

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 21, 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
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Chief of Police
Lisa Miller, P & Z

OTHERS: Norman McDonald, City Attorney
Brent Ruffner, VCNB
Jerah Cordova, Our Tomorrow
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T
Gloria Sanchez, Citizen Volunteer
Sonny Sanchez, Citizen Volunteer
Dianne Mattson, Our Tomorrow
Helen Mattson, Our Tomorrow
B. Paul Ortega, Our Tomorrow
Dan Hogan, Molzen-Corbin & Associates
Racquel Gallegos
Ralph Castillo Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Mr. Medina to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda with item number 8 being tabled. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to approve the agenda with the amendment. Councilor David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: August 17, 2009

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of minutes for August 17, 2009. Councilor Terese Ulivarri moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo 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.

Mr. B. Paul Ortega: said "my name is B. Paul Ortega-Good evening Mayor, Council Members, City Attorney and Staff members. First, I wish to remind the public that on Saturday October 10 at ten am, Our Tomorrow for a better Belen will host New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge Michael Bustamante and 13th Judicial District Attorney Lemuel Martinez at the Belen Public Library, located at 333 Becker Ave. in Belen. Everybody is invited.

This evening I appear before you Mayor and Council members to follow-up on two major concerns I presented at the last Council meeting, held on August 17, 2009. In brief, one concern was about Economic Development. Another concern was about the complaint filed with the New Mexico Attorney General in connection with the appointment of the Belen Municipal Judge. At the meeting, I sought answers to my questions concerning City of Belen Ordinance No. 2003-13 An Ordinance relating to Economic Development. I also sought what action the City of Belen has taken regarding the inquiry and request for documents by the Attorney General dated April 29 relating said appointment.

During the August 17th Council Meeting, I understood you Mayor Torres to say that you would respond to my concerns in writing within a week. As of today I have received responses neither from you as Mayor nor from the Governing Body. However, strange as it may seem, I have received a response from the Greater Belen Economic Development Corporation (GBEDC). I reiterate, not by the governing body. Does this action mean that statutory duties conferred to Mayor/Council form of government can be delegated to the GBEDC a non-profit corporation?

Before I move forward with my presentation, I ask you Mayor or City Manager to clarify why the GBEDC responded and not the Governing body."

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said "why don't we finish with the rest of this stuff and then we will answer your questions. It will be easier that way."

Mr. B. Paul Ortega: continued saying “Even considering the response from the GBEDC to the effect, that there has been Zero applicants for economic development during the life of the Belen Economic Ordinance No. 2003-13 approved and adopted 21st July 2003, how can the Mayor and Governing body justify the tens of thousands of dollars spent in view of no benefit to the City of Belen. How can the administration continue to support and/or justify the existence of said ordinance” Is this program considered viable and in the best interest of the community? Mayor, Council Members and City Manager, are you all willing to be kind to share your position on this critical matter.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked “is that everything.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega said “I have one more closing statement.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres said “I have a copy of the letter here that Claudette Riley sent you from the Greater Belen Economic Development because the questions you were asking were stuff that she could answer better. So I had her to get in contact with you to ask you for exactly what you wanted and then she could respond to it. So you did get that information already because you just said you didn’t. **Mr. B. Paul Ortega** said “yes”. **Mayor Ronnie Torres** continued saying “that is why she did it so that is the reason Claudette responded to you because I asked her to.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “see Claudette does not have any statutory authority.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “did you want your answers or didn’t you. You wanted me to get you answers and I tried to get answers.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “by the Governing Body or by you or by the administration.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I made sure you got them.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “what happens here Mayor is that if you give statutory duties away then why should we have a Mayor or why should have a City Council.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres you did get your information, the bottom line was that you wanted your information and you did get your information right” Mr. Ortega said “yes”.

Mayor Ronnie Torres “the next one you wanted a letter from the Attorney General I have a copy right here and you can have this copy. And I think that is all the information you requested.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega asked if he could see the letter and Mayor Ronnie Torres advised he could keep a copy of the letter.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I think your third question or fourth whatever it was. Was Economic Development if it was viable? I personally think it is, Claudette has been doing a lot of stuff she has been helping with a lot of different things. She does more than just Economic Development she has helped a lot with the Main Street Certification which we did get and it took a lot of work. So there are a lot of things that” (interrupted)

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “but that’s not in the Ordinance Mayor. In accordance with the Mayor and the purpose of the Ordinance was to get Economic Development and that was over six years ago and according to her letter there has been no activity-no activity. And the expense that the taxpayers have of hundreds, not merely hundreds but thousands but tens of thousands that they have spent now. Isn’t they City supporting” (interrupted)

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I think we have gained a lot of attention we have gotten a lot of recognition we have gotten a lot of contacts. If you have any knowledge of Economic Development then you realize that you have to put a lot of feelers out before you can get anyone to actually show up. Then out of the ones that show up it takes a lot of time before those people even open up a business. That is just part of Economic Development. I wish that everyone we contacted would actually say yes we are going to open up a business but that is now how it happens. But that is not just with us it is nationwide.

