

**SPECIAL REORGANIZATION  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 14, 2016  
5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Special Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 5:00 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

**CITY CLERK, CMC:** Leona Vigil

**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 the Agenda. Councilor Frank Ortega moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Jerah 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	Motioned Carried

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF BELEN'S OPEN MEETING ACT RESOLUTION: Leona Vigil, City Clerk**

Leona Vigil went over a copy of the Open Meetings Act Resolution; a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Leona advised the Council that she added number 7 *teleconference* and number 10 referencing *Minutes*, to the last year's Resolution. She added that the Council will continue to meet on the first and third Monday of each month, with a 72 hour notice as required by state law.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega moved to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution. 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	Motioned Carried

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova went over the list of Board & Committee Members; a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Mayor Cordova asked for an alternate to sit on the Metropolitan Transportation Board; Councilor Frank Ortega stated that he would be an alternate. Mayor Cordova asked for an alternate to serve on the Workforce Solution Board; Councilor Gallegos stated that he will serve as alternate. Gloria Sanchez asked the Mayor if there is going to be a 9/11 Board. Mayor Cordova replied that there should be one; Gloria Sanchez, Fire Chief Manny Garcia and Councilor Wayne Gallegos will serve on that board.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Frank Ortega moved to approve the Board and Committees with said changes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion.

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

**MAYOR PRO-TEM APPOINTMENT: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova informed the public that it has been tradition to rotate councilors to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem, so that everyone has the opportunity to do so. This year, Councilor Ortega and Councilor Aragon are up for the appointment.

Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to appoint Councilor Darleen Aragon as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	No	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	Motioned Carried

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPOINTED OFFICES: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

TREASURER:

Mayor Cordova informed the Council that the City has not had a formal treasurer for some time, but state law does require it. He added that the governing body is taking steps to correct this issue. They do not have a person identified to serve as treasurer tonight, so the Mayor is opening it up to an interim position. Councilor Ortega believes it is still important to have a finance director. Councilor Wayne Gallegos stated that the person in finance is doing an excellent job, but the treasurer position does have to take into consideration that it is an appointed position and is at-will. Councilor Carter stressed that the City has been in violation of state statute and needs to appoint a treasurer. He added that the City cannot afford a stand-alone treasurer and he does not want to add any more responsibility to other personnel.

Mayor Cordova nominated Roseann Peralta as Interim Treasurer through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Wayne Gallegos so moved Roseann Peralta as Interim-Treasurer. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	No	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	Motioned Carried

CITY CLERK:

Mayor Cordova stated that Leona Vigil has been the City Clerk for the last couple of years and has performed her responsibility admirably. She is a reliable, trusted and loyal to the City of Belen, and ensuring the best for the community.

With that, Mayor Jerah Cordova would like to appoint Leona Vigil as City Clerk. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Councilor David Carter seconds. Roll Call Vote:

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

**FIRE CHIEF:**

Mayor Cordova reported that Chief Manny Garcia has equally done what Leona has done for the City of Belen. Mayor Cordova reported that within the last couple of years Chief Garcia has worked hard to get the ISO4 rating and has worked tirelessly towards a new fire station, working with several to accomplish that this year. He added that Chief Garcia was Fire Fighter of the Year. Mayor Cordova stated that Chief Garcia is the public face of his department and is very well respected.

Mayor Jerah Cordova would like to appoint Manny Garcia as Fire Chief. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. 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	Motioned Carried

**POLICE CHIEF:**

Before Mayor Jerah Cordova went on to Police Chief, he read a letter from Chief Dan Robb. The letter is notice of his retirement from the City of Belen, after 23.5 years with the department. Chief Robb will be leaving on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. Mayor Cordova stated that the Chief has worked hard and the crime numbers are down. Gloria Sanchez, member of the public, stated that the City is losing a good man.

Mayor Jerah Cordova appointed Dan Robb interim police chief until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Councilor Wayne Gallegos so moved. 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	Motioned Carried

**CITY MANAGER:**

Mayor Cordova reported that today was Jay's last day. He informed the public that his name will not be brought up for nomination and appointment tonight. He assured the public that they will start the hiring process for that position right away. Mayor Cordova stressed that Jay did a good job while he was here.

Mayor Jerah Cordova recommended appointed of Leona Vigil to serve as Interim City Manager, expiring May 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Carter stated that a stipend for the Interim City Manager will need to be negotiated. Councilor Cordova agreed. Gloria Sanchez would like to know what happened to Jay. Mayor Cordova explained that Jay accomplished a lot of goals with moving big projects, but had push-backs on the smaller projects.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos so moved Leona Vigil serving as Interim City Manager until May 15th. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

At this time, the Honorable Judge Kathy Savilla swore in the appointed positions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Jerah Cordova	Yes	Motion Carried

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerah Cordova, Mayor

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC