

***REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

**September 15, 2008**

**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  
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor  
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor

***CITY STAFF:*** Sally G. Garley, City Manager  
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist  
Dan Robb, Police Department  
Manny J. Garcia, Fire Chief  
Jeremy Pino, Belen Fire Department

***OTHERS:*** Norman McDonald, P.A., City Attorney  
Jackie Schlotfeldt, VCNB  
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T  
Jerah R. Cordova, Our Tomorrow  
Lawrence Jaramillo  
Bryant Arnink, Handicapped Citizen

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Fire Chief Manny Garcia to lead the pledge of allegiance.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***

***Regular Meeting: August 18, 2008***

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of the minutes for August 18, 2008. Councilor Terese Ulivarri so moved to approve. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo seconds the motion, motion carried.

***CITIZENS PETITIONS:***

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone with a citizen petition. Councilor Terese Ulivarri introduced the new students from Belen High School: April Chavez-Student Body President, Donna Jaramillo-Student Body Vice President and Britney Lardner-Senior Class President. Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked April Chavez to please be seated by City Council to represent the School.

- 1. Lawrence Jaramillo:** advised he had talked earlier to the City Manager, Sally G. Garley, about the situation on Wisconsin, Campbell Street, Ross, Arizona and DeSoto in reference to drainage problems. These problems have existed since 1978 and now there is a lot of growth in that area. The Rail Runner and the overpass bring more people to that area. They are being affected by the growth, which also brings along problems. Some of them are, not only from the Rail Runner and the over pass, but from problems that have been there over the years. Mr. Jaramillo handed out pictures of the problem, which included photos of flooded streets. Mr. Jaramillo advised that anytime there is any amount of rain it floods the streets. The other problem is the poor water system, drinking water, and drainage. Mr. Jaramillo advised some of those pictures are from a water break that happened twice in one week. Then on top of that the hailstorm. There are residents who live in the area who are handicap on wheelchairs and there is no form of transportation for them because there are no sidewalks. He realizes that the City is aware of the problems but he just wanted to make the City aware that the Citizens are concerned. He was briefed by the City Manager as to what is going on and where improvements are being planned however; he hopes it does not take another 40 or so years to make progress. You can see at times early in the morning the moist spots on the pavement and they go away during the day because of evaporation and hope there is not a more serious problem later before any improvements are begun. There was one house that was flooded twice in one week because of the water break and it is just not safe for residents. Mr. Jaramillo advised he just wanted to bring these issues to the City Council attention.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised he was glad this issue was brought up because this is a problem the City has addressed and is looking into doing improvements. The City is also looking into purchasing a piece of property for ponding, on the ICIP plan, which is a wish list of things to do, flooding is one of the top priorities and hopefully funding will be attained from either state or federal coffers.

The City is moving forward, but cautiously because of the contamination in the area, which includes dialogue with the environmental department to make sure we are not running into a

problem instead of solving one. The problem is in the planning stages hopefully we will see some progress soon.

Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised she had told Mr. Jaramillo the City is in the final design stages of the infrastructure improvements there and we are talking about rehabbing the sewer lines in that area between Reinken and Ross.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised that was good news for the area residents because this process usually takes a long time. The time it usually takes from the time the problem is addressed to the time that we actually see the groundbreaking is usually one year to a year and a half to get it going.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos noted that when Council had first discussed this he thought it was just drainage but it really needs a lot of work in that area so thank you Mr. Jaramillo for coming in to represent the residents. There are many improvements needed like water line, sewer line, and street or sidewalk.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo advised that the Council of Governments had addressed the sidewalk issue surrounding the Rail Runner station and have done a lot of research.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised that finally the tree has been removed so it is a start.

City Manager, Sally G. Garley advised she had the Risk Manager access all the sidewalks in the community and has a binder ready to prioritize.

**2. Bryant Arnink**-advised he is a new citizen who moved here in September, is handicapped, and gets around in his mobile chair he also noted the sidewalks come to a halt in various places because there is no dip in them for handicap access. He advised there was one bad one on Main and Camino Del Llano, the curb is there and in order to cross the street you have to maneuver the little dip to Main Street and if there is a lot of traffic, it is difficult to cross to go to the market at the gas station. Also going up the street he has to drive with one foot out and sideways because of the way the sidewalk is slanted. In addition, the one on Romero Funeral Home is exceptionally bad.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised any more new construction has to be handicap accessible, we are working on it.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri advised it would be beneficial if Mr. Arnink had a list for the City of the routes he takes so we can look at them. Mr. Arnink said he would do that once his machine is fixed it is running out of juice. Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked Mr. Arnink that once he was done with the list please bring it to the City Manager who is in charge of compiling that stuff.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any further citizen petitions, if none he advised to move onto the next agenda item.

***RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS DURING COMPETITION AT THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER SCHOOL IN SOCORRO: Fire Chief, Many Garcia***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item referring to recognition of volunteer firefighters during a competition at the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual firefighter school held in Socorro. Fire Chief Manny Garcia introduced two new volunteers Andrew Chavez and Jeremy Pino, Andrew started this year and Jeremy started last year. They were both able to attend the fire school this past September, with them being new, and we are training them as best we can, they entered into the firefighter competition and took third place overall so we are proud of that and wanted them to be recognized.

On a side note, dealing with the mitigation, due to the recent storms we had here in New Mexico our state was awarded some hazard mitigation money from FEMA and we had already expressed our interest in the state that we are looking into obtaining some of that funding and hopefully once the word comes from the state back to us that the money is open and the application period is ready we will make contact with the City Manager and hopefully get something out of it.

***ACTION ITEMS***

***AWARD OF BID PROPOSAL FOR JIM ROAD: Sally G. Garley, City Manager***

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to award of bid proposal for Jim Road as presented by Sally G. Garley, City Manager who advised is was a tract of property south of the industrial park, it is a triangular piece of property which is narrow and of no use to the City of Belen. The City advertised as provided by statute and received only one bid proposal. An appraisal was done on the property for \$6,500.00. The proposal submitted was for \$6,526.00 and it is the only one received and is recommended for approval.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions or comments if none he so entertains a motion. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez advised he moves to approve. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion, motion carries.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:***

***CITY MANAGERS REPORT:***

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

***COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:***

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez:** reported on the 911 Memorial observations, there were many citizens in attendance. There was a two or three year old little boy who sang the national anthem and that was nice. Directly after the memorial we attended a P&Z meeting with MRCOG all the City Council was in attendance, they were going over their strategic plans for the City and what they can propose to the City and what we can act on. In addition, most of us know that Belen beat Los Lunas for the first time in many moons it was a great game and very talented running back on the Eagle team.

**Councilor Terese Ulivarri:** reported that she did one fun thing in the County Fair Parade, thanks to Manny, she rode in the new Fire Truck. Also in recognition of the 911, and that was a beautiful ceremony, Manny was decked out with a new uniform and he looked sharp. It was a nice ceremony and it gets better every year, also the park is looking awesome. She also attended the meeting at the Library. The upcoming Thursday and Friday she will be attending a meeting on legislative water issues in New Mexico, she will be on a panel that will asking for continuation of funding for legislative money for regional water plan updates. The football game was awesome and the Lobos' beat Arizona.

**Mayor Ronnie Torres:** the Farmers Market is having their Fall Festival this Friday so let everyone know about it and show up to that it is really doing well. The 911 celebration was well attended and it was a good job. We met with a representative from Pete Domenici's office, we got a lot more ideas of what we can do, and sources we can check.

**Councilor Wayne Gallegos:** the volunteer job fair will be Saturday at the recreation center from 9:30 to 1:00 and that is where the RSVP group is looking for jobs for volunteers. They had the first one in Los Lunas on the sixth. If you are interested or just want to see, what it is about just go and attend. The older American advisory council met and reported on hail damage on transport vans for seniors also one of the meal sites was unusable and Belen was helping with lunch. The AAA (area agency on aging) he received a letter advising that he was nominated and accepted to the state advisory council for Belen and Valencia County.

**Councilor Rudy Jaramillo:** again 911 tremendous, Gloria and Sonny and those involved who really get behind that program. The young man who did the national anthem was only three years old and did a tremendous job. The impact of listening to what is going on there was a first responder there from New York who was involved when everything was happening and he made a statement that people are still being affected today and people are still dying from the stuff that happened to them on 9-11 they were responding and their lungs are damaged. That is still not over and we just put it in the back of our minds but it is still an ongoing thing. Andrew and Jeremy congratulations.

Rio Abajo Days are coming up from the 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 28<sup>th</sup> please participate. There is not a lot of response coming from the community as far as sponsorship. The economy has hit many businesses. There will be an all you can eat BBQ, please attend.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

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

Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to adjourn this meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

ss/  
Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

ss/  
Sally G. Garley, City Manager