

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 16, 2018

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 Brian McBain, City Clerk.

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

CITY MANAGER: Leona Vigil

CITY CLERK: Brian McBain

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. 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 April 2, 2018 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. 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 |

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated April 12, 2018 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. 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 | Abstain | Motion Carried |

PUBIC COMMENTS

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

Danny Bernal: I am here to ask a public question, now that the election is over, I have not heard much from you about crime, now that you are elected, how will you curb crime and how are you working together to get this done. Councilor Gallegos advised they have spoken to the manager and appointed officials, we do not have a specific plan but it is a discussion that we are having, by May or June we will reevaluate positions in budgets to see what we can afford to put more into the public safety. Councilor Ortega advised that the Police and Fire Chief have been tasked with providing a plan and will be discussing this in our budget. Mr. Bernal asked if they had talked about this together. Councilor Ortega said based on the Open Meeting Act, we cannot meet without an agenda or quorum notice.

Manny Garcia: In April 11 we sent out a public notice to have a valid burn permit on a valid burn day, we will be checking in on these as well as issuing citations for those burning without a permit or on a non-burn day, we must do what we can to curb the fire hazards in the City. We will be looking at a plan for fireworks soon, Mayor Cordova advised that many cities are banning burning all together,

PRESENTATIONS

A) "PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE" AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

Ms. Cormier presented this information to the Council, and asked that the City sponsor and event in which the volunteers could paint the town purple, putting purple ribbons around town, and would like a proclamation for June 2nd, holding some sort of rally event. We would also like to plan a cancer run for next year, and have the City combine forces with us to get this done. Mayor Cordova advised that we will bring this before the Council again to ensure we approve painting the town purple.

B) EMPLOYEE OF THE 1ST QUARTER 2018

Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter presented Charles Cox of the Belen Fire Department with the Employee of the 1st Quarter award for 2018.

C) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Scott Conner presented information to the Council regarding the state of the Belen Police Department, providing statistics on crime in the City. Chief Conner advised that the Police Department had unofficially passed their accreditation, especially in the file maintenance aspect, giving kudos to Deputy Chief Miller for all his hard work. Mayor Cordova advised that we could refine Animal Control and Code Enforcement to reflect the needs in the City. Chief Conner advised that he would like to move Code Enforcement into city hall under planning and zoning but felt that Animal Control was better served in the Police Department. The Mayor would like the Chief to meet quarterly with the Public Safety Committee, and provide updates to the Council. Councilor Carter advised that the streets are truly safe, while Councilor Ortega would like to ensure the animals are controlled and the fear of wild dogs is removed from the community.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH VALENCIA COUNTY FOR THE HOUSING OF MUNICIPAL PRISONERS AT THE VALENCIA COUNTY JAIL

Warden Joe Chavez presented the agreement and information to the Council, thanking them for inviting him here today. The cost per inmate is going up to ensure they County can cover the cost of mental healthcare in the facility. This is going up County wide, and will cost around \$95/inmate per day. Warden Chavez advised that he would like to come back to the Council and provide further information to the public specifying what they do and how they operate on the accredited level.

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 CHANGE ORDER FOR THE NEW FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION

Mr. John Pate presented this information to the Council specifying that there is an urgency in this change because it will affect the water line that is connected, they have found that they had to make some adjustments which will cost a total of \$10,000 more, however, they will be making adjustments elsewhere so they will be giving back \$1,810 back to the project itself.

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
- Councilor David Carter Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL TO ARLINGTON, VA. FOR CNCS CONFERENCE FOR RSVP DIRECTOR TO ATTEND

Ms. Bertha Flores, RSVP Director advised that this trip has been budgeted and is a very important conference to attend, giving the latest information on changes coming from the federal level of funding, and upon completion fo the conference will come back and advise the Council of these changes.

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 THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE VA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Councilor Frank F. Ortega advised that the VA Memorial is moving forward, and in order to ensure that this memorial operates effectively and efficiency, he would like to create a committee, which can handle all donations and directions of this memorial. He read the names to the Mayor for nomination approval. Mayor Cordova then advised that the nomination for this committee are: Charles Cox, Frank F. Ortega Jr., Eric Green, Ernie Armijo, Secundino Baldonado, Jim W. Rende, Councilor Gallegos and Councilor Ortega. Mr. Cox and Mr. Green advised the importance of this committee.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the suggested nominations. 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

PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 2.14 IN THE BELEN MUNICIPAL CODE, CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND TREASURER WHILE RECLASSIFYING THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR TO THE FINANCIAL OFFICER/MANAGER POSITION

Brian McBain presented this ordinance to the Council for approval, advising the need for this ordinance per State Statute to ensure that we are following laws in what staff duties are, we will currently have a Clerk/Treasurer with a Finance Manager.

Mayor Cordova opened the public hearing and asked if there was any discussion from the audience, there being no discussion, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. There were no further questions from the Council.

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

****Ordinance Number 2018-04****

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil stated: We have received a violation letter from NM Workforce Solutions stating that the contractor at Vivian Fields is not compliant with pay wages so we will not receive our money, therefore we will not be paying our contractor, reports that contractor is nor paying workers or paying in cash. Councilor Torres and I met with SHIPPO to meet with Jeff Pappas, gave solutions to get of high risk list and will be putting a portfolio of why the Carter house was taken down, however, he wants the Old City Hall registered in order to get off the high risk list. Councilor Gallegos advised that we need our documentation as to why we got rid of this house, safety and fire inspections were done. Ms. Vigil advised that she will work with Manny to get this information, Mr. Pappas advised that if we do not register old city hall, then he will do this for us. Councilor Gallegos advised that we cannot afford this if that does happen. Councilor Torres advised that he was very positive, the intent is to make sure that this does not get knocked down, he just wants this paperwork to ensure the process was followed on the Carter house. Ms. Vigil advised that we have a summit scheduled tomorrow at the Molzen-Corbin offices in Albuquerque. Meeting with Belen Art League to extend property to the west of them, also will be getting some art in lieu of their rent. I have a meeting with John Archuleta to go over loan. All staff meeting on Friday from 1 to 3 pm, Police has lost intern so code enforcement and animal control will be helping front desk coverage. Steve Tomita is working on a list to get some building torn down. The Titanic event was held yesterday and the event went great. IT department ordering tough pad for utility department so that they can get work orders quicker. Summer Recreation forms going out now, will be held Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm. Had 73 water shut offs today, Tommy's crew will put light pole up at Circle T, water pump for chipper is broken, working on weeds, pouring steps to VA memorial, have meeting with Airport to discuss some jobs and drop zone, and RSVP is planning a Cinco de mayo event. Councilor Gallegos advised that he had a call for the police to keep an eye on the Hacienda Apartments. Councilor Ortega is asking for the VA Memorial Visitors Center to be painted by the Art League maybe as a trade for services. Steve Tomita asked the Council to let him know about any properties that need to be condemned and put on a list.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Torres stated: We went to SHIPPO meeting, it turned out good and was positive, he was not upset but was looking at ways to help us, we do need to work on the roundabout.

Councilor Ortega stated: VA Memorial is moving right along, looking for funding to remodel the visitor's center, and have Art League paint this. We have not taken a vote on the City Flag, and I would like this to be done via resolution so that we can officially make this the Flag of Belen, people really want to purchase this flag also so we need to take steps in getting this done. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and help with ensuring this VA Memorial gets done.

Councilor Carter stated: On the 3rd and 9th I was in the City to the North, County is trying to put out an RFP for the hospital, but it seems a bit rushed, a workshop for this is on the 18th. Deputy Chief Miller did a great job with his active shooter training for the schools, they are doing a lot to prepare for this but will not disclose too much to keep information secure.

Councilor Gallegos stated: Had a great workshop with the Magistrate Court relocation, will be moving forward with this in our parking lot, also met with community housing and they have said there will be units built, plus have requested 5 acres to build 40 units for this purpose also. Attended a town hall meeting for the senior citizens on the 24th at 5 pm in Los Lunas Chamber to discuss the needs for seniors in the community.

Mayor Cordova stated: On April 5th I had a meeting with an Alcohol Rehabilitation Program that wants to start n Belen, they just need the space, and they have funding. On April 7th I welcomed Pilot Club International into Belen, I also went to Whitfield Conservation Meeting, also had meeting on the 12th with Julie and Francis at the Library and Harvey House.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THREATENED OR PENDING LITIGATION CONCERNING THE HOSPITAL ISSUE AS ALLOWED PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-7)

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to enter into Executive Session. 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

****The Council entered into Closed Session at 8:08 pm****

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. Roll Call Vote:

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

****The Council returned to Open Session at 8:31 pm****

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 Carter made the motion. 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

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



Brian McBain, City Clerk/Treasurer



Jerah Cordova, Mayor