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “but the issue here is are they productive.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I think they are very much so.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “then how many contractors have come to apply for Economic Development projects-Zero, zero. In six years Mayor.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “well I don’t know but I think we are working on a pretty good one right now.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “well after six years.”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “(phone ringing unable to transcribe) is there a time limit as long as we get somebody and we’ve got somebody and they will bring six hundred jobs.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “look at the expense that you have (converse together unable to transcribe)

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I think to pay what we are paying to get six hundred jobs into this community at a minimum starting wage of forty thousand dollars I think is very well worth it, very well worth it. Are there any more questions you have for us?”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “I was just reading the letter you handed to me, why did it take you so long to give me that?”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “I guess I am just not perfect.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega “well okay. (silence as Mr. Ortega read the letter) and have they responded to this letter?”

Mayor Ronnie Torres “we turned in what they asked of us and it ended there. Closing statement.”

Mr. B. Paul Ortega no it pertained to what I have here.

Mayor Ronnie Torres “okay thank you.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone else with a citizens petition.

Gloria Sanchez: greeted council members and began saying this is a follow up and a thank you to everyone after the 911 Ceremony. “There is a book out offered by Hillary Clinton and it is entitled, I think, “It takes a Village” or something like that. And that is what it takes to coordinate an event like the 911, Memorial Day, most recently the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony. Sometimes it takes weeks sometimes it even takes months.

There are so many to thank, participants, City employees that worked in the background that were setting things up and then afterwards cleaning things up they do a great and efficient job. Judge Danny Hawkes was so gracious to fill in as a MC at the last minute and thanks to Wayne with all his sound equipment. The theme dedications, addresses, were very moving and we have some great speakers here in our group.

The National Anthem by the 2009 contest winner eleven year old Deona Zamora, was beautiful. As you know the National Anthem is especially difficult to sing but her vocal performance and originality was a winner. Lenore Pena started this contest and I really think it is a keeper because we can also use them and they can perform for some of our ceremonies like the 911 or whatever for that year until the next contest winner is chosen. I also feel it is a good thing to have because it encourages our youth to have pride in our country as well as involvement in community events. Someday we are going to have to pass the torch to them and they are going to have to carry on all these fun things.

I really have to make a comment about Mr. Ortega he is sincere about his concerns and his concerns, you would be surprised, are a lot of other people’s concerns and you guys do the best you can and go forward as we can.

I want to especially thank our Fire Chief, Manny he was my liaison this year and I have worked with him before and he makes everyone look good with his enthusiasm and passion especially for the 911 Ceremony so many of his brothers were killed on 911. His networking and computer skills helped things move a long a lot faster. As you all know my networking is typewriter, phone and eyeball to eyeball. A few years ago we came to Wayne for help and he was also a strong support for our initial 911 Ceremonies and we still depend on him. Thank you Mayor for faith and trust that you have and the committees ability to work such important events. These are something you don’t just allow vendors to set up shop. The contacts are enormous and they take a lot of time so do the confirmations. This year it was most helpful to have the new group in town called the New Mexico United States Volunteer honor guard. They are professional and they practice all the time so we will be able to use them at other events.

As you know we have seventy seven memorial bricks on the Freedom Wall today and these are New Mexicans or ties to New Mexico. Sadly I hope there are not more, of course we have the 515th National Guard up there and I hope they come home safely. If all goes well we will be able to have the dedication of the park on the 10th Anniversary of 911 which would be 911-2011.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised Gloria that this past Ceremony was one of the best ones so far. It was just perfect, the speakers, the music and attendance everything just complemented each other. Gloria said it takes a lot of support from everyone.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any further citizen petitions.

