

## BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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 F. Ortega  
Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter  
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova  
Councilor Ronnie Torres  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Leona Vigil

**CITY CLERK:** Amanda Tenorio

**REPORTER:** Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

**OTHERS:** See attached Sign-in Sheet

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated **March 4, 2019** as presented. Councilor Torres made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

### PUBIC COMMENTS

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anyone with a public comment.

- **Rachelle Hill**-Provided information on Ranger's Legacy Equine Rescue; Saving horses from neglect abuse and abandonment. Official operation since 2011; Crystel Denton started this Rescue. Looking for location; would like to stay in Belen/Valencia County. They are looking for Board Members if anyone is interested.
- **Brett Ruff**-Gave recognition to Chris Martinez, Patrick Encinias, Julio Mares and Kevin Garcia from the Belen Fire Department for going above and beyond their duties to help our Citizens.

**Mayor Cordova Closed Public Comments**

**PRESENTATIONS**

A) **Mayor Cordova** read and presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Attendance Challenge Proclamation.  
*(see attached)*

**Isela Jaquez** thanked the City Council for the support for the attendance challenge. Encouraged to wear T-shirts to promote the Attendance Challenge. Wants to continue promoting and publishing what they stand for.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE MAYOR PRO-TEM APPOINTMENT.**

Mayor Cordova stated that the Pro-Tem appointment is usually rotated among the Councilor’s and Councilor Gallegos is next in line. He leaves appointment up to the Council. Councilor Ortega nominated Councilor Gallegos.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE OPEN MEETING ACT RESOLUTION**

**Amanda Tenorio** requested for approval for **Resolution 2019-06** she stated this resolution has to be approved by the governing body every year. City Council meetings will continue every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FOR RESOLUTION 2019-07 NMDOT CO-OP FUNDING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.**

**Melinna Boyd representing Molzen Corbin** requested for approval for a project proposal to the NMDOT District Three to participate in the 2019/2020 Cooperative Agreement Funding Program. The scope of work is to involve drainage and pavement improvements to local roadways. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington street, and De Soto Avenue are the streets that need improvements. \$250,000 was requested and the match for the City will be \$62,500.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FOR RESOLUTION 2019-08 NMDOT MAP FUNDING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.**

**Melinna Boyd** requested for approval for Project Proposal to the NMDOT District Three to participate in the 2019/2020 Municipal Arterial Program. The amount requested is \$435,000; the match for the City will be \$108,750. Didier Ave is the road that needs improvement.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Torres made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF LAND LEASE WITH JOHN THOMPSON AT THE BELEN REGIONAL AIRPORT.**

**Brian McBain** requested for approval of Land Lease; we currently have airport manager staying at the airport; decided to bring before the Council for lease agreement; 2year term 60day notice for both party's; lease agreement- we will utilize in kind services will ensure secure operations. Did compliance and legal checks; this is allowed.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Torres seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF POLICE IMAGE AND AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS PER.03.04**

**Chief Rodriguez** requested for approval for uniforms; revise policy 03.04; opportunity for officers to wear softer uniforms. Polo shirts and tactical pants; Amending section 7 and section 10. *(picture attached)*

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second.

Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

**APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL FOR REMOVAL OF ALLEY FENCE BEHIND POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

Conversation came up in the last meeting with Councilor Torres inquiring to reopen the alley way. In the past the police department requested to close it for the improved security. Chief recommends to reopen and asked for approval to **reopen** the alleyway behind Police Department.

Councilor Gallegos recommends to secure it if it does stay open.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to **open** the gate. Councilor Torres made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE 2019-02 CREATING CHAPTER 15.34 IN THE BELEN CODE DETAILING THE REQUEST OF ALLEYWAY CLOSURE PROCEDURES AND PROCESS.**

**Brian McBain** revised ordinance to outline the process of Alleyway Closure. The Council has authority to close alleyways within the City. Installation is based on available funds requested by Mayor last meeting which was added. This ordinance outlines the process. Alleyway will be free of obstruction; keys will be provided to our Citizen's; there will be a fee if key is lost. A public meeting will be held if closure is requested. Councilor Carter was concerned about the lock's; is there going to be a master key? Brian advised we will work that out administratively.

