

**BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 6, 2020**

**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 Dorothy Flores, City Clerk.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Pro-Ronnie Torres  
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova  
Councilor Frank F. Ortega-Virtual  
Councilor Robert Noblin-Virtual  
Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.

**NOT PRESENT:**

**CITY MANAGER:** Andrew DiCamillo-Virtual

**CITY CLERK:** Dorothy Flores -Virtual

**REPORTER:** Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin-Virtual

**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 with a revision to item 8) c Approval or Disapproval of an Ordinance Creating a New Article 2.24.050 to Chapter 2.24, Emergency Management Powers. This will be a discussion only as the City of Belen is moving forward on this Ordinance at this time.

In addition, Councilor Frank F. Ortega would like to add to the agenda under Discussion; Water Usage for Residents and Small Business.

Councilor Ronnie Torres made a motion.

Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr. seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes	
Councilor Robert Noblin	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Frank F. Ortega	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated 03.16.20 as presented.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega made a motion.

Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Ronnie Torres seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes
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Councilor Robert Noblin        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Frank F. Ortega       Yes     Motion Carried

**PUBIC COMMENTS**

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

Dale Sonwenberg wanted to thank Councilor Ronnie Torres, as well as Councilor Frank F. Ortega and thanked the Mayor. He is very disappointed with Councilor Robert Noblin in which he did no return his call. He called him twice and then gave up. He will not be re-electing him. His complaint is an issue with garbage disposal, as citizens we are trying to stay at home, stay restricted. As being home we are ordering more on-line, eating at home, which results in more trash. He has a complaint about AC Disposal, he was standing at the curb waiting for the trash pickup, and he asked if he could throw 2 small kitchen trash bags they refused it. He feels that AC Disposal needs to be a little more lenient with rules. He never had issues with Waste Management but AC Disposal is not being flexible. He was asking permission only and felt they could have worked with him with this situation. He felt this is very bad service and did not get the support. He would like the City to re-open the bid for others to possibly serve the City better.

Mayor Jerah Cordova did in fact speak with Charles at AC Disposal and they are going to be working on a solution for this, not sure what it is right now but they will be addressing this.

Councilor Ronnie Torres advised that maybe AC Disposal can do some type of courtesy pick up weekly and/or monthly?

**DISCUSSION**

a. Water usage for residents and small businesses.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega presented issues regarding the usage. He has had some residents come to him to as if there can be some type of relief effort with water usage during this COVID-19 issue. Councilor Frank F. Ortega advise that right now for residents it stands as 4000 and wasn't sure about small businesses. He would like to see if we can up the usage during this time via a Resolution and wanted to have Council in-put.

Councilor Ronnie Torres asked if this will be done by Ordinance. He feels that this is a good idea for now to help out some people during this time.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega's concern is because of everything going on can we just have an "Emergency Resolution" only during this time.

Mayor Jerah Cordova feels this is a good idea. We are in between billing cycles right now which would give us time to work this out. We will get this on the next agenda.

Andrew DiCamillo, City Manager said this is a good idea, and added that maybe we can add a credit, he will get to work on it tomorrow.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL** of a Resolution for FY2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Adjustments.

This was presented virtual by Roseann Peralta, Finance Director.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega questioned the issue of Fire Hydrants, Chief Ruff said he would get him the information and forward to Councilor Frank F. Ortega.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion.

Councilor Ronnie Torres made a motion to approve.

Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Robert Noblin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes	
Councilor Robert Noblin	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Frank F. Ortega	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL** of a Resolution Declaring the City of Belen to be an Emergency Area as a result of COVID-19 for the City of Belen’s Emergency Declaration.

Mayor Jerah Cordova presented the Emergency Declaration, he was advised that it is in the City’s best interest to move forward with the Emergency Declaration regarding the financial issues and/or benefits that the City can acquire. The City will begin tracking the financial issues.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega asked about the expenses asking if this would be retro-action and will go through whatever the time frame of which this COVID-19 takes there is not end date. He also asked if the National Guard would be implemented in our city. Mayor Jerah Cordova advised he did not know at this time and was sure that if the Governor allows for this we will in fact utilized the National Guard.

Councilor Robert Noblin advised of the current numbers due to COVID-19.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion.  
Councilor Danny Bernal Jr. made a motion to approve.  
Mayor Cordova asked for a second.  
Councilor Robert Noblin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes	
Councilor Robert Noblin	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Frank F. Ortega	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL** of an Ordinance Creating a New Article 2.24.050 to Chapter 2.24, Emergency Management Powers.

