

BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 3, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call taken by Amanda Tenorio, City Clerk.

PRESENT: Councilor Frank F. Ortega
Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Gallegos
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova
Councilor Ronnie Torres
Councilor David Carter

NOT PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER: Leona Vigil

CITY CLERK: Amanda Tenorio

REPORTER: Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

OTHERS: See attached Sign-in Sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Removed 8c

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega Yes
Councilor Ronnie Torres Yes
Councilor Wayne Gallegos Yes
Councilor David Carter Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated May 20, 2019 as presented. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega Yes
Councilor Ronnie Torres Yes
Councilor Wayne Gallegos Yes
Councilor David Carter Yes Motion Carried

PUBIC COMMENTS

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anyone with a public comment.

Kim Foster; concerned about construction, was not notified about construction; it's inconvenient for her and her neighbors. Behind her property they are building a bus drive way and building 2- 12 inch curbs up that run out to orchard they are running through the city and county. She will not be able to move her RV from her back yard; losing privacy; the kids are out there; people are looking at her back yard; the road is going to get so busy, and she cannot get any answers, She told them this morning they need to stop the curbs until she could talk to somebody and they told her no. She has been inconvenienced for over a year by the construction, dirt, and noise. She hoping someone will listen to her and take consideration for her neighborhood. Also speed bumps were put in and they detour nobody, people go 100 miles an hour.

Michael McCabe: Behind Kim Fosters gate we've had access since 1997 through an access gate through the back of her property; there is a joined gate which has access through orchard also. Now they putting monster curbs and have denied us access that we had over 20 years. We bought that property for the access; now we have no access. That's a \$100,000 property, and we live on the county and the city and nobody wants to claim nothing.

Victor Rodriguez- wanted to take an opportunity in a public comment to pay our respects to the 12 individuals that lost their lives in Virginia Beach City Hall Shooting. Situations like really hit home; especially for being a municipality ourselves. Would like to ask for 12 seconds of silence for the 12 individuals who lost their lives in a senseless act.

(12 seconds of silence)

Mayor Cordova closed public comment

DISCUSSION

- A. **Cynthia Mitchell was not present; Victor Rodriguez gave a quick Briefing**-This is a partnership with law publications; they are a group that forms a formal partnership with law enforcement and fire department for public safety to pretty much get the word out there on various things such as gangs, drugs, child safety. They do various publications from scams on the internet to coloring books for the kiddos, I believe Ms. Mitchell met with the chamber a couple of weeks ago to make sure she got the support of the business which is something that we encouraged her to do. They would like to sign a letter to where they would go out to businesses to provide these publications for various subjects on what we would like to have. This was her opportunity to present what those publications were. They are very informative.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE REVISED GREATER BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT.

Rhona Espinoza; Rhona introduced her board; we put together this new contract with the Better Belen Chamber of Commerce and the City of Belen. It is a re-drafted contract for a couple of reasons. First of all because the lodgers tax fund will not be used to fund the \$15,000 a year that we receive for the City of Belen Visitors Center. Second of all our contract was expired. The scope of services is basically the same, some of the items on the contract have been updated on the dates and new projects.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes
Councilor David Carter	Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION 2019-14 TO APPLY FOR A BUILD GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE NORTH INTERCHANGE DESIGN COMPLETION.

Steven Tomita requested for approval to apply for the Build Grant application for the north interchange. This was a subject of a couple of meetings ago where we had discussed the desire to continue moving forward to try to get the North Belen Interchange completed. This is for the better utilizing investments to leverage development planning build grant. It used to be the tiger grant; and now it's called the Bill Grant. We need to go after the planning grant first; the planning grant would complete the design of the interchange; it would put together a cost benefit analysis; environmental assessment which was never done on the interchange. This is required for the Bill Grant to complete the construction. The application will cost about \$30,000; the benefit once complete we will be moving forward to apply for the construction grant; this will give us back up support also for capital outlay.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Carter seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes
Councilor David Carter	Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FOR CITY OF BELEN AUCTION ITEMS.

Steve Gonzales requested for approval of a list of items to be put up for auction. We would like to donated the red suburban to The City of Rio Communities for their code enforcement officer, instead of putting up for auction. Manager Leona Vigil recommended for the approval to dispose the listed items. The donation to Rio Communities will have to be requestested at a next council meeting.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes
Councilor David Carter	Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FOR LEGAL SERVICE CONTRACT

Amanda Tenorio requested for approval on the legal service contract. Roseann re-posted an RFP on April 29th, there were three proposals; two proposals were the same proposals from our previous RFP. Evaluations were done on Friday May 24th by four evaluators. You have before you the evaluation on the three proposals. Cuddy & McCarthy had the highest point value; all four evaluators agreed that they would meet the legality needs for The City of Belen. Cuddy & McCarthy had the most experience on municipalities.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Carter seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF P&Z COMMISSIONER

Mayor Cordova stated that we had a vacancy about a month ago when Gordon Reeves left, **Mayor Cordova** nominated Gabriel Gabaldon from Belen for P&Z Commissioner.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

PUBLIC MEETING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Brian McBain requested for approval of an ordinance pursuant to Belen Municipal Code Section 15.60.050: Designation of Historical Landmark, Designating Belen Old City Hall as a Historic Landmark. As you know a while back; the historic properties board brought to you that they wanted to designate Old City Hall as a land mark. It was brought to our attention that an ordinance needed to be created in order for that to happen. Of course old city hall has already been designated through (ship) the state historical properties. This ordinance will make it official with the City; thus making sure that we follow chapter 15.60 municipal code its self. Brian read the ordinance on record.

What this ordinance does is all alterations, construction, any kind of demolition, pretty much anything that happens to the exterior of the building will need approval first through the historical properties board, and they will make the recommendation to the City Council for final approval. It's all governed within the ordinance its self; and it's also insuring that the City of Belen is committed to maintaining and providing maintenance to the structure to insure that standards are met and to insure the building is safe.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil stated that we did have interviews for the payroll clerk last week. We had four applicants so we should have a decision early this week. We did get awarded from the water trust board \$760,000 for the Aragon tank rehabilitation. 10% going to be loaned at \$76,000; 90% will be grant at \$684,000; there is a \$40,000 match that has been budgeted for this next fiscal year. Now that we have an approved legal contract; we will get signatures. She plans to spent 3 days with our new legal firm to transfer everything from our former legal.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Carter stated he took a couple weeks for vacation. Got back in time to go up with our one driver. We had our local bus driving champion go to state up in Santa Fe, and he took 2nd.

Councilor Ortega reminded everyone that June 29th at 2pm; we're having a ribbon cutting for the New Veterans memorial information center and the new veteran's memorial at Eagle Park. We're at almost 90% complete.

Councilor Torres We have the ribbon cutting and the grand opening of the bug lights which is going to be June 21st 2019. From 5-8pm we have studio 508 that's going to have some art across the street. There is going to be some vending table; Belen Art League will be open; A&W root beer will have a truck there and the Bug Family will be there; they're having their family reunion that weekend. Encouraged everyone to go.

Councilor Gallegos stated that he talked about the water break; received phone calls regarding the water break off of Aragon. That line feeds the north side of town in which there is a lot of businesses that didn't have water to operate. Wants to make sure we communicate to our citizens through an alert sense system, social media, courtesy call, etc. We need to improve our communication system. The Belen Senior Center has a garden going; we were able to put new soil. Wants to get prepared for possible disaster weather.

Mayor Cordova did not have anything to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING THE CITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS AND PENDING & THREATENED LITIGATIONS AS ALLOVED PER OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-2) (H-7)

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to re-enter into Open Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion No actions were taken. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Carter made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

Jerah Cordova, Mayor

Amanda Tenorio, City Clerk/Treasurer