Mayor Cordova asked if anyone is in favor or opposed to this ordinance.  
Citizen-Rachelle Hill is in favor

Mayor Cordova closed public hearing

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE 2019-03 AMENDING ARTICLE 11 OF THE BELEN MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE BELEN REGIONAL AIRPORT.**

**Brian McBain** requested for approval for amending Article 11; This ordinance is a clean-up ordinance; Municipal was deleted; it is now Belen Regional Airport as designated by the FAA. Airport is informally known as "Mayor Neel Alexander Belen Regional Airport". Removed Airport Commission

Mayor Cordova asked if anyone is in favor or opposed to this ordinance; there was no response.  
Mayor Cordova closed public hearing.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Torres made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Ronnie Torres	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Leona Vigil reported she had a Director's meeting today. Ralph Jaramillo is working with USDA regarding draft on Arsenic Grant; not sure what match; assuming 45%.
- Ralph has final walk through Wednesday with Martha Gene
- Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> going to meet with Director's to discuss budget for FY19/20
- March 13<sup>th</sup>-attended an asset management plan meeting; possible part time position to comply with asset management
- Tomorrow (March 14<sup>th</sup>) we have a Water Conservation kick off meeting with Molzen-Corbin

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilor Ortega** stated 6<sup>th</sup> street by middle school, bamboo is growing, needs to be cleaned. Mayor Cordova stated it is our property; we cut it about four years ago. City Manager stated she will schedule it to be cleaned up.

- Clean up at Vivian Fields on Saturday
- Getting ready for little league
- Come and check out the Visitor Center at Eagle Park
- Met with Representative Torres Small at Eagle Park & Library; she is a great person; she really wants to help out the Community. This was a great meeting.
- Special Thanks to Rosemary, Leona, Brian, Tom, & Wayne for helping out with these meetings
- Showed what our Community is made of; balloon fiesta went well
- Senator Baca came down Sunday visited balloon fiesta and memorial
- Urged everyone to come and help out at the Vivian Fields

**Councilor Carter** Enjoyed Rally on Saturday; got to roll out and launch a balloon

- 12<sup>th</sup> met with Economic Development Director Pete Armstrong to talk about Belen's future development
- We need more involvement with the Community
- Not happy with missing the deadline for the Tiger Grant
- Funding is in need for the North Interchange – this was our #1 priority

**Councilor Gallegos** started we started an asset management system; fell between the cracks. Very important to **get** this started. In the past we had a mapping system; going to take some work and commitment. This effects our funding with Grants.

- Legislative Appropriations-we will be receiving \$300,000 for Belen Eagle Park
- We will be receiving 1.7 million for Belen Retention Pond Request; flood
- From a different Grant we will be purchasing vehicles for the Senior Center
- Some positive things going on as well
- Beautiful Balloon Fiesta event; keep in mind this was at home; should have been overfilled with people
- Work on flood recovery funding
- Meeting at VA memorial went well with visit
- 12<sup>th</sup> met with Celebrate Belen; look forward to Saturday for clean up

**Councilor Torres** balloon fiesta went well; thanks to the News Bulletin for support

- Took a tour of the Fire Department
- Great Moral with Employee's
- Working on the bug lights
- Hoping to have Christmas in July

**Mayor Cordova**

- March 7<sup>th</sup> had meeting with Valencia County regarding the hospital; plan is to re-issue RFP not going to put in the million- dollar rider.
- 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with Belen Economic Development
- Thought Saturday had a good attendance
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> attended the Catholic Daughters 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Our Lady of Belen

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE POLICE UNION, AS ALLOWED PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-5)**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Torres made a motion to re-enter into Open Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to state at executive session collective bargaining negotiations for the Police Union was discussed in the closed meeting, and no actions were taken.

Councilor Torres made the motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:


Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Carter made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes  
Councilor Ronnie Torres        Yes  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos       Yes  
Councilor David Carter        Yes     Motion Carried

  
Amanda Tenorio, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Jerah Cordova, Mayor