

**BELEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**August 6, 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 Carter wanted the Food Pantry Lease added to the agenda under discussion item C. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. 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 OF MINUTES**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated July 16, 2018 as presented. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. 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	Abstain	Motion Carried

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated July 24, 2018 as presented. Councilor Torres made a motion. 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	Abstain	Motion Carried

**PUBIC COMMENTS**

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

Florence Thompson: I live at 203 Hansen, my house was one of the homes affected by the flooding, I know that you all have removed the dumpsters but we are not done cleaning, we are limited in the time in which we can clean, we are wondering if the City can provide another solution of come up with a way to allow us to dispose of things while we still clean up. Ms. Leona Vigil advised that you can go to the transfer station, we can give you a permit to dump for free, if you do not have a truck to do this, please call me and we will set up a special pick up.

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A) EMPLOYEE OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER**

Councilor Carter read a letter that was drafted for the employee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and announced that this employee is Ms. Elena Garcia from our Finance Dept.

**B) RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Joshua Kerns presented an update on the Recreation Department, he spoke about the success of the Summer Rec Program, advised that he is currently working on the Miracle on Main Street Event, working on a new Halloween Event, and is looking at starting an Afterschool Program which will serve about 40 children in the area. Mayor Cordova asked why Mr. Kerns thought that the Summer Rec Program had a better turn out this year than others. Mr. Kerns advised that this was due to the time of day, offering a greater time and flexibility, he also advised that this was due the flyers that were handed out at the schools to ensure all parent were advised of this program.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELEN AND BELEN MAINSTREET PARTNERSHIP**

Ms. Rhona Espinoza presented the Council with the annual Mainstreet Public Service Agreement for review and approval by the Council. Mayor Cordova asked if Rhona could details some of the things happening with Mainstreet now. Ms. Espinoza advised that they are working on a Belen map that details the businesses and attractions in the area, they also have a Rails and Trails guide sending to different locations, she also advised that the Great blocks Grant Project will also soon be completed and design will be presented to the Council and stating that Mr. Jim Rende is doing a great job as president of this organization. Councilor Carter advised that in the contract there is an annual audit that must be complete in October of each year, and tasked City Manager Leona Vigil with this duty to ensure completion. Mayor Cordova asked what events Mainstreet is a part of. Ms. Espinoza advised that Mainstreet is they are a part of Miracle on Mainstreet, and of course they work on Rio Abajo Days. Mayor Cordova asked what Mainstreet is doing to fulfill their promotions section of this agreement. Ms. Espinoza advised that they are updating a walking tour map, and they have been meeting with the Farmers Market to develop this, having a car show and DJ, to ensure that we are helping to develop this great event, we also will be holding a News at Noon meeting with the community and leaders. Ms. Espinoza also advised that we are working with Mike Moreno to come up with flower banners to be placed through the main street area, we are making this a community design event. Councilor Ortega advised of these efforts are helping bring businesses into Belen. Ms. Espinoza advised that he flood really hit the businesses hard in the main street area, the biggest challenge in this is the property owners not wanting to develop the area.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Torres 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

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A ROAD NAME CHANGE FOR TWO ROADS OFF OF ARAGON AND GABALDON ON THE NORTH SIDE OF JOSE GALLEGOS PARK**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented the information again, advising that the Council had already conducted a public hearing on this issue, and tonight we are bringing this to Council for a decision, the road is unnamed and is required to be named, one part of the road was requested to be Aragon Place or Court and the other one Albino Rael Road, also advising that back in the 70's the map shows this area to be Sausal Rd. Mr. Tomita advised that they are currently using East Aragon Rd now but is in unofficial. Councilor Torres said there was once an issue when the Council changed Camino del Llano to Sosimo Padilla, and then back, he thought that there was an ordinance done stating that we cannot name a road with a personal name, however, the clerk has advised that he cannot find such ordinance, but we do want to make sure we do not set up precedence for the future naming of roads. Councilor Gallegos advised that he also thought we would not use personal names for road name changes, in the future we need to look at the process for this to ensure we are doing this right, we do not want to break up communities in the process of changing road names. Councilor Ortega advised that we should just use East Aragon because the citizens are already used to this in their addresses with the post office. Councilor Carter advised that we are being mandated to name this road, even if the road is being named something now, we must decide on the name itself and move forward. Mayor Cordova advised that we need to change the cul-de-sac road to one thing and name the other road something else but we must ensure this does not conflict with any other road names around the area, we do not want to create more confusion, instead maybe we can use Aragon Court or Aragon Place.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to table this item and have Steve Tomita bring the plan back to the City Council with the various names using Aragon as a base, ensuring that there are no conflicts with other roads in the city or county with the same name, adding Court or Place to the current Aragon road name, ensuring Council has final approval. 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 A CHANGE ORDER TO SOUTHWEST ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE ADDITION OF SINGLE AUDIT SERVICES.**

Ms. Leona Vigil advised that our auditors have approached us and advised that because we have received/spent federal funding in excess of the amount of \$750,000, a single audit will need to be completed in this year's financial audit, this will ensure compliance with federal requirements, the cost of this service will be an additional \$10,000 for these services and is why this is being brought before the Council tonight.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter 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 A RESOLUTION FOR THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM WITH NMDOT.**

Ms. Leona Vigil presented this resolution and agreement to the Council, advising that we need this funding for road repairs, the city's portion of this expenditure will be \$59,000 which is currently budgeted. Councilor Carter asked that by not naming this project, does it put the city in jeopardy of not getting the state funds awarded. Ms. Vigil advised that we were denied MAP funding when we specified the roads in the past so we do not think this has any weight in the approval process. Councilor Carter advised that he would like to light a fire in our entire city projects to really start getting these things done within the city.

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

**\*Resolution 2018-19\***

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE NOMINATION FOR THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES REVIEW BOARD.**

Mayor Cordova advised that he would like to switch one member of the Historic Properties Review Board, replacing Leon Prevott, and nominating Bridget Gailmore to replace him, seeking Council approval on this nomination.

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) ALLEYWAY ORDINANCE**

Mayor Cordova advised that he has gotten many request to close alleys buy residents, putting up gates similar to the ditch areas, this ordinance will allow them to petition for alleyway closure, residents could then use this to protect their areas. Mr. Brian McBain presented this draft ordinance to the Council for their review and input. Mayor Cordova wanted to ensure that citizens could petition for this, reaching out to other residents in the area, but then the city would take over the process of the petition, similar to our steps in how citizens petition for speed humps in their area. Councilor Gallegos wanted to ensure that the citizens and the city would still ensure access to utility lines in the area, and we should make sure it goes through a review process with city administration. Councilor Torres advised that once we close this off we want to ensure it cannot be used for storage or anything that would obstruct the area, we want to make sure and add this to the ordinance. Mr. McBain advised that he will take the direction and input that the Council has provided, redraft this ordinance and bring it back for discussion.

**B) FLOOD CONTROL**

Councilor Ortega advised that he has sent an order to Molzen-Corbin to work on a plan for a diversionary channel coming down I-25 South, then connecting into a diversionary channel ditch that flows directly into the river, this may not be all the answers to our flooding problem, but it is a start, so Molzen is working on a conceptual design and should have this to us in the near future. Councilor Gallegos thanked Councilor Ortega for his vision, we already have a master plan for flooding but the bottom line is that we need to send this water back to the river, this is going to be an issue with regulated vs unregulated, having this flow how it needs to directly to the river and not stopping the flow will allow for greater flood control, the time is now, before the monsoon seasons, if this city wants to move infrastructure needs to be in place. Councilor Ortega advised that this will also help draw in more business to show that we are taking care of the flood control issues in the city.

**C) FOOD PANTRY LEASE (ADDED)**

Councilor Carter advised that he placed this on the agenda because the food pantry was relocated to the bus compound with the understanding that they would be allowed to return to the City once the new fire station construction was complete, however, this week he discovered that the food pantry was given an eviction notice and wanted to see why and how this was done without bring this to the Council. Mayor Cordova advised that he would take responsibility for this eviction stating that the old food pantry area would not be feasible anymore due to the new construction, we did move the Food Pantry to the bus compound during fire station construction, and they seem to like it there, but it is apparent that they may not be able to stay in this area, however, the City does have the old fire station that may be able to service them, maybe dividing up the building to give them an affordable option to use the space in that vacated building once construction is complete. Mayor Cordova also advised that the new plan for the old food pantry area would be used to store the Bugg Lights, we could make this

a permanent home for them, and allow people to come see them for certain events, protecting them into the future. Councilor Ortega was concerned that this did not come before the Council first before eviction, but also was concerned that this building would just be used for storage, we need to ensure we do everything we can to help the food pantry. Councilor Torres advised that we would exhibit the original Bugg Lights in this area to help in preservation of these historical artifacts. Mayor Cordova advised that Leona can handle and help with the relocation administratively. Councilor Carter advised that it was fine to handle this administratively but the Council need to be aware of these moves because we are the ones that field calls from organizations and citizens when things happen, this can be done in workshops and other avenues.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Leona Vigil stated:** The Martha Jean Project is nearing completion, we are looking at mid-September, I have sent out letters to set up payment plans for the half that have not already paid their connection fees. I would like to bring the VA Memorial up for a workshop, one would be for the naming of the visitors center, the look of the mural and to ensure the cost of the visitors center is discussed on how to move forward because we cannot use the money we are receiving from the State for this purpose, per State instruction. We have a citizen complaint about the weight limits on Baca Ave, it appears fuel trucks are using this road. Councilor Gallegos advised that we could use hazardous material paths to change the routes if needed. The county parade is this Saturday, will be conducting directors interviews this week, National Night Out is tomorrow from 6 pm to 9 pm, will be working on agreements and MOU's with the schools to ensure they are updated, our attorney is working on our project flight agreement for FBO services. Tommy will be getting 10 inmates to work on clean ups courtesy of Lt. Valencia and in return we will grade some of their roads requested. We are testing the school zone lights now to ensure they are working before school starts, the Airport received a new sweeper so we will be sending staff to get trained, the I-25 interchange lights are now working, the old baseball field will be getting cleaned and turned into crusher fines, Aragon bridge repairs will happen this week, we are working on the massive amount of goat head weeds by the Middle School, we are reposting our Code Enforcement Position, and will be using a uncertified officer to take care of calls until the position is filled. Councilor Gallegos advised that he is getting complaints on weeds at the Duddle Bug, and also advised to be careful with inmate placement as they help clean up the city, and let's ensure the school crossings are painted as a priority. Councilor Ortega asked if we have had any requests for sewer line hook up on 314. Ms. Vigil advised that we have had none so far. Councilor Ortega also advised that we need to ensure our power poles are being fixed with PNM, holding pond on 1<sup>st</sup> and Baca needs work and the old flag pole at Eagle Park is out.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilor Torres stated:** Tomorrow I will be meeting with a landscaping company to go over the trees on Main Street, get quotes for trimming and other issues they are having, should have a report on this by the next meeting.

**Councilor Ortega stated:** Attended ICIP meeting, discussion on diversionary channel, we met with the Art League to paint the visitors center at the VA Memorial. We had the ribbon cutting for the Belen Bookstore, we had a great time. The power on the VA Memorial's lights are on, the flags are flying now, the military flags will only be used for ceremonial purposes, the portable has electricity but the line going to the sheds have not been hooked up, water and sewer hooked up at portable, need money for roof and gutter repair at the portable, the sheet rock and frame will also need to be repaired, I need to find out where this money will come from, I do not think this will be done by November as we are still waiting on the money so that we can send out the RFP. I am working with Mr. Cox and Mr. Green, they are getting the Facebook page ready to sell the 15,000 bricks to be placed at the Memorial. I also want to thank the city crews for putting up banners for the fiestas coming up.

**Councilor Carter stated:** Attended a Homeland Security Workshop in Los Lunas detailing how to handle emergencies, the County Fair starts this weekend and I will be a Chile Judge, school is back in session on Thursday so be careful for school zones, maybe the police can patrol those areas a bit more.

**Councilor Gallegos stated:** I am working on pushing the Senior Day at the fair on 8/12/2018, attended the ICIP workshop, Homeland Security came to town and had a reassessment of the flood damage with FEMA, we were not able to use this money to fix the roads but will look at other ways, the emergency declaration is on the governor's desk awaiting signature. Attended the audit entrance meeting on 8/1/2018, met with Library Board on 8/2/2018.

Mayor Cordova stated: Attended the Nino Trujillo Real Estate meet and greet, 21<sup>st</sup> had a community meeting on code enforcement issues, 24<sup>th</sup> met with citizen on flooding control, ICIP was on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> had the project flight meeting which the Council will be advised of later, 26<sup>th</sup> toured the excavation site of the old church at plaza veja, 31<sup>st</sup> participated in the audit entrance meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> had a flood meeting detailing control with citizens and then the book store opening on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF ALL APPOINTED POSITIONS 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 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 entered into Closed Session at 8:37 pm\**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to re-enter into Open 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

*\*The Council returned to Open Session at 12:19 am\**

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 Gallegos made the motion. 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

**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



Jerah Cordova, Mayor

Brian McBain, City Clerk/Treasurer