Chief Mike Chavez: advised this was more informational for everyone. The Belen Police Department received a plaque for second place in the New Mexico Challenge for shooting competition. Out of the NM State Police, APD, Rio Rancho and all other larger departments we came in second. Next year we will try for first.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any further citizen petitions if none he moved to the next agenda item.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY WITH AN R-1 ZONE. 2.5342 ACRES LOCATED BETWEEN GONZALES AND FERMIN CHAVEZ ROAD ALONG URTIAGA LANE BY DAVID CASTILLO, CHRISTOPHER GALLEGOS, RICHARD MARTINEZ, ERNEST & MARTHA AND MARVIN & EUFEMIA DURAN-WAYNE GALLEGOS AGENT.

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item and opened the public hearing on request for annexation into the City with an R-1 Zone 2.5342 acres located between Gonzales and Fermin Chavez Road along Urtiaga Lane by David Castillo, Christopher Gallegos, Richard Martinez, Ernest & Martha and Marvin & Eufemia Duran-Wayne Gallegos Agent. Citizen Wayne Gallegos stated he was agent for the properties of Pablo Chavez, Duran on the request for annexation. The annexation process, he thanked first, Planning and Zoning department and advised it has taken them a long time to get to this point. He continued saying it started out a few years ago when the City annexed Gonzales Road. Also they went over into River Road all the way up to the River and they've done some East Side School Road and Fermin Chavez Road.

Opportunity was given to the people in front that live right along the road to come into the city limits, and the main thing there was to get these people off of septic tanks. There are many septic tanks in that area and they all have wells 130 ft or more so they are in good shape but the population has grown. This piece of property was grandfathered and cut sections to give each family member so they could live on and either they lived there or they sold it in the past and it is adjacent to Gonzales Road. In the past they all got in except for one in the front, at the time Mr. Castillo opted not to but now he wants to.

Now that everything went through a few years ago all these people got together and asked what it took to annex. Now that they knew they could they had to get surveys of their property, they had to get a survey plot and had to work with P&Z on all the steps. It went before the planning and zoning commission. On the map, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes, Gonzales Road runs N/S and there is an unknown paved county road that hooks up Gonzales to Fermin Chavez Road and on the east side there is a ditch. It met all the criteria and they have applied. In the planning of the City there are already outlets there for sewer lines down Urtiaga Lane. It was planned for the future it is just that at the time they were not ready.

Lisa Miller with the Planning and Zoning Department advised that on July 27, 2009 recommendation was made to annex the property. Due to the fact that there are stub outs there and the owners were going to be responsible for their own hookups.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions from the audience. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo asked how the citizen would pay. Sally G. Garley advised payment would be the responsibility of each property owner but the stub outs are there.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo asked he wanted to know about the payment do they have to pay the full amount right away or can they make arrangements. Sally G. Garley said they would be allowed the same time the residents of Gonzales were given and it was about twelve months.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo asked if once the citizens were connected are they mandated by ordinance to use city water or can they continue using the well water. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised they would not be restricted on the use of the private well and the water is available to them.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any further questions if none, he closed the public hearing.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL ON REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY WITH AN R-1 ZONE. 2.5342 ACRES LOCATED BETWEEN GONZALES AND FERMIN CHAVEZ ROAD ALONG URTIAGA LANE BY DAVID CASTILLO, CHRISTOPHER GALLEGOS, RICHARD MARTINEZ, ERNEST & MARTHA AND MARVIN & EUFEMIA DURAN-WAYNE GALLEGOS AGENT: Lisa Miller, Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item on request for annexation into the City with an R-1 Zone 2.5342 acres located between Gonzales and Fermin Chavez Road along Urtiaga Lane by David Castillo, Christopher Gallegos, Richard Martinez, Ernest & Martha and Marvin & Eufemia Duran-Wayne Gallegos Agent.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions from the Council or comments. Councilor David Lopez advised this issue came up at a previous meeting and was tabled due to the fact that it was not advertised properly. It did come with a do pass recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and there were no objections to the annexation. Based on the recommendation from the P&Z Councilor David Lopez moved to approve the annexation. Councilor Terese Ulivarri, second the motion, Councilor Wayne Gallegos abstained, motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD BECKER AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS-PHASE III (REBID): Sally G. Garley, City Manager

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item referring to recommendation to award Becker Avenue Improvements Phase III (ReBid) as presented by. Sally G. Garley, City Manager advised five sealed bids were received and opened on September 1, 2009 ranging from a low of \$329,566.40 to a high of \$422,530.40. The apparent low bidder was Home Pro, Inc. of Los Lunas and the recommendation is to award the bid to them in the amount of \$329,566.40 which excludes gross receipts tax.

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council. Councilor Terese Ulivarri asked if we have done two phases of this project and used two different contractors and this contractor is brand new to the project to which Sally. G. Garley, City Manager advised yes.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri advised if there were no further questions or comments she moves to approve. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo, seconds the motion, motion carries.

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:

Councilor David Lopez: said “he attended a meeting in Los Lunas last week for the Mid West Region Cap office and we went over the proposal we needed to get the fiscal year started for the head start programs. All the plans and budget was reviewed and along with the salary adjustments and we managed to get everyone a five percent cost of living adjustment for this year so that was good and I am sure the employees would like to hear about that.

Also Phillip Carillo passed away this weekend and he is a member of the family so it was a hectic weekend. They had the funeral today the entire community stepped up to the plate and helped him and his family through their time of need so thank you to everyone for that.

I would like to make a comment to Mr. Ortega-we have these people in place for the betterment of the City nothing that this Council does is to hurt the City. We go to DC, and try to go every year, and give our spill as far as getting capital improvement funding into the City. We used to all go as a Council to sell our stories because everyone specializes in something else but due to

the fact that economics are hard we have just one representative to go and that is the Mayor and Sally went this year and last they told us not to even bother going because the funding was so tight. This year the State of New Mexico is broke right now they re-allocated millions of dollars of funding from every municipality in the state. They are going to have a special session to try to adjust that. Everything, they are proposing cutbacks on everything for the exception of education this year.

There is a lawsuit against the State of New Mexico from a hundred investors that invested millions of dollars with the State of New Mexico and they lost all their money. It was in the Albuquerque Journal this weekend and they are lobbying the District Attorney to drop the case. These people that lost millions of dollars were investors. Investors are what start up Economic Development. People are really afraid to dip their hand into something that is a little risky right now. The stock market has been dancing up and down, 401K's have taken a dump. If you talk to anyone who has a 401 today they will tell you they are 30 to 20 thousand in the red.

With that said it is very hard to get people to invest in a project that the future is shaky. A lot of people ask me if the City of Belen is dying, you do see it a lot of people have closed their business because it is so hard to make a living right now. The unemployment is very high, New Mexico has thousands of people out of work right now. You talk to every person in every municipality and you hear the same story that they have lost a lot of business. You go to the City of Albuquerque and you look at some of the businesses that have been in business for years are closing shop. Gardunios just closed their doors because they could not compete anymore. It is a changing economy and I hope we have hit the worst of it but no one knows for sure. No one has the warm and fuzzy to go out and invest right now.

They just had the cash for clunkers right now and people started like ok great deal they are going to give your forty five hundred dollars for a car that is not exactly fuel economical, but then you get yourself into a new thirty thousand dollar bill that people can't afford to pay. It was a shame that they destroyed all those vehicles they should have donated them to people that do need vehicles because transportation is a must in the State of New Mexico.

As far as Economic Development Coordinators they do work very hard, they are up to snuff on everything that the City needs to know as far as applying for grants, trying to get additional funding. In the past we would go to municipal conventions and we all take classes and take all the information and Economic Development is one that we all attend. The topics that they are talking about we are aware of due to the fact that we have an Economic Development Coordinator. With that said I hope you are not too upset but we are doing the best that we can.

B. Paul Ortega: said "David I appreciate your comments my main concern is here in Belen for the citizens, that is my primary concern. Now if I see that we are paying too much money for something that has no benefit that is the issue. That is what is happening with Economic Development here.

Councilor David Lopez continued and said you have to think of it as an investment. Your 401K is thirty thousand in the red but you leave it in there if you bail out now you lose. Mr. Ortega interrupted and added "you know after six years of trial and error. Councilor Lopez continued saying it has not been a total loss there are good things coming to the City. Mr. Ortega again added there is nothing that pertains to the City Ordinance. Councilor David Lopez said the City

Ordinance is a working document it can be changed. You put these ordinances to face you in the right direction. If a business comes in and they are in violation of City Ordinance and it is for the betterment of the Community we will amend the ordinance and try to work with the community and the business. It is just a working document.

B. Paul Ortega said “I didn’t want to say specifically to amend the ordinance. But that is what I am eluding to, it is not working.

Councilor David Lopez continued saying he was not at liberty to discuss but he has talked to investors and there are certain things that are in play that due to legality and red tape they cannot foresee their projects right now. In a few months you will be hearing a better story. There are legalities, we have the hospital issue, everyone wants a hospital but there are legalities. But if you know the story behind the scenes it is a big mess. Why don’t we have a hospital. You and me we voted for it so why don’t we have it. If you look deeper into it into all the red tape and legalities so and so is not making enough money on this or that deal it is horrible. If you could just do it and have everybody on the same team we would have it but it doesn’t work that way. We’ve got the Camino Del Llano project it is a go something happened and we got to do additional things to see that project through. A lot of stuff we are not at liberty to discuss but we are working on it. It is just disgusting that we have to go through all that stuff but it is just the nature of the beast. All of us on this council feel the same way. It is hard to be working so hard on these projects and then something just smacks you in the face and it is also disgusting that if you ask for a million dollars to do a project and the state gives you a quarter of a million dollars and you bank it. Then you ask for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million the following year to do that project and they give you $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million and then after three years you haven’t done anything so we are taking our money away. All that work that you have done for all those years goes down the drain and that is what we deal with here and it is disgusting for all of us, the Council and the Mayor.”

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: said “I can feel the frustration because we are all in the same boat. In regards to the comments there is not much that I can say that will add to what he said and seriously we do a lot of work behind the scenes and it doesn’t get done and you are like okay well let’s keep going that’s why we are here.

More than anything we are elected to progress the City I think within the last ten years twelve years we have done that. It is now at a standstill but it is not anything that we have developed it is just the economy. That doesn’t mean we don’t have projects you just wait the orange barrels are going to start going up again. We have done a lot even through this so called recession. We are still doing stuff all over town so you can’t say the wheel isn’t turning because it still is. The only thing is, is that we are dealing with all sorts of issues and you are zeroing in on one and you can continue doing that but we have to look at the whole picture and focus here and then focus there and then bring it all together.

We have to have some type of Economic Development to be able to get some of these funds that have come by. The Main Street Project there is an economic development requirement for application. If we pull that we lose those funds. There are all kinds of things that are attached to everything else but they all come together for a good cause of Belen.

Meetings that I have attended since the last meeting, and it has been a while, we had a meeting on the Rail Runner station and looking at using funds there. I have attended a levy meeting and it is ongoing and I elude to that in the past. I attended a 911 meeting which Gloria heads that up and Sonny in preparation for the tenth anniversary. We had the 911 ceremony and congratulations to everyone it was very nice.

We had a solar dish dedication out here and the Governor showed up for that and that money came from a grant from his office. So we are looking for grants all the time it is not just sitting around doing nothing. I have to give kudos to Andrew DiCamillo who ran with that project and because of that dedication here we are looking at another project out by the Airport, probably another 140 some more solar dishes as an experimental farm and that will put us on the map. Those solar dishes put us on the map, first in the United States for that type of solar dish use for a municipal building. We are doing stuff that other people aren't even thinking of yet.

I attended a Rio Metro Meeting did I tell you the last time I was elected vice chair of that thing? Rio Metro is the transit district that's within the Council of Governments. Last October or January can't recall we had the tax that everyone voted for to keep the Rail Runner running. Half the funding that has accumulated will be for transit within the corridor. Not just for the Rail Runner so we are going to see more transportation going south from Belen as apposed to just Belen north so that is going to be cool.

I did a welcome for the Mayor this Saturday we had the Southwest Tomahawk and Knife throwing competition that came to the City and it was pretty cool. The dress in period garments and they give great cash prizes for being accurate with the tomahawk and a knife. They liked the spot, they liked Belen. As a matter of fact two of the people moved here they like the area and decided to stay.

One thing that pertains to the City but then it doesn't was that I am on the Amtrak board I was asked to join them and we had a dedication of a house on Saturday. A young lady with her two children who put a lot of sweat equity were able to qualify to be given the opportunity to live in a house and pay mortgages like everyone else but at a lesser cost because of their financial stability. We have just been given, donated some property here in Belen and so we are going to probably see, not in the near future but in the future a probably two more houses within the City of Belen."

Mayor Ronnie Torres: said " there's a lot of things towards the end of the year when it gets really busy for the Council up here not just running the City on a day to day you know things that we have to do. We have a lot of extra curricular things we do. One of the first things is that we are going to have the Rio Abajo Days which is next Saturday and we work with the Chamber of Commerce and Rudy has been really active with that. They are going to be holding the festival in the middle of town. We are encouraging everyone to make sure and attend there are going to be three parades. By parades I mean publicity grabbers, so that you have some people going down in some floats, we have a 20' peacock and giant flowers, an electric parade at eight in the evening and one at twelve in the afternoon for kids with animals. The one in the morning is for specialty cars and motorcycles and that kind of thing. There will also be vendors along side the street and Sally has been working with that to make sure we get that going. This function is done by the Chamber of Commerce we are just doing our part to help with that.

