

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 5, 2016**

**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 Manager.

**PRESENT:** Councilor Frank Ortega  
Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon  
Mayor Jerah Cordova  
Councilor David Carter  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Leona Vigil

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK:** Charlotte Jaramillo

**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 Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Gallegos motioned to approve. Second from Councilor Ortega.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the November 21, 2016 minutes. Councilor Gallegos motioned to approve the November 21, 2016 minutes. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Peter Forrest**- Representing the Warrior Path, Inc 501(c)3 non-profit. Free equine therapy program provided to Veterans, MS, First Responders, Police Officers and their families for stress relief and help overcoming traumatic experiences. Assist individuals to grow and heal from trauma. Many health organizations are recognizing this alternative therapy to be very beneficial. We entered this program to give back to those who have served us. We currently have Keith Comstock a Mental Health Professional on staff, along with myself and my wife, Denai to help. We are currently incorporated with the State. Packet submitted is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

**Mr. Dan Darnell**-Waste Management Representative. Offering to give tours of the new waste management facility that is servicing Belen, located in the South Valley. Please call and I will set it up for you.

**Steve Ferguson**-Requesting/pursuing a quiet zone at the Jarales Road and BNSF. Last meeting, I was told that the letter was sent and that there was no response. Was there a deadline given on that and what was the context of that letter, who was it sent to?

Leona Vigil- We sent a letter of support from the City, supporting the Bridge and the quiet zone, we did not put a deadline on the letter requesting a response. We will need to get who the letter was sent to at BNSF.

Mayor Cordova suggests that Mr. Ferguson contact the County Commissioner David Hyder and possibly Donald Tripp as monies for quiet zones are funded out of the Legislature and perhaps Mr. Tripp would be able to assist with that. Mayor Cordova suggests that City of Belen Manager draft a letter to County Commissioner Hyder as well.

**Steve Tomita**- Follow the Star this Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with performances at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Last week of the Model Rail Club at the Business Center. Good turn out and happy to be there.

Mayor Jerah Cordova closes the public comments section of the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION**

a. VFW2387 National Law Enforcement Award. Presenter: Charles Cox. Last year Chief Dan Robb nominated two individuals for a Special Law Enforcement Award, through the VFW. Award presented to Chief Connor because Sergeant Jose Natividad could not receive it due to surgery. Award read to council, highlighting the high standards of Sgt. Natividad's service to the Belen PD.

Chief Connor expresses that he spoke with Jose Natividad, and he expressed his gratitude for receiving such an award.

b. Monetary Donation from Panagopoulos Agency to Belen Fire Department. Nancy Panagopoulos, Cetera Agency on Reinken in Belen. "Protect what Matters" offered a \$2,000 grant to a Fire Department who taught a class for Fire Safety Awareness Week on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Nancy thanked Selina Zamora for coordinating the class and the City of Belen Chambers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**Approval or Disapproval of the Zone Change Ordinance 2016-10, (501 Bernard Ave). Presenter: Steve Tomita**

This property on the South side of Bernard, just east of the canal "Woods property", County records show the property is zoned as industrial. We were called upon because the property is actually zoned as agricultural/residential. No record to be found of when it changed from when it was in the County and brought over to the City. Since we have no record of this our goal is to change the property zoning back to what it was intended to be at Manufacture-commercial zoning due to proposed traffic, noise and large trucks this would be more appropriate zoning. Commission heard this case, one resident that lives by there and supported the re-zoning, we have had no negative feedback. PZ granted a variance to

complete the fencing around the property with propanel fence to block the view and secure the property. Applicant is here at the meeting if any questions need to be asked.

Mayor Cordova opened the meeting for public comment. No one had any comments.

Motion to approve the Zone change by Councilor Ortega. Second the motion by Councilor Aragon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

### **DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

a. Approval or Disapproval of the 2017 Holiday Schedule. Presenter Leona Vigil

Letter of 2017 holiday's submitted is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Standard Federal holidays, plus a "Spring Break" holiday added just before Easter. And Presidents day moved to after Thanksgiving.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the 2017 paid Holiday Schedule. Councilor Carter motions to approve. Councilor Gallegos seconds the motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

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

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

a. City Manager's Report- Aragon overlay complete. Construction started at City Hall, painting and carpet. Employee luncheon, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Large donations from several contractors and vendors. Bond sales is complete; conference call last Monday for this. Roseann will put the number together on that. Date of funding unaware at this time. Final Sidewalk workshop tentative date, December 16<sup>th</sup>, time of 1:30 p.m. to finalize the listing. Legislative dinner, Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m., Fat Sats Belen. Rachel has top four projects: 1.) Reid Mae Pond, 2) Road Improvements 3) Asset Management Plan 4) Senior Center. 2016 Good Housekeeping Award for Wastewater Plant. (Councilor Gallegos suggested recognizing that crew for the upkeep and maintenance of that Plant) Leona concurs. Discussion regarding Urtiaga Lane and large dips in the road, Leona to drive out there and look at. Discussion regarding Lawrence Drive to see if it is a City or County Road.

### **Communications from the City Council**

**Councilor Gallegos-** Follow the Star changed, honored Trinnie Baca and Jan Johnson with a star. Follow up to put the stars. Did the information get to the News Bulletin. Went to state championship.

**Councilor Carter-** Enjoyed parade. Follow the Star this Saturday. Bigger than last year. Recreate the Little town of Bethlehem. Animals for the kids to pet and look at. Performances at 4 at 6 p.m.

**Councilor Ortega-** Had Thanksgiving with the schools. Attended the Neighborhood watch. Different Captains signed up. Breakfast with Santa at airport, really nice turn out. Went to see the trains at the Business Center. Miracle Main street was nice, no traffic. A lot of City Staff volunteered. I sit on a committee for the master planning of the schools, they have bonds that they are going to be selling to work on some of the schools. Meeting with Belen Fire Department to encourage recruitment, perhaps the high school career academy. Bridge out of Poverty discussion.

**Councilor Aragon-**Decorated a room at the Harvey House, Bugg Lights are really awesome. Thank-you to all the staff/volunteers that worked so hard on that. Attended Santa at the airport, didn't have enough passports. Suggest putting an add in the paper and people can cut it out and go to the businesses for stamps. Festival at Becker Street and the Light Parade and the Open House at the Chamber. Worked the Harvey house last Monday, freezing cold out there. Main street Meeting last week. A few clients from out of state that like downtown Belen. Requesting to street sweep earlier in the morning. All the traffic is heavier at that time. (It was explained that due to the weather, the water might freeze up) Banners came in for our Main Street district, would like the City to hang them. When they take down the Christmas lights they can put up the banners.

**Mayor Cordova-** Attended many of the same events. Neighborhood watch program turned out good. Hope to do it again, a little bigger and more successful. But a great start so far. Harvey house is gorgeous. Parade fantastic, a lot of excitement. Went to Mayor Berry's State of the City address last week. State of NM in a further deficit than we anticipated, not looking forward to 2017. We will do what we have to.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Gallegos motioned to adjourn. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

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Jerah Cordova, Mayor

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Leona Vigil, City Manager

