

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 2, 2018

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 Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk.

PRESENT: Councilor David Carter
Mayor Pro-Tem Frank F. Ortega
Mayor Jerah Cordova
Councilor Darleen Aragon

NOT PRESENT: Councilor Wayne Gallegos

CITY MANAGER: Leona Vigil

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Brian McBain

REPORTER: Not Present

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated December 18, 2017 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

PUBIC COMMENTS

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

There were no public comments and this portion of the meeting was closed.

PRESENTATIONS

A) SWEARING IN OF NEW BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT OFFICERS (MARIO VALLEJOS, DANIEL KLOPPPEL AND MICHELLE UNGARO)

Mayor Cordova administered the oath to each new police recruit, having them sign the oath, then Chief Scott Conner presented each newly sworn officer with a certificate and badge. Chief Conner advised that the new recruits have been helping at the station with the new investigation division and are ready for the upcoming academy pre-assessment and class.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2018 PAID HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Ms. Leona Vigil presented the 2018 paid holiday schedule as advised, this mirrors the same eleven days as last year with adjustments made for change of calendar days. Ms. Vigil also advised that Christmas Eve was not added to this official schedule but could be given at a later time administratively.

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

Councilor Aragon seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil stated: She has signed a proposal for the PERA audit so this will help in some of the findings that have come up in past audits however, given the pre-assessment, it looks like we will be getting money back by doing this. The question that the contractor has for Vivian Fields about authorization to remove three light poles was completed and approved. The Hispano Chamber for the Montanza event will not be needing our police or EMT's for this event, and stated that they have enough staff from other entities. The LED sign is moving forward, it will be bracketed and connected to power for a fee of \$1800. Mr. Larry Rael has petitioned to get a road by Jose Gallegos Park to be named after his grandfather Albino Rael, he has obtained the required signatures for this process, and currently the road is unnamed. Denise Kerns will be serving as Acting Director for the Recreation Department, while we interview and hire for this position in about two weeks. Meter project is ongoing, there has been reports of many broken cans and such so we may see an increase in change orders for this. 710 Anthony was burned down due to an electrical fire. Councilor Carter asked if the building was still a danger and would like the status to ensure neighborhood safety. Ms. Vigil advised that she will look into this and report back. In HR, we have interviews for the Airport staff tomorrow with one applicant, fire and police interviews are set up for the 11th, the IT positions will be interviewed upon the return of Lawrence, and staff evaluations will be completed by the 31st.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Carter stated: Went to employee luncheon on the 19th, it was very good, the employee of the year was very happy. Also attended the Fire Station ground breaking on that day finally, would like a date on the actual day they will be starting the construction, I am really excited for this. (Leona will report back on this) Meet with citizens on some flooding issues and other things, and Happy New Year to you all.

Councilor Ortega stated: The streets were decorated very nice, the park looked good but we need a bigger star on our tree. I did see that the majority of the City lights on main street are back on, glad to see that they are being worked on. Also noticed that the pot holes are being taken care of on main street, want to make sure this is coming out of the water department's budget when a line break is involved, want to make sure the funding is there for the street department. The DC Sewer line is complete, and is now hooked up to the school however, we need to reach out to Molzen-Corbin to see when they will be taking care of the ponds, and this should have been started already. I will be meeting with the School Superintendent tomorrow at 1pm to discuss about getting a portable for the VA Memorial Park, making this into an office/information center, we will need to pay for the moving of this so would like to see this budgeted for this purpose. (Councilor Carter advised that there is a portable at Rio Grande that needs to be moved right now, which could be an interagency donation) I am also concerned that the dirt work has not started at the memorial. (Ms. Vigil advised that there

is a pre-con tomorrow so that we can ensure we have budgeting, equipment and staff to complete this task.) There should not be any funding involved, we should have what we need to so that this can move forward, we will also be going to Legislation for this project and we will be submitting paperwork on this project. I will be taking millings to 4th street sidewalk area, so we can take care of the school area. The MLK Vigil is happening on January 15th at 6pm in the heart of Belen, everyone is welcome to attend so come enjoy the event. Happy New Year to everyone, I am glad to see everyone is here, also, GRT for December was excellent.

Councilor Aragon stated: The employee luncheon was fabulous at the Old Sheriff’s Posse, I guess the Chamber dinner will also be held there in January. The Fire Department ground breaking was awesome, I did get a thank you for the Dennis Chavez sewer line, and they want the ponds drained. I got to meet the new owners of the Onate Theater, they are looking to make this a brewery but I suggested that they make this a Barn Dinner Theater, making this attractive to all visitors which would be nice for all, I am also looking to see if there are any grants they could use through Main Street, I am really excited at the opportunities that Belen has coming now and into the future. Finally, due to some recent circumstances that have come up and I will not elaborate on, I have decided to officially run for re-election to again have a seat on this Council.

Mayor Cordova stated: Lots of holiday time with family and friends, really nice few weeks. The employee banquet was just absolutely spectacular this year, I want to thank everybody who was involved in setting that up, and they did an amazing job with it. Great to attend the groundbreaking, I think everyone was excited to finally get this done. I went to the St. Mary’s Christmas Play, it was really cool, they had the Belen arch and water tower, they even made a joke that Christ was born under the archway in the manger because there was no hospital in Belen.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF UNION NEGOTIATION UPDATES WITH ATTORNEY DINA HOLCOMB AND THE DISCUSSION OF PENDING/THREATENING LITIGATION AS ALLOWED PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-5) & (H-7)

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

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

The Council entered into Closed Session at 6:34 pm

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

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

The Council returned to Open Session at 7:16 pm

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to advise that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, and no actions were taken. Councilor Aragon made the motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

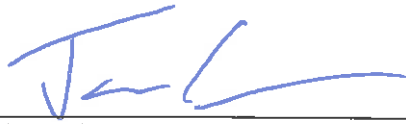
Councilor Frank Ortega Yes
Councilor Darleen Aragon Yes
Councilor David Carter Yes Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Councilor Frank Ortega Yes

Councilor Darleen Aragon Yes
Councilor David Carter No Motion Carried



Jerah Cordova, Mayor



Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk