

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll Call taken by Brian McBain, City Clerk.

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

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 removing item 9a for the Fire Station Change Order as Molzen-Corbin was not ready to present this to the Council tonight. 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 March 19, 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

PUBIC COMMENTS

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

Robert Chavira: I had to work Friday night, one of our holidays, I want to appreciate the airport people, and they had a bad water break, because I did not have a chance to get there and they went and got a key from our trucks to turn it off for me, I appreciate it. It was a hard day, I worked until 9pm, all day and all night.

Connie Derr: I am the Executive Director of the American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and I am here representing the public employees who work in the City of Belen and Valencia County. And the reason that I am here is to ask for your support to reach an agreement with the Belen City workers, we are two days out from when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed on a strike for the sanitation workers in Memphis, and what those

workers were asking for was for dignity, respect for the work that they do, and that is no different today, 50 years later than what our brothers and sisters are looking for with the City of Belen, they want a contract, they want to be treated with respect and dignity. They are doing the work that the residents and the City of Belen depend upon that you ask, that you depend upon, and just hearing what the brother said a second ago, the hard worker that the City workers do, day in and day out, in the evenings, late at night, on days off. So I am asking that your seriously look at this issue, respect the workers, reach a contract and get it done, it has dragged on for over a year, and that is a long time, the members of my Union of AFSCME, they are the detention center workers, the police officers, the correctional officers workers for the State, they are the State employees in this area, you have a large contingency, a large constituency here in the City of Belen, and they are asking that you bargain this contract, make sure that this contract gets bargained, make sure that these workers are respected for the work that they do. As you know they are in the bottom of the pay band, and they shouldn't be at the bottom of the pay band, we should be doing everything that we can you make sure they are lifted up, they are dedicated their life to the work, to make sure that the City of Belen functions, and that the City of Belen residents are getting their services, so we need to do the minimum for the right, we need to at least make sure that their wages are increased, that there benefits are increased, we need to show that mutual respect, so I ask that you get this contract, make sure it is bargained in good faith, get it done, and respect the workers. Like I said this is the anniversary, two day out from Dr. Martin Luther King, as we are still having this struggle and we shouldn't be and I am sure none of you want to see this struggle continue, but these brothers and sisters are in the same position that those striking sanitation workers were in, thank you.

Councilor Carter: Do you have a copy of the ground rules so I can see that, to see whether they can negotiate directly with the Council, I am a little concerned about them coming directly to the Council. I do not want a discussion, I just need to review the ground rules.

Ms. Derr: May I respond to this Mr. Chair? I just want to clarify your statement, because I am not on the bargaining team, I am not representing them, I am representing the rest of the citizens who are with the organization, I represent the workers here, I live in Albuquerque, and my members live here in the City of Belen.

Joel Villarreal: I am a staff representative with AFSCME Council 18, I actually do represent the City workers here in the City of Belen, I am the one that has been working with them on their contract and just to speak to Mr. Carter's concerns there, nobody is here bargaining with your Council, I think the boss, my boss, was just trying to convey that you know, things are tough and we are really wanting this thing to come to an end, and the respect, the wished of not just your workers but in the ideas and spirit of this anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, you know when he stood up for the sanitation workers in Memphis, that in that spirit, that this City, you know that this is supposed to be a pretty progressive City and we would just hope that this is shown in this, and honestly I think the bigger part of this is that you know, one of the things that Martin Luther King did say is that budgets are a moral document, right, that is how people show and put value in priorities that they look at in a budget for their City, again we are bargaining here, I can't get into specifics but I would ask that when you guys are looking at your budgeting that you please look at the markets, look at where your workers are at compared to other workers and ask yourselves if it, you know we would help that someone is able to allocate money there to be able to help these people out, thank you very much.

PRESENTATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 3, 2018 NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY

Ms. Bertha Flores, the Director for RSVP, stated that RSVP has 237 volunteers throughout Valencia County, with 24 sites, and as of January 2017 until February 2018 they have worked around 78,927 have been given by our seniors ages 60 to 84, we ask that you recognize our volunteers through this proclamation. Councilor Gallegos said this is great in the community, it is something to show how great the people of the community truly are, and hats off to the City for putting in funds for this program. Mayor Jerah Cordova read the proclamation and declared April 3, 2018 "National Service Recognition Day" in Belen, and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication in the RSVP program. Councilor Torres thanked the RSVP program for their hard work and dedication, helping at the Harvey House also.

B) HUMAN RESOURCES/RISK & SAFETY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ms. Lashae Latasa presented a human resources department update to the Council stating she did attend an entity meeting with the City of Albuquerque and our insurance rates will increase 12.2%, this will just be for health but will cost the City about \$80,000 more per year. Also, we had 4 EEOC's filed with the City last year, 4 have been

dismissed with one pending from early 2016, a new employee orientation will be implemented once per quarter, we have three open positions now, we also had one worker comp injury in 2018 but it was non-recordable and we have had no property damage claims in 2018. Mimi will be taking over all of payroll soon, so we will now have complete control of our payroll. Carl has started OSHA audits with all departments to ensure compliance for our insurance inspection. Councilor Gallegos asked if our ratio was still the same, Ms. Latasa advised it was 3.5, and the City picks up 19% of the cost, and we contribute 90% to the benefit package, which is one of the best packages in the State. Councilor Gallegos asked if this would change with the increase and Ms. Latasa advised that no, the city would still continue to provide the same benefits package and contribute the same percentages.

C) INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY OF BELEN EMPLOYEES

Ms. Lashae Latasa presented the names of the new employees, the directors also spoke about their new staff, and how important they are to the City of Belen.

PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A LIQUOR WAIVER RESOLUTION FOR CIRCLE K

Mr. Steve Tomita presented the need for this waiver, stating that there is a Church located in a shopping mall which will not meet the required distance due to the end of the Circle K parking lot, while this is an area that can change many times, because this church is existing before construction, the waiver will be required. The Pastor David at the church advised that they were not in objection to this waiver and understand that they are in the area, saying he could not make it tonight but wanted to make sure that Mr. Tomita spoke to this. Councilor Gallegos advised that it is still important that we take into consideration the small churches in the process, especially those that move into different spaces. Mr. Tomita advised that we will be creating an aerial map of impact to churches and schools when we are granting liquor licensure, he will also look into the statute a bit more when the reverse happens and a church moves into a liquor zone. Councilor Ortega asked when construction for the Circle K will start. Mr. Rick Hughes advised that they are waiting on approvals from NMDOT and once this happens, they will be ready to start construction, the target to open is April 17, 2019.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anybody in the audience that would like to speak for or against this proposed resolution. There being no comments, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. The Council did not have any further comments or questions.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos 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

****Resolution 2018-08****

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY OF BELEN PARADE POLICY

Ms. Leona Vigil presented the proposed parade policy to the Council, stating that this policy is needed to ensure that we as a City support events that will bring people into our City, and with this policy we can do this at no charge, but can also regulate the specifications on how parades are conducted. This came up because the Little League would like to have an opening day parade, but would also would not want to pay for this, this is a practice that I have spoken to other municipalities about and they do not charge a fee, the only main stipulation would be to ensure that the parade organizers would need the proper NMDOT permits, unless they were doing parades on our streets. To save money we will be certifying employees to be traffic control certified, DOT will provide a free training on September 17th so that we can pitch in to close roads when parades are requested, this will save revenue money on the overtime pay for police officers. Councilor Gallegos wanted to ensure that we have the ability for parades, which will promote the City but that we ensure we have the right people closing roads for safety reasons. Councilor Carter feels that this is a service that the City

provides to the citizens, we would not be charging for this, we need to promote our City, does not feel that 30 day notice can always be done. Ms. Vigil advised that there are stipulations of how and why you can have a parade in the City to ensure there are some controls in place, the City would also set the route depending on crowd projections. Mayor Cordova suggested putting something in there that says we cannot allow candy thrown for night time parades due to safety concerns. Councilor Carter advised to take off the inside city limits, putting nearby City limits so that we can have parades for something like the County Fair which technically takes place outside City limits. Councilor Torres advised that we needed to ensure we have discretion of who can hold a parade. Mayor Cordova advised that maybe we should be a bit more specific on routes defining what routes can be used in what circumstances. Councilor Gallegos advised that this is an important policy that needs to be created because we have been dealing with this issue for a while, he thinks the policy needs some work, so we need to get this done right.

Councilor Gallegos advised that by making a motion, the Council is agreeing to also allow Ms. Vigil to have administrative powers and make decisions on behalf of the Council to proceed with the upcoming Little League Parade, ensuring that there is no charge for this service.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to table this until revised. 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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR LASHAE LATASA AND LEONA VIGIL TO ATTEND THE SHRM 2018 CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO.

Ms. Leona Vigil and Ms. Lashae Latasa presented the information about this conference, advising the importance of this conference for human resource changes, this is a great conference in which you can learn a lot about liability and other ways of handling personal by law, this year they will be discussion ADAA guidelines with FMLA regulations as well. Ms. Latasa advised that this is in her budget, and Ms. Vigil advised that she will need a bit more, the Council dedicated their training funds to help Ms. Vigil attend, the total cost is \$2,700 per person. Councilor Gallegos advised that he is for this, training is great for our employees, and is needed in order to ensure that we keep up on information. Councilor Torres would like them to present to the Council when they return from training on what they learned.

