

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 19, 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
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor
Terese Ulivarri, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Mayor Pro-Tem

CITY STAFF: Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Lucy Baca, Human Resources Manager
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Jonathan Abeita, Police Officer

OTHERS: Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Ruffner, VCNB
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T
Ashlee Montoya, BHS Student Council
Bridget Chavez, BHS Student Council
Ginger Mercer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres introduced Ashlee Montoya and Bridget Chavez, Belen High School Student Council President and Vice President. Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Ashlee Montoya to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda with item numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 21 being tabled until next meeting on November 9th. Councilor David Lopez moved to approve the agenda with the amendment. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

***Special Meeting: September 28, 2009
Regular Meeting: October 5, 2009***

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for Special Meeting, September 28th. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the September 28, 2009 minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos brought to attention that the time at the top of the page and the meeting called to order times were not correct, 5:30AM to be corrected to 5:30PM and 9:30AM to be corrected to 5:30PM. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the September 28, 2009 minutes with the amendment. David Lopez second the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for October 5, 2009. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the October 5, 2009 minutes, Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

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

There were none.

EMPLOYEE OF THE 3RD QUARTER:

Jonathan Abeita was asked to stand up by Councilor Terese Ulivarri. Councilor Ulivarri read a letter recognizing Officer Abeita as the Employee of the 3rd Quarter. He was awarded his name on lobby plaque, a day off with pay. Councilor Ulivarri also commended Officer Abeita for having been available to assist her niece who was here from Georgia, when her car was broken into on Christmas Eve. Officer Abeita went above and beyond by searching the neighborhood and found a suitcase with important papers, "he could have just taken a report, but he didn't, he did more." Therefore, Councilor Ulivarri extended her thanks again. Congratulations were offered by the Mayor and Council.

ACTION ITEMS:

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AUCTION SURPLUS EQUIPMENT: SALLY G. GARLEY, CITY MANAGER.

17 items are being appraised for auction. The auction will be held November 7, 2009 and Sachs Auction will be conducting the auction. The state auditor requires city council approval on the listed items. An affidavit will need council signatures. The auction will be held behind the Recreation Center on Main Street. The auction has been advertised. Rudy Jaramillo moved to approve the items for auction, David Lopez second the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Councilor Ulivarri inquired as to whether the ordinances tabled would be changed. City Manager Sally Garley asked that the Councilors hold onto the ordinances to be discussed at the next meeting.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-14 (attached to minutes) – PERTAINING TO THE WASTEWATER CONTRUCTION LOAN FUNDS: SALLY G. GARLEY, CITY MANAGER

Signature authorities' resolution is needed as part of the loan process in order to pursue the Sanitary Collection Phase III in conjunction with the stimulus funds received. The resolution will give approval for Michael Steininger, Finance Director and City Manager to be appointed as signatory authorities. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve, Councilor Rudy Jaramillo second the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Sally Garley, City Manager informed that this phase will include from Eleventh Street from Castillo Street to Dillon Street, Castillo Street from 10th Street to the dead end and also Dillon from Eleventh to Thirteenth. It's a \$900,000 project. Councilor Terese Ulivarri informed that on Castillo Street the pot holes had been filled although there is one large one in the middle of the transition where it goes straight to crooked going West. There may be a manhole cover there. Councilor Ulivarri stated she didn't know whether it should wait for the construction project or have it filled. City Manager, Sally Garley, stated it would probably be filled because those areas will be "re-habed" rather than trying to remove asphalt and having to re-pave, as that won't happen, there is no money. Ms. Garley will talk to the Street Supervisor to fill.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-15 (attached to minutes) – PERTAINING TO OPPOSING LEGISLATION GRANTING REPEALING THE HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION: SALLY G. GARLEY, CITY MANAGER.

Sally G. Garley, City Manager, informed that the legislature, in the next few days will be considering cuts. Mayor Torres has drafted a letter to the legislators on behalf of the city letting them know the city is opposed to the repealing the hold harmless on food and medical tax. Needed is a resolution that the council is endorsing this letter. It would be delivered to legislators in Santa Fe on Tuesday by the Mayor and City Manager once approved and signature is acquired on resolution. The impact would be 37.65% of the state's shared gross receipts tax. Of that 16.3 % of the entire city's general fund would be the impact which would be \$910,423. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve, Councilor Wayne Gallegos second the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Mayor Torres stated that Rick Holmans, at the Mayor's caucus meeting, had been spoken to, letting him know of the opposition. Mr. Holman had stated it pretty much wouldn't happen but that it wouldn't hurt to send letters. This has come up in the past and it's just fizzled away. Sally Garley, City Manager, also informed that there's discussion of the legislature taking part of the 911 funds, therefore will discuss that with them too. Police Chief Mike Chavez urged the council to also speak to the legislators regarding keeping the 911 funding. He informed that the 911 funding is crucial to the police department budget.

Constituent Gilbert Tabet asked about monies for Camino Del Llano. The item to be covered under the City Manager's report.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-16 (Attached to the minutes) – PERTAINING TO AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW MEXICO WATER TRUST BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BELEN “EAGLE” WATER TANK REPLACEMENT & WATER LINER REPLACEMENTS: SALLY G. GARLEY, CITY MANAGER.

