

BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 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 Leona Vigil, City Manager.

PRESENT: Councilor Frank F. Ortega
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova
Councilor Ronnie Torres
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter

CITY MANAGER/: Leona Vigil
ACTING CLERK

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 Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega second the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated December 17, 2018. Councilor Torres made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos second the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

PUBIC COMMENTS

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

Monique Marquez: She was present at tonight’s meeting to introduce Workforce Solutions which assist youth, ages 14 through 24, with obtaining a GED and/or finding work. Ms. Marquez will be representing the Belen area, and will be placed on the next agenda for a full presentation.

Joe Portio: On 01/04/2019, the Belen Police Department executed a narcotics search warrant. The search warrant resulted in one arrest. Several items were seized as evidence to include approximately \$6,000.00 street value of Crystal Methamphetamine, Marijuana, Illegal mushrooms “Shrooms”, and prescription pills.

There being no other public comments, this portion of the meeting was closed.

PRESENTATIONS

POLICE OFFICER PEER RECOGNITION AWARD

Acting Police Chief Joe Portio presented Trase Peperas with the first annual Officer of the Year Award. This new tradition consist of recognizing a fellow officer who has matured in law enforcement, dedicated to serving the community and leading by example and for having courage. Peperas stated that it isn't just one person, but a team that makes the difference. Officer Peperas is appreciative of everyone's support.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR EMPLOYEE STEVE TOMITA TO ATLANTA, GA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Steve received an offer from NMEDD to present Belen to a manufacturing company in Atlanta GA. Competition was only between a few sites and Steve felt as if Belen had a good shot at it. There was no time to put this item on an agenda before the scheduled event. Leona with approval of the Mayor allowed Steve to go to Atlanta GA. The Mayor asked that this item be put on the agenda this week to take a formal action.

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

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE IT COMMITTEE MEMBER REPLACEMENT

Mayor Cordova informed the Council that former Police Chief Conner and former Clerk Brian McBain were no longer on the IT Committee. Mayor Cordova would like to hold off on a nomination to replace the former Chief until a new Chief has been hired. Mayor Cordova nominated Steve Tomita to replace Brian McBain, who will represent the administration division on the Committee.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. 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	Motion Carried

PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO NMSA 1978 SECTION 1-22-3.1 (2018) TO OPT IN TO THE ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS IN THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION

Leona Vigil stated that the Council approved to pursue the Opt-in election option at a former Council Meeting. The next step is to pass an ordinance to formalize the opt-in option. The City election will now be held in November 2019 instead of March 2020. The County will now hold the election instead of the City. She stated that as part of the ordinance process, a public hearing must be held; therefore this item is listed as a public hearing.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak on the issue. Monique Marquez asked if the City would be able to opt out in the future. The Mayor answered the he believe so, but the City would have to verify that. The Council agreed that there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

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

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil: She reported that Brian McBain started his new position as Community Service Director. He is now in charge of RSVP, Recreation, IT, Library and Airport. She mentioned that if any members of the Council have issues in reference to those departments to reach out to Brian. Circle K will be starting construction this week. Steve is working on an ad to submit to NM Magazine. The sidewalk project for Bernard and Seventh Street are 100% complete; construction should start in February. The Credit Union has been having issues with sewer back-up; the new sewer connection is off set, TLC will repair under warranty. Contractors will finish the drive pads on Martha Jean when the weather warms up. The Water Department will perform bucket-test on the new meter to determine multipliers when the weather permits. The Campana project will go out to bid in February. A walkthrough was performed on San Lorenzo to check the drainage; results are that there is no drainage. Roseann is preparing for the mid-budget review that will be held on the 14th. Tommy is waiting for a w9 from Rio Grande Landscaping to begin the tree trimming. There is 2 vacancies in the police department and 2 in the street department. HR is reposting for Fire Chief due to the fact that the position was posted during the holidays and the City would like to make sure enough time was given.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Ortega reported that he received a complaint from the resident at 524 S. 10th St. regarding water by their meter. He is waiting for signed contract to begin the next phase of the VA Memorial. He has been working diligently on the VA Memorial with the help of Councilor Gallegos and their wives.

Councilor Gallegos reported that there were a lot of water breaks though out the City this past week due to the cold weather. He met with a group of individuals to discuss the reimbursement for the flood damage; Brian will be handling the paperwork. He attended the training the City put on for CPR and ADD. He had a phone conference with Molzen Corbin to discuss the City's Asset Management Plan. He announced the Martin Luther King Event to be held on January 21st at 6:00 at the Main & Becker Gazebo.

Councilor Torres reported that he is moving the Bugg Light Display items into the Red Brick Building on Becker Ave. He reported that there are some leaks around the air condition units.

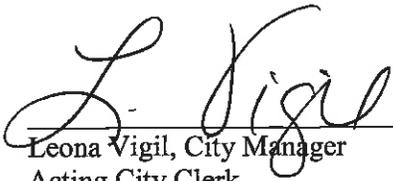
Mayor Cordova thanked the City staff for working diligently on keeping the roads safe during this inclement weather. On January 3rd, he interviewed candidates for the Clerk position. He expects to have a decision on the Police Chief on January 14th. He attended the Chamber Gala on the 5th. On the 19th he attended the Best of Valencia County Event which was held at the business center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight'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	Motion Carried

Jerah Cordova, Mayor



Leona Vigil, City Manager
Acting City Clerk