

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 4, 2014

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 Clerk.

PRESENT: Councilor Frank Ortega
Councilor David Carter
Mayor Jerah Cordova
Councilor Darleen Aragon
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

CITY MANAGER: Jay Ruybalid

CITY CLERK, CMC: Leona Vigil

CITY STAFF: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

REPORTER: Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

OTHERS: See Attached sign-In sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Jerah Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cordova asked if there were any questions; there were no questions. Councilor Wayne Gallegos made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos Yes
Councilor Darleen Aragon Yes
Councilor David Carter Yes
Councilor Frank Ortega Yes Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES DATED JULY 7, 2014

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the Minutes dated July 7, 2014. Councilor Frank Ortega moved the motion. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos Yes
Councilor Darleen Aragon Yes
Councilor Frank Ortega Yes
Councilor David Carter Yes Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Dan Robb: Chief Robb announced that tomorrow night is National Night Out from 6 PM to 9 PM; a free community event.

Randy & Priscilla Krause: Mayor Cordova read a public comment from Mr. and Mrs. Krause. They live on Fourth Street and would like their neighborhood cleaned up, particularly the weeds and inoperable vehicles.

Dudley Johnson: He lives at 314 N. Second Street next to the City Park. He had concerns with crotch rockets speeding in that area and the outhouses located on the City Park. He suggested an alternate location or solution for the porter potties. He stressed that there is a strong odor coming from the porter potties and was concerned with the sound level regarding the crotch rockets.

Margarita Sanchez: She gave an update on the Criminal Justice Reform. She asked that the Council and public help with Criminal Justice.

PRESENTATIONS

BOY SCOUT AWARD OF APPRECIATION: JERAH CORDOVA, MAYOR

Ronnie Torres, Museum Tech for the Harvey House, recognized and thanked Boy Scout Troop No. 111. Ronnie informed the public that he had wanted to have a shade structure built at the Harvey House. He received a call from the Antonio-Senior Patrol Leader of Troop No. 111; they discussed plans for the structure. Antonio informed Ronnie that he could have it done, and he would consider this as his Eagle Scout Project. Ronnie Torres recognized all the members of the troop responsible for building the shade structure at the meeting. Mayor Cordova read and presented the award to Boy Scout Troop No. 111.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: DAVID CARTER, MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter read and presented the Employee of the Quarter Award to Stephanie Eagle. Stephanie was nominated by her Supervisor Deborah Graham. A copy of the letter of recommendation and award are attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE GO BOND RESOLUTION: JOHN ARCHULETA

Mr. Archuleta informed the Council that before them is a resolution that will allow the City to proceed with the calling of a General Obligation Bond Election in the amount of \$3,400,000 to build a fire station. The Election will be held jointly with the General Election in November. Councilor Gallegos asked Fire Chief Manny Garcia to give a summary of proposed fire station. Chief Garcia stressed the need for a new fire station. He stated that the current fire station is restricted on its growth and is beyond its life expectancy. The fire station is at least 40 years old. Mr. Archuleta reported that the cost to the citizens is \$2.56 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. He stated that this is a one-time tax until the bond can be paid off. Chief Garcia added that there is some property on Sixth and Castillo which could be used for extra property for the building if needed. Mr. Archuleta will add the acquisition of land to the resolution, and he will bring it back to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilor David Carter made a motion to table the Resolution and bring it back at the next meeting. Mayor Cordova asked for second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes
Councilor David Carter	Yes

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE LODGER'S TAX BUDGET APPROVAL: RONNIE TORRES

Ronnie Torres is the Chair of the Lodger's Tax Committee. He presented their new budget for the upcoming year. The proposed revenue is \$49,500.00: The Harvey House is allotted \$14,000, The Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce is allotted \$15,000, The City of Belen sponsored events is allotted \$13,000 and the amount allotted for the qualified public is \$7,500.00. The criteria for the monies available are separated by gold, silver and bronze sponsorship. If the event is proposed to bring in 5,000 people the amount allowed is \$2,000; Rio

Abajo Festival and the Matanza have been awarded that amount. The silver sponsorship applicants are Follow the Star and the Valencia County Fair. The bronze sponsorship is for profit events, but still brings tourism into the community; this sponsorship has been awarded to the County Fair Rodeo. Lodger's Tax has a surplus of \$1,000; they have divided that into four \$250.00 sponsorships. After the event is over, the organization must bring in receipts to show what the monies was used for; the money is to be used for printing and advertising.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos made a motion to approve the City of Belen's Lodger's Tax Budget from July 2014 through June 30, 2015. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Abstained	Motion Carried

(Councilor Carter abstained due to the fact that he is a participant in one of Organizations receiving a sponsorship)

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE NEWLY PROPOSED LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS: WAYNE GALLEGOS, COUNCILOR

Councilor Wayne Gallegos called up Stephanie Eagle from the Belen Public Library for assistance. Councilor Gallegos is a member of the Library Board. Councilor Gallegos mentioned that there have been two members resign from the Board, and there are two positions available. At the last Board Meeting, they accepted two new members and are brining those names to the Council for approval. The first member is Cathy Jaramillo who has volunteered for many years. Stephanie stated that Cathy has managed the Summer Reading Program for the last few years, and she does an excellent job. The second member is Maggie Fitzgerald. Stephanie and Councilor Gallegos informed the Council that Debbie Graham recommended her to the Board.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was a motion to accept Cathy Jaramillo and Maggie Fitzgerald as new members of the Belen Public Library Board. Councilor Darleen Aragon made a motion to accept the new members of the Library Board. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

CITY OWNED PROPERTIES: FRANK ORTEGA, COUNCILOR

Councilor Ortega mentioned that these properties have been discussed at other meetings. Councilor Ortega reported that two of the properties are historical, and according the State Historic Preservation Office, the City must get approval any time something is done to those properties. Councilor Ortega asked if there is any funding available to take care of those properties. Councilor Ortega added that the City collects rent from 105 East Aragon, and he would to use that money to add lighting on the Aragon Bridge. He also suggested that the money from the rent could also go to preservation of the historical home and the proposed park.

