

BELEN CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

January 14, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Special Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 2:05 p.m. Roll Call taken by Leona Vigil, City Manager.

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

CITY MANAGER: Leona Vigil

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

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Ortega 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING THE CITY'S APPOINTED POSITIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE BELEN CHIEF OF POLICE, AS ALLOWED PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-2)

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 Gallegos made a motion to re-enter into Open Session. 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

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to advise that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, and no actions were taken. Councilor Torres made the motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT FOR BELEN POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Cordova thanked all the applicants for applying for this position, totaling in twelve, five were interviewed, and the decisions were narrowed to three, based on executive session discussion, interviews, and extensive background check, I hereby nominate Mr. Victor Rodriguez as the next City of Belen Police Chief.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Torres 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

Mr. Victor Rodriguez thanked the Council for their confidence in him, and advised that he is looking forward to serving the City of Belen and its citizens.

The Council and Mayor then thanked Mr. Joe Portio for his dedicated service while fulfilling the Acting Chief position, advising that this was a tough decision to make.

DISCUSSION

A) MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW FOR PROJECTS

Ms. Roseann Peralta presented the Council with information concerning the budget advising that at this time we have a surplus of \$363,000 in our general fund from the surplus GRT that has been given to the City over what was projected in the budget.

Mr. Dale Tafoya presented the list of project that the City is working on now, he currently advised that he is proceeding with East Ross/Campana due to loan obligations but will need self-funding for this water line, and is still looking for funding options for San Lorenzo/La Luz. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Tafoya to use monies that we have to make adjustments to ensure we continue with San Lorenzo/La Luz now to ensure this promised project is completed and started this year, also using the remainder of money from Martha Jean to work on 7th and Gilbert.

Mr. Dale Tafoya presented the sidewalk priority list to the Council. The Mayor and Council advised Tommy Flores to spend the rest of his money of 5th Street and what he can get done, while advising Mr. Steve Tomita to send letter to residents seeing if they can move their fences in that area to meet city easements for sidewalks, we also need continue work on the sidewalk priority list, if 10th street cannot be done those funds will go to 5th Street.

Ms. Leona Vigil advised that we also wanted to see if we would be able to fund the .75 of an officer we are lacking in the current budget. The Mayor and Council advised that they would like to wait and see what the new Chief of Police requests and how he will improve operations to see if this officer is needed, the focus should be on becoming fully staffed first before adding an officer, advising that we are short three officers now that have been budgeted.

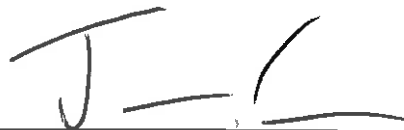
Ms. Leona Vigil advised that we also needed to discuss the Eagle Park Fields. Councilor Ortega advised we should use the \$41,000 already in the fund to work on the parks and see what we can do with that first before funding this any further, this will allow us to see if we can maintain these fields before we put more money into fixing them.

Mr. Brian McBain advised the Council that we will also need to look at facility maintenance, as our buildings are in need of some work, stating that he will complete an assessment of the buildings to see where we are at. The Mayor and Council advised him to present this during the next FY20 budget talks.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn today's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Ortega made a motion to adjourn. 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



Jerah Cordova, Mayor



Leona Vigil, CMC, City Manager