Once that is done we have October 10th which we are already having meetings for that for Lori's Boardwalk for October fest. That is going to be held at Ana Becker Park from 3 to 7 so we are getting everything from donations to help. The City Council gets together with these young individuals who do their dancing so that they get to know us and we get to know them and we split the money half and half. All the profits are split once expenses are paid half to Lori's Boardwalk and half to the parks and recreation department. We chip in money and Rudy makes the food for us and we give him some money for that, Wayne does music, I do some of the baked goods and Tinky does the pie contest, Dave is doing the chili contest so everyone gets involved. Plus we all sell a ton of tickets which Sally sells more than anyone.

Another thing we start of is our Christmas Festival and this year in case you don't know we are combining the Los Lunas St. Patrick Day Balloon Rally with our Christmas Festival. They called and asked if we would like to have them in our community and I said we would love to but I said we are spread thing with our events so we need to marry that event with something we already have. So it is going to be the first annual Miracle on Main Street Balloon Rally. We have one of our employees John Montoya who actually designed the pin for that and he did a fantastic job. They are collector pins, the group, Balloon Flyers association or whatever they are called, they are so excited because they worked well with Brenda. There will be a mass ascension in the morning then we have the festival in the afternoon all through the day and then we have our electric light parade and then we have the balloon glow that night and then the next morning we are having another mass ascension. We are hoping that will get people to spend the night here so that is a nice event we are working on. If you happen to see balloons flying out on Saturday afternoons is because they are doing trial runs. That is going to keep us pretty busy.

I was in another community and I overheard some people, you know how people like to chat, they were talking about the City of Belen and the Mayor getting the stimulus money. And all I can say is "cha ching" yes we did. We have gotten some money and we are doing really good. We saw some design the other day on the walkway bridge, it was going to be an elevator but it is not an elevator anymore, because of the money to upkeep it but it was an idea. Now it is going to be a walkway from the station platform to the top of the bridge then come across and walk across Reinken Avenue then walk back down. So folks will come down two sides of Reinken Ave. so they can go where they please. They have done a beautiful design on that, we had them come down and they looked at the Heart of Belen and the architecture and incorporated the design to match. I told them what I did not want to see was a bridge like what was built in Bernalillo with that industrial look. We need to have something here that will fit our community and look like part of our history like the Harvey House and it will make our citizens proud to have a cool looking bridge. It is nothing set in stone until it is done but that is what they are working on so I think you will be proud of that. They are working on incorporating some solar aspects into that to see if we can do some of the lighting with solar power, they are doing some of the wirings so if we get panels to do that it can just take care of that area. They kicked a little when we asked for that but you've got to ask for something while they are building, they said it can't be done and I said it can be done and you guys can do it and they did and it looks really good and save us energy.

We met the other day with a representative from Signa, the power company he is one of the most intelligent men I have ever met. He knew everything about and has worked with Intel and they have hired him to do some of the stuff, and the plant they are making is mind boggling. It is a 300 megawatt. The company they have in Germany is a ten megawatt co. and this one is going

to be a 300 megawatt when it is done. If you combine all of the industry that is doing that kind of solar technology combined they are between 3 and 5 hundred megawatt total. So our company in Belen is going to be one of the largest in the world. It is going to be four different companies within a company and four different buildings over 300 square feet per building. They have approximately six hundred employees that will be working there full time with a starting salary of forty thousand up to one hundred thousand dollars. They are going to be doing a lot of training with the local people from here and if the people from here have the skills to do some of the higher paying jobs they definitely will hire them because we spoke to them about that. Those who do not they will hire them to do some of the training and work anyway and they will fly them to Germany to train in the company over there so they will be ready when they open the doors here. So it is a positive thing.

Besides those jobs there are going to be four buildings there each building is going to have extra workers on the outside weather it be maintenance workers people who bring in supplies and stuff and it is fifty to one hundred people per building. Those are extra jobs besides the six hundred so it is going to be a big boost to the area and they are really excited about this place. They talked about the US plant and say oh the Belen plant so it is big news for us and we are really excited. I know it has taken us years to get something but we finally got something good.