Mayor Jerah Cordova advised as mentioned earlier that this would only be a discussion. The background on this is as follows;

Other states were taking current actions, and he reached out to City Attorney for direction on how we should go as a City moving forward. At this time we are not implementing the Ordinance for additional actions due to this emergency.

Councilor Frank F. Ortega said that he feels that the citizens have been complying with the actions taken by the Governor and adhering to those orders.

Councilor Robert Noblin asked if this Ordinance would take the place of the Governors orders.

Mayor Jerah Cordova advised that this would only allow for certain issues if need be.

Mayor Jerah Cordova re-iterated the “stay in place” order and how citizens will have to comply with more restrictions.

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Approval or Disapproval of an Ordinance for Loan agreement between City of Belen and the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Magistrate Court.

Judge Chavez of the Magistrate Court presented the Loan agreement to Council.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova did open this up to the public.**

There was not response in person or via virtual comment/concern.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion.

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr. made a motion to approve.

Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Ronnie Torres seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes	
Councilor Robert Noblin	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Frank F. Ortega	Yes	Motion Carried

- b. Approval or Disapproval of an Ordinance to authorize the City of Belen’s gross receipts tax revenue bonds, series 2020 for the purpose of acquiring and equipping police vehicles.

Roseann Peralta, Finance Director presented this ordinance.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova did open this up to the public.**

There was not response in person or via virtual comment/concern.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion.

Councilor Ronnie Torres made a motion to approve.

Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Robert Noblin seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.	Yes	
Councilor Robert Noblin	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Frank F. Ortega	Yes	Motion Carried

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Andrew DiCamillo stated:

1. What they are doing internally with the COVID-19 Steven Gonzales, Risk and Safety went throughout the City to make sure everyone is in compliance.
2. Started taking temperature of all employee’s coming to work.
3. Projects are still continuing to progress forward, Steve Tomita has done a great job getting these projects moving forward.
4. Re-seeding at Eagle Park is going forward.
5. He had a video conferencing in regards to the terminal building project, this is our third meeting and will be bringing this before council soon.
6. Thanked all the City staff. IT department has become a critical component during this time.
7. Benefits all employees are caught up. Open enrollment will be taking place next month.
8. Regarding the Budget we will in fact take a hit, not sure when or how much at this time. They are already looking on how we can cut in certain areas. Looking to see about refinancing some of the debt. There is a hiring freeze.

Questions:

Councilor Frank F. Ortega asked about the Eagle Park Veterans Memorial Project.

Andrew DiCamillo advised that this has not been issued at this time.

Council Robert Noblin asked regarding the Emergency Declaration will there be any reimbursement for needs of the City. Andrew DiCamillo advised that they are looking to get this reimbursement. Chief Ruff advised that they are in fact tracking all expenditures within the department along with Roseann.

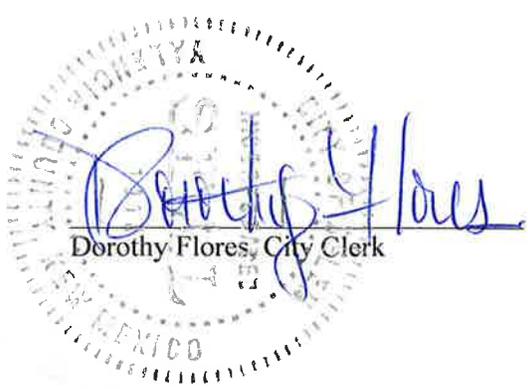
**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilor Danny Bernal Jr. stated: Buy local and thanked the City Staff.  
Councilor Robert Noblin stated: Acknowledge the first responders. Thanked IT for getting the City set up for this council meeting.  
Councilor Ronnie Torres stated: nothing to report  
Councilor Frank F. Ortega stated: Remind everyone about the Hot Line, this is also available on the weekends. Aerotech reached out to him and they installed some protection (sneeze guards) these will be installed at the utility department, this is being done at no charge. Wanted to make sure we are set up with the EOC.  
Mayor Cordova stated: nothing to report

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting.  
Councilor Ronnie Torres made a motion to adjourn.  
Mayor Cordova asked for a second.  
Councilor Danny Bernal Jr. seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:  
Councilor Danny Bernal Jr.        Yes  
Councilor Robert Noblin        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Frank F. Ortega        Yes        Motion Carried



Dorothy Flores, City Clerk



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Jerah Cordova, Mayor

CITY OF BELEN

City Council Regular Meeting

April 6, 2020

PLEASE PRINT  
SIGN IN SHEET

PRINT NAME	REPRESENTING
DALE SONNENBERG	Public
JOHN R CHAUER	