Carrillo	Yes	
Councilor, Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor, Mary T. Aragon	Yes	
Councilor, Jerah R. Cordova	Yes	motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Rudy Jaramillo asked for a motion to adjourn tonight’s special city council meeting.

Councilor Lorenzo Carrillo moved to adjourn this meeting. Councilor Mary Aragon seconds the motion, motion carried.

Councilor, Lorenzo Carrillo	Yes	
Councilor, Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor, Mary T. Aragon	Yes	
Councilor, Jerah R. Cordova	Yes	motion carried

/s
Rudy Jaramillo, Mayor

Attest:

/s
Audrey D. Torres, City Clerk, CMC