And that is what we are talking about Mr. Ortega it takes years something but finally there is no one more frustrated than me by not getting some of these jobs here some of these things we need but finally getting something good. Hopefully it is just the beginning of others because since they announced they are coming down we have had several other solar industries looking at us. Our main goal is to some day become solar capital of the United States and I think that can easily be done. It is pretty exciting because it is clean energy.

Another thing speaking of the 911 Ceremony and those plaques that you were showing us and stuff all that background information and the study you did to make sure it will work with the rock, limestone. Gloria, you know how Gloria searches things to death which is fantastic, because you found something that will work. We will be using some of that later on for some other things that we have in town for path finding stuff so you did a lot of the legwork for us and we thank you for that.

There are a group of people working on something that I think will be good for the community and Jerah Cordova and I may not see eye to eye on a lot of things and we haven't but he is working extra hard on this and is working extra hard and I thank you for all the effort you are putting into this project and I think it is going to be great for all of us."

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos: said "we are all long winded tonight aren't we. Welcome to commissioner David Medina thanks for coming in there are sometimes issues that we are not sure of and sometimes we go over there but it is nice to have you here anyway. The next thing I wanted to get into as part of the whole thing we are all on tonight, my thought is the perfect City, Belen the perfect City you know the sun is shining and the birds are singing and the elected officials and all the citizens are very happy in Belen our little town of Bethlehem and business is booming and then I have to wake up. This is for real you guys this isn't a fairy tale and we are just this little part of this county and this state and this country that we are all going through the same thing. But what I experience is that the strength that we do have is when we are all linked

together. And that link is with citizens as well as officials and business people and we are only as strong as our weakest link and wherever that link is weak we are no good to each other as a community. I was thinking about it and I don't really know that 2003-13 Ordinance I have read it and I don't know because I wasn't here then I was here maybe working but I don't know the intent of the ordinance but I am sure the intent is different than from what it is now maybe, or maybe what we think it is.

But in that thinking and I don't know if we can tie this in but I think the importance of this City, is we talk about the big companies coming in and the big businesses but how about the little businesses and I think that is the heart and soul of Belen. It is all the little business that we do have and the people that are able to survive in this town. I hear it all the time if you can survive in Belen you can survive anywhere. So in my thinking what does it take to have a business or become a business, if I look at it that way and I see some people trying and maybe they are big and they can't or may be coming soon because of the type of business they have. Then I have come people that were in business for more than fifty years, you know several businesses. There are things that are working.

But what I do have to offer to you Mr. Ortega and I will do this because the only place I would start is probably the smaller businesses and maybe with time with the big businesses and Economic Development is, with the help of the Mayor of course or whomever wants to, I will take a lead on it is maybe a business plan for our community. And then maybe we can look to what it takes to get a business here and I will offer that. It is going to take a long time we can't just wave the magic wand and it is going to fix overnight but we can start on that and look at incentives. I don't know what it will take maybe waiving some fees or something to get business to come here I don't know what it takes but I am willing to do that. I want to spend a lot of time with that because it does get frustrating sitting up here. On one hand you have citizens that will come to you and make the wheel turn, yes they are complaining, but they are making the wheel turn with you and we are getting things done. And on the other hand I see not turning that wheel and we are just getting hit by things all the time. I would ask as that link of citizens that maybe we can get together and make something happen, and maybe some input if I ask for some help yes maybe there is a way to help, correct.

B. Paul Ortega: “If you were to repeal that ordinance I would agree with you we would get money in and we would do something.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos continued “like I said I don't have all the answers and we are not perfect and I don't know if the intent of that Ordinance for what you are reading right now. But I am not going to be held to something like that by somebody challenging and saying “if you do this we'll help” what I will take on is people who are willing to help me without that threat of do away with this and we will help you.

B. Paul Ortega: it is not a threat.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos continued “you know that is just the way that I look at it, I will pour my heart and soul out into this City anytime. That is what bothers me is when people say something like that. And if you do this for that I just don't like it but we can move on with this. If I do ask maybe some other citizens are willing to help.

On Gloria's comments thank you again and I think that the idea on the singers with the star spangled banner you are correct maybe we can use them on other functions that we have. I think that is great. (paper noise unable to transcribe) On the 911 memorial those things to me are easy because I come from that type of background of fire and a lot of times when we are there we don't have the advocates for us, I feel, you know there are different disciplines, police or fire or City officials. When somebody comes up to you and they are willing to say why don't we do this and they raise their hand and they get in the dirt with you then it is (unable to transcribe) I remember when all these things started and it was something bad that happened and I was the Fire Chief back then and I am just glad that a lot of people like you are around and that we can have these things and we do have to keep them alive. The memorials are sometimes rough because we ask why do we have to open up that wound again. It is just in memory of everyone and what we have been through we don't want to forget about it.

On the solar dedication we had I thought it was great we do have to put on a good show in part for the Governor and Economic Development and I believe the main person was here that day. To get that caliber of people here you know that, like what Tinky was saying a while ago, that the focus of the whole state and if we can take the lead on that and the opportunities they say we are going to give to us up at the airport what I understood from one of our people that work in Planning and Zoning is, they got some readings from the solar indicators not sure what the wording is but these people are pretty smart up there. Anyway Belen had some good readings in a part of the state and it is because of these readings that the interest is here and we can take the lead on that and it is going to be good.

I attended the Advisory Council for RSVP they had a visit from the state and she came in to look at our program they overlooked the whole program and see where we are at. We have some changes we have some new people there. They are looking at the grant application for that program. Also our people over there are working with the Albuquerque programs and they are using them as mentors because they have been in the business for a long time as well as us but they are learning from them so they are attending some of their meeting to see how they operate everyday over there. One of the issues that came up was with regards to transportation and we talked about the 5311 grant and the Rio Metro it is coming and it is happening. There were some questions because they were not sure on the monies that were received for stimulus that were approved for two vans and those are coming in. They are just waiting for them because our vans are trying to be maintained and keep them up. They had a lot of questions like the workers and the vans and all that type of stuff. I think we realize there that at one time we were big enough to handle what was coming in and we grew within a couple of years and we really can't handle the flow of transportation that we need. But again together we can be strong and provide the services to the people.

Some of the old business was the Kaboom project they worked very hard on the grant to get some playground equipment for one of the parks that was chosen and they really don't know where that is now with the economy being as bad as it is and the company that was sponsoring it. Hopefully by October they will still find out and that was a lot of time again speaking of time invested, they invested about six months of work on it and thought they were gonna get it followed up another six months and maybe we will get it and maybe we won't. But they are waiting on that.

On the new business they are already talking about the food baskets for the community, again they will take the lead role as far as the clearing house for the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are also talking about the Martin Luther King Day when the volunteer put out hot chocolate. And also taxes, they are already thinking taxes, they are recruiting their volunteers that go and help out the seniors. There are a lot of things happening over there.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: said “on Paul you walk in and stimulate emotion thank you for that I think we all get moved. I think that if there were more people like you in the community that would come and ask and seek answers I think there would be more, actually from the community, questions of progress or process or moving forward. I appreciate that you come and that you even address, I know it takes of your time and I appreciate you and I really do mean that you stimulate emotions you can tell by everything that has been going on with the Mayor and Council.

Solar Panels we had a thing that was really neat that was presented out here as Terese mentioned Andrew was really one of the guys that got behind this thing and got them going and the Governor did mention that there are things going up towards the airport, I believe it is with the Star Panels being the name of the company. Something is really happening with the City of Belen that’s something that the Mayor and Economic Development has been working on to get those things seen, and sometimes we don’t see those behind the scenes but they work hard and do their legwork and sometimes they don’t show up.

Gloria many times thank you again for your work and your efforts and Sonny all the people behind you in the 911 ceremony you guys do a great job always well presented in fact the Friday after all of that we went home and the discovery channel, the educational channel, they showed everything that happened that day with the towers. It showed how they hit how they came down and how they crumbled, how the people were really moving through the streets of New York and all of that. I know I was wrapped up in that memory not sure if they do it all the time I just happened to watch it. Still as an American after watching that it was very very emotional. It distraught the American citizen. I know that I don’t say thank you enough Gloria but I try to when I see you it takes up a lot of your time and efforts and you have done a great job.

Mayor mentioned Rio Abajo this Saturday Chamber of Commerce has really been working hard on this and the Mayor is responsible for, that he did not mention, there is going to be a balloon glow at the parking lot of the First Baptist Church I am sure that Mike already got in contact with them and I had already talked to the pastor of the church and he said he had no problem with that. The balloon glow will be from seven thirty or so at dusk. There is going to be a dance and the Rodeo crowd is coming down here so everything can come together at Becker.

Our football team has been winning and really winning. I wanted them to score one more touchdown against Aztec but 63-34 was great, good for that for the kids.

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