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

DISCUSSION

A) CLERK AND TREASURER WITH A FINANCE OFFICER/MANAGER ORDINANCE

Mr. Brian McBain presented this ordinance to the Council for discussion, this ordinance will allow the Finance Officer/Manager will be responsible for the City's finances, as required per State of New Mexico Statute. This will also determine the specification for the Office of the Clerk and Treasure, which also may be combined. This will be coming before the Council at a public hearing scheduled for our next regular meeting on April 16, 2018. Mayor Cordova advised that this ordinance in written in a way to allow for Council decision and input into the future on how these offices are handled, but it will still meet statutory requirements. Councilor Gallegos advise that we run this by the Municipal League to ensure we are covered.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Leona Vigil stated that the Art League memorabilia will be moved while the construction is taking place, a request has been made to have a garden at the senior center we may be able to work on some raised boxes for this so the dirt is not disturbed given the materials underneath it. The Art League has requested expansion for a patio but Steve has advised that

this is an alleyway and the new water line is going to be placed in that area, given this information we may not be able to place anything in the alley. 1211 Mesa Rd is a burned down house, Lisa will be issuing notice on this so that it can be taken care of. The stoke pile of concrete and asphalt has been addressed, Tommy advised that because the loader is down they have stalled on moving the concrete for erosion control, the dirt is from the street sweeper, and Tommy has been advised to spread this out. Mayor Cordova advised that we should get a time line for this and ensure we have a plan to get this done, even if this means we need to hire someone while our equipment is down. Community Maintenance Department is working on Vivian Fields to ensure it is cleaned up, it was checked today, and they have done a great job with this. Now that Christopher Rd is closed, we are starting to water down the area on Eagle Lane. Dispatch VRECC has raised out bill, so we will need to consider this at budget. There has been a request for a Summit workshop/retreat, so that we can go over concerns and city projects, as requested by the directors, so that they have some direction on what we are going to do with certain tasks. Mayor Cordova advised that this would need to be a visioning meeting, the Council could discuss big goals/priorities and with project updates. The Mayor/Council then agreed on having this on April 17, 2018 at 1pm in Albuquerque at the Molzen-Corbin offices if possible. The work on River Road will be another 5-7 days, Deborah will be at the State Aviation Conference this week, she also has an FAA inspection to get ready for, Neptune training is tomorrow and we will be working on cutting the weeds around the City, will wait for first rain before spraying. Councilor Torres advised that the tree itself is the memorial by the Art League, Steve Tomita advised that the tree will stay and not be disturbed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Gallegos stated that on March 23 we had an exit meeting on the Police Accreditation that took place during that week, they checked 240 marks, look like we will come out ok with 3 minor recommendations which they will finalize, the police department lead by Deputy Chief Miller who is trained for this audit did a great job, it is very important for the city and things really went good. On the 23rd we had the grand opening for ACE, the 26th I meet with new employee at Rec Center, he has a board full of things he wants to do, he has done 4 events and really is doing a great job out there. On the 28th we went to the City of Bernalillo, we learned about the new legislation that was passed and what we need to do, we also went to our properties to check on what needs to be done in the City. On the 29th we had an RSVP board meeting, and we are working on an appreciation lunch for the volunteers.

Councilor Carter stated that he attended the ribbon cutting at Ace on the 23rd, went to grand opening for Ace on 24th because I needed a part but the line was long which was good. On the 27th we had a Follow the Star meeting, looking at what venue to produce this in, will be for the 9th. I went and met with an investors group with Steve, talked about business in the area.

Councilor Ortega stated that at the NMML District 8 Meeting, the \$300,000 for our Veterans Memorial was confirmed, we got the first \$70,000 which has made the star complete and flag poles, the second phase will continue with the rest of the plan. The schools have also donated a portable that will be called the Henry Bird III Veterans Memorial Information Center, Henry Bird was killed in Iraq, member of the Belen ROTC and received a Bronze Star, he is my nephew, and I feel that it is appreciative to have something to commemorate the sacrifice that he made. The first phase will complete the steps, then we will move to the bricks and other landscaping in the area, thank you to Representative Baca, Armstrong and Fajardo for their support in this funding, we will be ready for shovel in June, this is for all service members in war time and piece time who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we have about 30,000 veterans in Valencia County. I thank the City and Councilors for all their help and support in this project, we are hoping to complete this by Veterans Day in November 2018.

Councilor Torres stated that he sees the community maintenance working out there all the time, they are doing a great job and working all over town, people are noticing and complementing the staff. I want to thank the local business, we are always looking for new businesses, but when a local business steps up and takes care of their places, it can be hard, but the businesses are making it nice. I also understand the a children's physical therapy facility is coming in which will be the only one in Valencia County, I love to see, not just franchises coming in, but home grown businesses, that is what makes us different, we are a community with a little bit of everything, thank you to everyone who is continuing to invest in Belen.

Mayor Cordova stated: On March 22 I participated in a Belen Mainstreet breakfast at Ritas, which will be held on a regular basis, looking at planning and improving the downtown area. Went to the Ace ribbon cutting on the 23rd, on the

24th I went to a municipal league meeting about how to be a good mayor/councilor and how to do a great job in city government, the meeting was highly productive. On the 28th I held individual meeting with select staff to see what was going on making sure they have what they need as we head into budget discussion, there are a lot of need in community maintenance department so that they can do their job, our new recreation director has many ideas for the future, so I just want to stress as we go into budget that we have a lot of priorities in the City, we know what they are, and crime is a big issues so we will take care of the police department as best we can, while also respecting the other departments and needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Brian McBain, City Clerk/Treasurer



Jerah Cordova, Mayor