

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 21, 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  
Mayor Jerah Cordova  
Councilor Darleen Aragon  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter

**ACTING CITY MANAGER  
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 for an approval of the agenda. Councilor Frank Ortega moved approval of the agenda. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion carries |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES DATED July 7, 2014**  
Mayor Cordova reported that the Minutes were not ready for approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**Gloria Sanchez:** She stressed concern with City of Belen Department Heads not returning phone calls. She reminded the Council that they are here to serve the citizens of Belen.

**Cindy Clark:** She thanked for the attention for the 4-way stop sign on Chavez and Sixth Street and for cleaning the graffiti. She mentioned that there are good things happening with the Corazon de Belen Park, the cleaning up the hotel on Main Street and the Dollar Tree.

**Carolyn Houston:** She congratulated the new Councilors and the Mayor on their election into Office. She complimented the City for the completed construction of Becker Ave. She commended Steve Tomita and all those who played a role in the repositioning of the stop sign on the northwest corner of Second and Becker. She asked if the Administrator of the UTO supportive of the stop sign. Mayor Cordova did not know and stated he would get back to her.

**Manny Garcia:** Announced the passing of Ben Barnes who was a long time Fire Fighter with the Belen Fire Department. Chief Garcia shared a letter of appreciation; a copy of which is attached hereto.

**Steve Tomita:** Announced that Burlington Northern Railroad issued a \$10,000 check to Celebrate Belen to help with festivals and special events.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**VALENCIA FLYING AND RETRIEVAL SOCIETY APPRECIATION: STEVE TOMITA, P & Z Director**

Steve Tomita presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Valencia Flying Retrieval Society. Valencia Retrieval Society in conjunction with the City of Belen held the Flight & Film Festival in March. Last week Valencia Retrieval Society presented a check to the City of Belen for \$1200.00, and made a donation to the Food Pantry. He stated that they have been involved with the Valencia County area for 30 years and they have received so much help from the City and they appreciate all they do and they look forward to next year.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE IN-KIND SERVICES FOR THE OUR LADY OF BELEN FIESTAS: JERRY BACA**

Leona Vigil informed the Council that Jerry Baca was not in attendance at the meeting; however he has submitted a list of in-kind services he requested for the Our Lady of Belen Fiestas. A copy of that list is attached hereto. Councilor Wayne Gallegos mentioned that the Fiestas bring in thousands of people into Belen. Councilor Frank Ortega stated that the Fiestas has helped the City out as well by letting us use their parking for events.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the in-kind services. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion carries |

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION RESOLUTIONS: STEVEN TOMITA, P & Z DIRECTOR**

Steve informed the Council that the resolutions were brought up at the last Council Meeting. At that time, the Council asked for more time to review the resolutions. Steve asked for any questions. Councilor Ortega asked Steve if he was giving the property owners time to remove their personal belongings before the demolition. Steve answered yes. The Demolition Resolutions are for the properties located at 124 South Tenth Street and 925 Cavalier which have been considered to be a threat to the public. Jim Greer, Citizen, asked the Council what the City does with the property after the demolition. Lisa Miller answered that the City places a lien on the property after the demolition has taken place. The City will then foreclose on the property; the property then is usually auctioned. The City collects the lien and uses the money to demolition another property. Jim Greer then asked how much it costs to demo a house. Lisa answered it depends on the size and the status of the home.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the Demolition Resolutions. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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|--------------------------|-----|--|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes |  |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |  |

Councilor Frank Ortega

Yes Motion carries

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE CLINICAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL New Mexico COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CNM) AND THE CITY OF BELEN FIRE DEPARTMENT: MANNY GARCIA, FIRE CHIEF**

Chief Garcia advised the Council that he is seeking approval of the Education Agreement between CNM and the City. The Agreement will allow the EMT students enrolled at CNM to train at the Fire Station. Chief Garcia mentioned that the Agreement has been approved before, and the only change is the renewal term. The Agreement will now renew automatically unless any party wishes to terminate with a 90 day notice. Chief Garcia added that he used the Agreement as a recruiting tool. He has 3 volunteers at the Fire Station that have come aboard through the program, and one that they just hired. The Belen Fire Department is the only Department in Valencia County working with this program. The Department was highly recommended to CNM because of their service.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the Agreement. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes Motion carries |

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE AMTRAK PASSENGER SERVICE TO BELEN, CLOVIS AND AMARILLO RESOLUTION: STEVE TOMITA, P & Z DIRECTOR**

Steve Tomita passed out copies of the new routes proposed by Amtrak. The Resolution is in support of the new route; a copy of the resolution is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Councilor Ortega asked if there would be opportunities for jobs. Steve answered very much so; he believes it would create an economic boom. The Council and Citizens stressed the importance of supporting the Amtrak Resolution.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the Resolution. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes Motion carries |

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE MOU BETWEEN RIO COMMUNITIES AND THE CITY OF BELEN: WAYNE GALLEGOS, COUNCILOR**

Councilor Wayne Gallegos pointed out that there were two Councilors from Rio Communities in the audience; Councilor Northcutt and Councilor Serna. Councilor Gallegos and Councilor Carter have met with Councilor Serna and Councilor Stacey several times. Rio Communities is looking for police protection, but the City cannot provide that because it's tax dollars and anti donation. The Cities can work together as agencies. A copy of the MOU is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Councilor Gallegos stressed that the purpose of the MOU is to strengthen political, economic, and information exchanged between the parties. Councilor Serna, from Rio Communities reported that the City is ready to move forward. She had a question on taxation that was stated in the MOU; Councilor Gallegos answered to go ahead and remove that from the MOU. She added that they will be presenting the MOU at their Council Meeting tomorrow night. The MOU is in effect for one year, and can be terminated with a notice. Councilor Northcutt read a short letter of appreciation, for making the efforts to work together, from the Rio Communities Councilors and their Citizens. The Belen City Council also thanked Rio Communities and their Councilors.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the MOU. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion carries |

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE ROADWAY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:  
STEVE TOMITA P & Z DIRECTOR**

Steve Tomita mentioned that when he and Councilor Ortega were reviewing some of the roads that needed work and maintenance, they noted that the Aragon Road Bridge over the railroad had no lighting. So, they decided they needed to push DOT to add lighting to the replacement bridge on Main Street. Steve and John Best talked to DOT and asked them to put lighting in there; they stressed to DOT that they didn't put lights on Aragon, and they need to put it on this. DOT did not want to do it unless the City is willing to maintain it. They asked DOT to put it in the plans and they would take it to the Council for the maintenance of it. Steve informed the Council that they place 20 recess lights along the bridge; it's a low level lighting and projects only on the sidewalk. The lighting is not easy to access and damage. The Agreement states that if the lights are installed, the City will maintain them.

Councilor Gallegos stated that he is glad this is here and he thanked Councilor Ortega and Steve for following up on this. "they dealt with this issue with the bridge and BNSF and DOT at the time, and the thing was to get the bridge in there; they had funding available and because it didn't get done, we lost it, and the people there have asked for it for a long time that go over that bridge; we've needed it, and he thinks they will agree to that. He doesn't think it's that bad of a deal to maintain the lights. He thinks over that bridge is a wonderful thing as soon as they can do it. Councilor Frank Ortega stated that one thing when they went to the constituents in that area, west Aragon area, had no lighting. He commended the Police Department for putting out a speed limit sign and patrolling to control the speeding. He believes this lighting is going to change a lot of that area; they will be able to see a lot better. He is hoping they saw that this was a big safety issue. Mayor Cordova asked if they were going to install the deceleration lane. Steve answer no, they will not do it.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the Agreement. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor Wayne Gallegos | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion carries |

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

***City Manager's Report***

She informed the Council that she forwarded a Project Update Report from John Best; she pointed out the deceleration lane south bound on Impala was disapproved because of low traffic volume. The Mesa Rd Curve Realignment Agreement is due August 1, 2014. The DOT installed a Traffic Signal Preemption Device on the north side of East Reinken. There were drainage problems on the southwest of the intersection on Washington and Desoto and John Best is putting a plan in place to install a new recharge pit. She received notice from Waste Management that their annual rate increase is in effect which is 1.5%. The sewer collapse line on Fifth Street this weekend, it should be about \$70,000 to fix. The Council will need to hold a Special Meeting to approve the final budget and fourth quarter report; the meeting was set for July 30, 2014 at 1:30 PM. An ICIP meeting will also need to take place, the ICIP is due September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Council set up a date of August 11, 2014 at 8:30 A.M. The Street Department is fully staffed including 1 full time and 2 temporary employees. Chief Garcia received his two full time employees. The Code Enforcement position only received 1 applicant

and will be reposted. Molzen Corbin would like to meet with the Council in about 3 weeks for the preliminary design of Eagle Park. Mayor suggested scheduling it for the same day around 9:30 A.M. of the ICIP workshop. She received an Agreement for the Eagle Tank Replacement to do the scope of work and cost proposal; the costs is \$14,640.00.

**City Council's Report**

**Councilor Ortega:** He thanked everyone for taking care of the Flooding that took place last week. He reassured the public that the hospital is coming. He also reported that there are several projects underway.

**Councilor Aragon:** On July 8, 2014, she and Councilor Carter met with Chairman Eaton and the County Manager to discuss working together. On the same day she met with the D.A.s Office to discuss a Gang Task Force. On July 9<sup>th</sup> she attended a Hospital Meeting and a Hispano Chamber Luncheon. On July 10<sup>th</sup> she attended the Economic Development Meeting at the Chamber. On July 15<sup>th</sup> she went the Harvey House and met with Mike Moreno; he has great ideas. On the 17<sup>th</sup> she attended the Film and Flight Meeting. She has been helping with the Corazon de Belen Park. She invited everyone to the Dog Watch Program Meeting at 6 PM located at Eagle Park. On July 25 there will be an Old City Hall Dedication thanks to the PNM Grant.

**Councilor Wayne Gallegos:** He attended the meeting with Wilson & Co. to discuss City Projects. The Camino de Llano ponding for draining; the time line is ready and the design is 75% complete. The Christopher Rd Phase II is coming along and a timeline has been set. They also looked at upcoming funding opportunities. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, he met with the Seniors at the Senior Center to review some SOP Procedures. He had a RSVP Meeting on the same day and discussed the Tenth and Ross Park that was adopted by RSVP. He is hoping the City is moving along with the Parks Comprehension Plan. The City had some flooding on the 15<sup>th</sup>; the City Crews did an excellent job. On the 21<sup>st</sup> he met with Socorro Housing Authority, they will be moving to Belen in the same building as the Food Pantry which will be part of the Incubator.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova:** Mentioned that the Hospital is moving along. He spent all day in Court Friday wrapping up a legal City issue. He had an event over the weekend with State Representatives and had several constituent meetings. He received a \$10,000 donation check from BNSF for *Celebrate Belen*. This afternoon the announcement for the new runway at the Alexander Airport took place.

Councilor Darleen Aragon wanted to state that she has had several people tell her that the Police Department has been stepping up a lot on patrol. She thanked Chief Dan Robb.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS.**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations. 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 | Motion carries |

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to leave a closed meeting and enter into the open meeting. Councilor Wayne Gallegos moved the motion. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