Part of the process for submittal to request funds is to acquire council approval. Sally Garley, City Manager, explained the request. She went on to explain that the application will include requests (\$200,000) for water line replacement for Wisconsin South to Old River Road and on old River Road. Too many big water breaks in that area have necessitated the request.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri commended the Water Department staff, they did a tremendous job in keeping the city functioning this Summer in spite of the lack of using the Eagle water tank. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve, Councilor Rudy Jaramillo second the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Councilor Terese Ulivarri stressed that it was critical that this project get done as soon as possible and the council needed to push to get it done.

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:

Mayor Ronnie Torres first instructed the two Student Council Members, Ashlee Montoya and Bridget Chavez that when Communication from City Council is called, they both inform the public/council about any projects they are working on. They can also ask questions so that they can take back answers to anyone inquiring about anything happening with the city.

Ashlee Montoya stated they are starting to sell luminarias. Selling price is \$5 per dozen and \$5.00 additional for set-up. The proceeds are for funding a Student Leadership Conference and if Belen High School wins State, they would like to pay for a dance for football players. Homecoming next year will get whatever is left over. The High School band won 2nd place.

Councilor David Lopez:

- Discussed the successful Fall Festival held on Saturday the 17th.
- The Central Elementary School held a Math Night on Friday which was also festive, successful with prizes given for costumes to different aged children.
- Halloween is coming up.
- Junior wrestling is registering kids at \$90 per child.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri:

- Attended COG meeting for water research. Pursuing a grant thru the Water Trust Board (excludes Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque) to retro fit 500 toilets in our region for water savings.
- The Art League is having a Fall show.

Mayor Ronnie Torres:

- Attended a meeting for Legion of Mary.
- Complimented the Council on the good job done at the October Fest, turned out well, \$3000 was raised. Half will go to the Belen Recreation Department.
- Tomorrow Sally and the Mayor will go talk to legislators to continuing to move projects forward. Also asking the Department of Transportation for more funding.
- The Christmas Festival is coming together. Will have 10 special shape balloons at no cost to the City. Propane and rooms is all that they need. Balloons that were in China, it cost up to \$30,000 to get them there. Belen Super 8 motel is willing to host the event and will be giving the City 10 free rooms to offer the balloonists. Working with the Art League to have an “Art Crawl” in the City Hall building that day too.
- Attended Main Street meeting in Clovis with Andrew DiCamillo and Claudette Riley. Learned so much. Driving to Clovis noticed several small communities struggling; they have nothing but boarded up buildings. Driving into Belen felt good to a city thriving and alive, to see people, buildings, open stores, and people out driving on the road. We forget how lucky we are. A customer had gone out of Belen into another state and returned to comment on how glad she was to return to New Mexico because she didn’t see an economical impact here as she did in other states. They learned at the Main Street meeting that there are many ways to advertise a business. Send out an e-mails, give them a coupon, give a discount and they can forward that coupon to others. Any businessman can do this. Another thing is the way a business advertises their business. The signs on their businesses need to tell what they do or sell. We need to send out an e-mail to businesses to let them know we can help them by going over ideas to help them make it. Another way of advertising is to co-advertise. Advertise combined business so that two separate businesses benefit. Discussed antique shops where it’s cheaper to open a business.
- Informed that Jim Wood’s wife, from Rancho del Cielo, had passed away. They had just returned from Hawaii and a day later his wife past away. Keep him in our prayers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos:

- Discussed doing a study about how to get started on a business. In Arlington they have “Business in a Box” kit. It gives people everything they need to start a business. Have to make the process user friendly. Make a package to make it as easier for the public. The fees are sometimes the barriers. Still working on this project.
- Working on rules for the art work at the library. Need to adopt.
- Congratulations to Audrey. Sally Garley is still the Clerk.
- All projects coming up, and will get done but all is done to get things going but there’s always something else. Thanked Gilbert Tabet for his interest in the Camino Del Llano project.
- Friday is the big football game at the high school, fighting for number one team in the 4A category.

- Welcomed Ashlee and Bridget.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo:

- Gets calls on old buildings, but they can't get going because of needing architect, etc. The City needs to help new businesses. Current businesses are open and going.
- On Saturday Pete's Café celebrated 60 years of business.
- Welcomed the Student Council Students.
- Eagle Park - the bubbles on the community center flooring getting worked on.
- The Montiel Family is having a fund raiser to help the family with funeral costs. They are trying to get awareness in the community regarding child abuse. November 7th, at the recreation center, please help.
- Halloween event is being held on Saturday, October 31, 2009 at the Recreation Center on South Main Street.

Student Council President Ashlee Montoya:

Bridget Chavez informed she is the Secretary for Staters as well and will be starting their annual food drive and will be distributing boxes.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked the students to pass the word about the Snow Queen for the Annual Miracle on Main Street parade. The candidates sell \$1.00 tickets, 10% will be for the candidates, 50% will go to the charity of their choice and 40% goes to Recreation.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri informed that at a meeting with a geotechnical engineer doing a study as to where the water is coming from at the community center. It may be an underground river or arroyo which flows only with big rains, it's called paleo-canal or something like that. There was discussion about this process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to adjourn, Councilor David Lopez second, all in favor, motion passed.

s/
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

s/
Sally G. Garley, City Manager