Roseann explained to the Council that the funds from that rental goes towards general fund, and the money collected goes toward general fund expenditures. She reported that some of the monies have gone to fix up the houses including air conditioning problems. Councilor Ortega suggested keeping the rent money in its own line item to use for the buildings and the overpass. Roseann reported that 4,200 are collected annually on the house that the City rents out on Aragon. Councilor Ortega suggested giving back the historic property to the DOT. Councilor Gallegos stated that these were some good ideas and it needs some more work. Mayor Cordova recapped that the Council would like the property at 229 W Aragon to be maintained as a park. The property at 125 W Aragon, the Council has discussed the possibilities of selling or preserving the house. The property at

105 W Aragon is currently being leased, but can also be sold. Councilor Gallegos suggested thinking before they do anything.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

City Manager's Report: Jay reported that his first week was focused on becoming acquainted with the staff, issues and projects. He would like to coordinate some projects, particularly at the parks, with the Boy Scouts and other Groups. He reported that Robert Uecker, Airport Manager is setting up a meeting with Air Force regarding the usage of the Belen Airport. He informed the Council that Debbie Graham, City Librarian has submitted her formal letter of resignation. The IT Manager has been out, due to medical reasons, but is working from home.

City Council's Report

Councilor Ortega: He attended the funeral for Ben Barnes, retired Belen Firefighter; he would like to see a proclamation in his honor. He attended the Old City Hall Roofing Project reveal along with PNM, Chamber and Belen MainStreet Partnership. He participated in the Special Meeting to approve the annual budget. He met with concerned citizens on Mesa Road regarding the ditch where the dirt was blocking the water from the drainages; Councilor Gallegos took the reins on the issue. He, along with the City Manager, checked the flooded areas, and the West Aragon Ponds were full. He checked the Parks; there are lots of dead trees, and the water fountain doesn't work. He mentioned the mosquitoes were going to be an issue with the rains. The City trucks will need to pump water in the streets where there is no drainage. The City will also need to be ready for the weed invasion. The silt is really built up on Camino del Llano and needs to be cleaned up. He is hoping Finance is prepared for overtime.

Councilor Carter: He has been traveling the last few weeks, but he was able to make the Special Meeting that was held on the 30th.

Councilor Aragon: She attended the Dog Watch Meeting at Eagle Park on July 22nd; unfortunately, there were only four individuals in attendance. She participated in the Chamber Meeting where she discussed the Rio Abajo Event. She went to the Harvey House. She met with a couple of companies with Steve Tomita. She picked vegetables at the Corazon de Belen Park. PNM granted Belen MainStreet \$15,000 for a roof project. She is now the Belen MainStreet President. She attended the Special Meeting on the 30th, and tomorrow she will be in T or C for the Belen MainStreet Project.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: He had a meeting with Rio Communities on the 22nd; The MOU has been passed and signed by both Cities. On the 23rd, he participated in an Economic Development Luncheon. On the 24th, he went to the USDA Office and met with Terry Bruner to get Senior Housing going. He participated in the Special Meeting. There are some issues with Dollar Tree; according to the plans they should be capturing the water that falls on their building and parking lot. The Contractor for Dollar Tree built ponds but they are not being filled; the water is spilling over to Gilbert and Seventh St. Mesa Rd up to Reinken had some issues with MRGC; but there should be an agreement with them and the City. He received calls from constituents at 1131 Aragon regarding flooding and fire hazards. On Ross Street west of Wisconsin became a dead end when the Railroad made their triple tracks, and Wisconsin Road is torn up with the rains and the weeds are 4 feet tall.

Mayor Jerah Cordova: He attended the Rio Communities Council Meeting; they approved a couple of Resolutions. He attended the Hispano Chamber Meeting where they are beginning to do some major planning for the upcoming Matanza. He attended the Old City hall Roofing Project Completion Ceremony. He met with the Utility Department regarding the need for policy. He had a meeting on the Community Garden; they are transitioning the park from Ed and Dubra Kurnes Padilla to Councilor Aragon. He participated in the Special Council Meeting. He attended the beginning of the Belen MainStreet meeting; they announced the release of

the Old City Hall Preservation Plans. He was out until about 2:00 A.M. Friday night during the flooding; Mesa Rd, Christopher Rd, Camino de Llano, Aragon and Barboa were major areas where the City experience problems. He attended the Supervisor's Meeting this morning where they introduced the new reorganization chart which outlines the departmental structure and chain of command. He attended the Audit Entrance Meeting, and he had many constituent meetings concerning pot holes and foreclosed properties.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION AND LAND ACQUISITION.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to leave an open meeting and go into a closed meeting to discuss pending and threatened litigation and land acquisition. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved the motion. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion carries

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to leave a closed meeting and return to the open meeting. Councilor Gallegos moved approval. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion carries

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion that discussion was limited to and no action was taken. Councilor Gallegos moved approval. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion carries

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting. Councilor David Carter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion carries

/s/ _____
Jerah R. Cordova, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC