

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 1, 2015**

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

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** Dale Tafoya

**CITY CLERK, CMC:** Leona Vigil

**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 approval of tonight’s agenda. Councilor Wayne Gallegos made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the Minutes dated March 18, 2015. Councilor David Carter pointed out that he *and* Councilor Aragon came in late at the last meeting, with that he moved to approve all of the Minutes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Jerah Cordova opened up the meeting for Public Comments. There were no more public comments at this time, and Mayor Cordova closed this portion of the meeting.

**PRESENTATION**

**PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FATHER STEPHEN SCHULTZ DAY: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**  
Mayor Cordova read into the record the proclamation for Father Stephen Schultz. A copy of the proclamation is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Mayor Cordova informed the public that the proclamation was presented to Father Stephen Schultz on Sunday, May 31, 2015.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S SEAL ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE WORD FROM "VILLAGE" TO "CITY": Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova apprised everyone that this ordinance has been heard at a prior City Council Meeting. The Council had some questions at that time. They wanted to make sure it was just a name change and that it would have no other impact. Mayor Cordova assured them that there would be no other impact and read an email with details to the name change; a copy of that email is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. There were no questions from the Council and Mayor Cordova opened up the issue for public comments. There were no public comment from the audience and Mayor Cordova closed this public hearing.

### **ANNEXATION OF A-R ZONED PROPERTY LOCATED NEAR I-25 BY-PASS ROAD INTO THE CITY LIMITS: Tom Greer, P & Z Chair**

Tom Greer reported that the annexation was already heard by the Planning & Zoning (P & Z) Commission. He stated that P & Z approved it as part of their desire to annex the remaining pieces of property that go up that I-25 business connector. Jose Sanchez and Luke Sanchez are the owners of the property. A copy of their application, petition and a copy of the property location is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Tom informed the Council that they would be annexed as agricultural. Councilor Gallegos asked if the annexation included the blue building. Tom answered that they are not included. Councilor Gallegos asked what the property is zoned at now through the County. Tom answered agricultural. Mayor Cordova added preserved. Councilor Gallegos pointed out that the zoning code from the County was APC. Tom believes a small part of the property may be commercial.

Jose Sanchez came to the podium for questions. He informed the Council that he shut down in 1997; he manufactured adobe bricks. He had a small sand and gravel place and he shut that down also. He did plant some crops on the property and cleared it from tumble weeds last week.

Councilor Carter asked if the one residential building on the north side will be included. Mr. Sanchez answered yes.

Councilor Gallegos asked if the City is going to annex the two blue buildings that are there. Mr. Sanchez answered that one of the building is already annexed; the one where they do gymnastics. Councilor Gallegos asked about the other building. Tom Greer replied that that is part of the Planning and Zoning proposed plan for that whole corridor that runs from Cemco to the connector.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anybody that would like to speak for or against this particular item. There were no public comments or concerns and Mayor Cordova closed the Public Hearing.

## **DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 1.08, SECTION 1.08.010 OF THE CITY OF BELEN MUNICIPAL CODE TO REPLACE THE WORD "VILLAGE" WITH "CITY": Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova stated if there was no further discussion on this particular item, he will take a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Mayor Cordova stated that he had a motion from Councilor Ortega and asked if there was a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE BELEN MAINSTREET MOU: Rhona Espinoza, Executive Director**

Rhona Espinoza advised the Council that last year the City Council approved the MOU with Belen MainStreet. She stated that after the MOU has been approved and in effect for one year; then the MOU is renewable every two years. This MOU will be in effect from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017. She report that in addition to the MOU a resolution must be signed and submitted to NM Economic Development.

Councilor Carter asked Ms. Rhona to recap her activities for the past year through MainStreet. Rhona reported the completion of Corazon de Belen Garden Park including the installation of the art plaque and lights, trash receptacle and bike rack. A 20,000 grant has been written through PNM to bring electricity to the Old City Hall Building. They received a \$50,000 grant for a Downtown Master Plan which was contracted through Sites Southwest. They received \$50,000 in grant monies for the Old City Hall Building, which included improvement to two portions of the roof, a façade and stucco on the building. She summed up that there has been \$189,000 worth of grants used on city property.

Councilor Gallegos pointed out that there is a minimum amount that the City must provide to MainStreet. Rhona stated that the amount was \$35,000, but it was negotiated down to \$ 25,000 in cash and \$10,000 in in-kind services. Rhona informed the Council that beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>; the money coming in is one step closer to them becoming a fully certified program. They have gone from emerging, to start up and next step is a fully certified MainStreet Program. Councilor Gallegos believes that this money is set aside for next year. Leona stated the Roseann verified that the money is set aside for next year.

Gloria Sanchez asked where the boundaries for the MainStreet Project were. Rhona answered that the MainStreet District, which is really your downtown district is from Reinken to Baca, First Street to MainStreet. She stated that they have had several businesses asking for design consultations, and they have had consultants come down for that. She apprised the Council that for each of the four points they are allowed to ask for two consultations a year. Mayor Cordova informed Gloria that the 9/11 Memorial Park does fall within the MainStreet District and if she needed further support they can assist.

Mayor Cordova asked if there were any further questions. There were none and the Mayor asked to take action on this item. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve. Mayor Cordova asked if there was a second. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE LODGER’S TAX BUDGET: Rhona Espinoza, Member**

Rhona reported that the Lodger’s Tax Board met and they received requests from different entities. Last year they decided that they would have benchmarks that each organization would have to reach in order to receive certain levels of support from the Lodger’s Tax Board. She informed the Council that the Lodger’s Tax is collected by the two hotels located in Belen. They have received \$49,500. She went over a copy of the Lodger’s Tax Budget; a copy is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. She mentioned that there may be more money, but they wanted to leave \$4,000 in the event that they get a group

come in that would qualify. She reported that the monies are to be used towards advertising and marketing of the event. She added that the recipient has to turn in the receipts of the funds that they disbursed.

Councilor Carter pointed out that the Follow the Star is non-profit;(the report had for-profit). Rhona said, ok and stated that this is a guideline for them and not the actuals.

Councilor Gallegos asked if these events are being used to promote the City. Rhona answered, yes. She added that the purpose is to get people into Belen, fill up our hotels and eat at our restaurants.

Gloria Sanchez asked if they were going to be more prepared for the Matanza this year, because last year they ran out of food. Rhona answered that that is the Hispano's Event, but they do contract with the Chamber to utilize her as the Matanza Coordinator. They have discussed the challenges and the Hispano Chamber will address those issues this coming year.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Mayor Cordova stated that we have a motion from Councilor Ortega and asked if there was a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED LEDA PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO CONSTRUCT A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN BELEN: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**  
Mayor Jerah Cordova informed the public that the next two items are related, and this is the third or fourth time it's been on the Agenda. He added that there was a Public Hearing at the last Council Meeting and tonight it is up for action.

Mayor Cordova asked if there were any questions from the Council. There were no questions.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to accept approval of the proposed LEDA project. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOSPITAL: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**  
Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor David Carter so moved to approve the sale of property. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**  
**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mayor Jerah Cordova reported that Jay Ruybalid sent out a copy of his report earlier. Mayor Cordova asked if there were any questions; there were none. A copy of his report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

### **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilor Frank Ortega:** He reported that the Eagle Tank is almost complete, the Holding Ponds are coming along, and East Ross is complete for a minimal cost of 110,000. He also reported that they are putting in the pylons at the Main Street Overpass, the Christopher Rd construction continues and they finished the extension of sewer lines towards the high school. He told Dale Tafoya that Rosedale Circle Park looks really great, and mentioned that the Rosedale Circle project is also complete which included sidewalk and the curb. He met with the Fiesta Committee to plan an event for Father Schultz and Father Felipe; the event turned out great. He attended the Belen Fire Department Emergency Operation Center Meeting; they are preparing for raining season. He went to St. Mary's School and he had a great time using the dish washer, he also painted the flag poles at the Memorial Gardens. He reported that he couldn't make the ribbon cutting for the new swimming pool. He also didn't make it to the Sunshine Class, but heard that it was full. They had a Breakfast at the Parish Center on Sunday; he publicly thanked everyone that helped.

**Councilor David Carter:** He attended his son's wedding on the 25<sup>th</sup>. He attended graduation for the Class of 2015 on May 19<sup>th</sup>; there were 245 graduates. On the 28<sup>th</sup> he attended the Local Emergency Planning Commission Meeting at the Rio Communities Fire Station; they want to get plans in place for emergencies. He announced that the Natatorium open today for business. On June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. the State Competition for the State Bus Driving Championships are being hosted by Belen School at the Transportation Department. The competition is open to the public, there will be hamburgers and hotdogs.

**Councilor Wayne Gallegos:** On the 13<sup>th</sup> they sponsored a Pool Tournament at the Belen Senior Center. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, BHS Graduation. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the City had table top training; MRGC District was in attendance. On the 26<sup>th</sup> he attended a two day capital outlay review in Santa Fe, and they reviewed 151 applications that they reviewed for different centers. The Senior Advisory for Older Americans is looking at request for next year. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, he helped with the big breakfast.

**Councilor Darleen Aragon:** On the 19<sup>th</sup>, she attended graduation. On the 26<sup>th</sup> they had Greater Belen Chamber Board Meeting; the highlight was the scholarship luncheon. The Scholarship Luncheon will be Wednesday at the Holiday Inn; she added if anybody can make it, it would be great fun. She had a MainStreet Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> and reported that the NM True billboard sign will be going up soon to help sponsor tourism. Tom Greer added that they are shooting a video for tourism for the Railrunner on Saturday. Rhona mentioned that was another grant received by Belen MainStreet. She attended the Hub City Music fest which was a lot of fun. The Corazon de Belen Garden Park is nearing completion; they installed a bike rack today and the trash receptacle. They will have a dedication of the Park to PNM and Dubra and Eddie Padilla. She would also like to do a little dedication to Trinnie "Pito Pito" Baca; maybe a travertine block. Councilor Gallegos told Councilor Aragon that the Aragon Tank is getting painted by City Crews, he recommend that she follow up and see what can be done to put "Welcome to Belen" back on there.

Councilor Ortega gave his Condolences to the Rio Rancho Officer. He mentioned that he would like to see some of the Belen Officers there.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova:** On the 19<sup>th</sup> he participated in BHS graduation. He had a meeting with Viva II, which will be held in conjunction with the Valencia County Fair. He mentioned that they are excited because they plan on breaking a world record for the longest tamale. He toured Calvary Chapel School and mentioned that they have the most beautiful little library there. He stated that Calvary is looking at ways of better connecting their curriculum education with the local community. He attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Our Lady of Belen. On the 29<sup>th</sup> he met with a constituent looking to install speed humps on Desoto. He participated in the Hub City Music Fest, he stated that the music was great and the carnival was spectacular. He presented a

Proclamation to Father Schultz on Sunday. He met with constituents that are looking at putting together a Veterans Memorial at Eagle Park.

He thanked Judge Chavez for being with us tonight, and asked for everyone to keep the Segura family in their thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular City Council Meeting. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to adjourn. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

/ss \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerah Cordova, Mayor

/ss  
Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC