

# Regular City Council Meeting

May 15, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jerah Cordova Called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City council to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll called taken by Leona Vigil, City Manager.

**PRESENT:** Councilor David Carter  
Mayor Pro-Tem Frank F. Ortega  
Mayor Jerah Cordova  
Councilor Darlene Aragon  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Leona Vigil

**CITY CLERK:**

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cordova asked the NJROTC to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment to move Item 7b and c first then Item 7a last. Councilor Carter made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Ortega seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated May 1, 2017 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Abstain	
Councilor Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Paul Baca, addressed the Mayor and Councilors regarding the new truck stop to be developed in Belen. His concerns were there has not been any public comment or public meetings concerning the signage for Love's Travel Stop. Mr. Baca states that when he was developing his business (Young Baca 66) he had to come before Planning and Zoning and the Council to have a variance on the sign because the sign is higher than the city ordinance reads. A public meeting was then held and neighbors who were in protest because of the sign, attended the meeting. Mr. Baca would like there to be a public meeting for comment concerning the new developers. Mr. Baca stated that he had obtained a copy of the Impact study that Love's performed and he is concerned that the study is being adopted but he also states that he has not seen a study by MRCOG or DOT (Department of Transportation). Mayor Cordova asked Steve Tomita with Planning and

Zoning if there had been any impact studies done with MRCOG or DOT. Mr. Tomita said that they did not recommend a light at this time. Money is being collected and Molzen Corbin will be making the recommendation from Love's towards that light, also to include the upcoming development. Love's is building a deceleration right turn lane coming from the freeway turning onto Christopher road. Mayor Cordova asked "Just to clarify who is paying for the improvements?" "Love's" answers Mr. Tomita. Mayor Cordova advised Mr. Baca that the city ordinance for signage has since been changed to allow higher signage there for Love's did not have to come for a variance.

**Chris Chavez**, general contractor from the area, is concerned that the Love's Travel Stop has not sent any representatives to present before the City Council nor have they scheduled a public hearing to address the pros and cons in which it will impact our city and its traffic and that a four way stop which will be created at Camino Del llano will create congestion. A traffic study put out by Love's suggest no adverse impact because of the low traffic counts at the present and also for the future. He says that Love's has been allowed to install a 90 foot sign for advertisement. The more the company advertises the more the traffic will increase therefore contradicting the traffic study. He and other business owners would like to ask the City of Belen to require Love's Travel Stop to put in a traffic signal at this intersection. He worries that the citizens of Belen will be the ones paying for this traffic signal and asked that this be put to a vote.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Employee of The Quarter** a letter read by Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Ortega, certificate and letter presented to Payroll and Benefit Specialist, Lashae Latasha. A copy of the letter is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. (Picture taken)

**Belen High School NJROTC Unit** – Julie Sanchez, Library Director wanted to recognize the outstanding job that the Belen High School NJROTC has accomplished this year. Julie then introduces Chief Oscar Magallanes who explains that the NJROTC Unit does 1500 service hours. One example is, on Veterans Day the unit puts our 500 flag on graves at two of the major cemeteries in the City of Belen and two days later they go and remove them. A certificate, a gift certificate, banner and a Belen City flag was presented. (Picture taken)

**Community Maintenance Report** – Tommy Flores addressed the Mayor and Council. Tommy's report explains all he has accomplished in his short time as Director of the Street Department. Working in green waste, completed 140 outstanding work orders, bringing city vehicles up to DOT regulations, training on heavy equipment and on safety, had a fence built around the perimeter of the shop due to theft and last inventory of all tools and equipment. Tommy reported he has many projects he is currently working on, updating city ordinances, benches and tables for Anna Becker Park, getting roads patched up, spraying of mosquitos, looking into building something for Eagle Park equipment which gets vandalized regularly, upgrading equipment (grader), the biggest project is our city sidewalks and may other projects. Discussion was held concerning ongoing projects and how well Tommy is doing in making noticeable changes to our city. A copy of the report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **City Manager's Report**

Leona reported to the council that the current Cleaning Contract was terminated and given a 30 day notice. A 20 hour employee will be hired without benefits as a replacement. The HR position was posted internally and received two applicants, interviews will take place on Monday, May 22, 2017. We are working on a solid waste ordinance. A new Code Enforcement Officer has been hired and he will be starting on May 30, 2017. Leona is looking into getting Jeff Goebel who does team building to come and give training to our employees. Jeff Goebel interviewed her to assess where the city's problem areas are. Jeff came up with a 4 step workshop: 1) Conflict Resolution and Management Change, 2) Sacristy and Stereo Type (meaning that a lot of us have to wear different hats which can cause us to be over worked and how to deal as well as prioritize) 3) Power and Turf, and last 4) Diversity and Consciences. He is also able to give 1 on 1 training if needed. Belen has filled the outdoor pool, 350 thousand gallons, the City has a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in exchange for swimming passes. Chipping started last week at the transfer station. Mosquito spraying

started on May 5, 2017. Leona has asked them to spray the football field for the Belen High School graduation on May 23, 2017. And the video wall is in its preliminary phase which will take a total of 3 weeks to accomplish.

Councilor Ortega wanted to know about the black fire hydrants. He did not want them to affect the ISO rating and wanted to know if there was a plan in place. Leona responded that the city will be replacing eight fire hydrants a year. Dale Tafoya and Chief Manny Garcia will be presenting a report on the fire hydrants next council meeting. He also wanted to know about the contracted services on the sidewalks and if we could get local contracting services to give us a Request for Proposal (RFP). Leona said that she was working on getting that done.

Communication from City council

**Councilor Frank Ortega** is working on the DCE sewer line. The bidding went out May 10, 2017. Logsdon hall will be collecting the yard fee on May 24, 2017. Open bids will take place here at city hall on June 7, 2017 at 2:00.

**Councilor David Carter** attended the budget hearing on May 10, 2017. Celebrate Belen had a director meeting and he is no longer the Chairman of the Board. Belen Schools had there transportation bus rodeo on May 5, 2017. The winner was Ms. Veronica Baca who will represent Belen Schools at the State Bus Driving championships. It will take place at the Belen Bus Compound on June 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Graduation is May 23, 2017. Fire hydrants look nice.

**Councilor Gallegos** thanked Roseann Peralta on all the hard work she put in to prepare for the budget meeting for FY 2017-2018.

**Councilor Darleen Aragon** attended the budget hearing on May 10, 2017. She continues to water the plants at the El Corazon De Belen Park. She suggest to put in a drip system for the park. On May 5, 2017 she attended the Economic Summit held at Fat Sats in Belen. And last Rebecca is wanting to set up a presentation on solar panels and will be talking with Dale Tafoya.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova** participated in the chambers Mix and Mingle on May 3, 2017 and talked to local business owners to see how we are doing in Belen. We have a lot of engaged citizens paying attention to what is or is not happening in Belen and who want to see us make progress. Some want growth and some don't but for the most part it's been very positive. On May 4, 2017 he gave the "welcome" for the National Day of Prayer event. On May 5, 2017 was the Economic Summit with Industrial leaders from Belen. On May 10, 2017 was the Budget hearing. He attended UNM Valencia Campus graduation on Friday, May 12, 2017. And finally Valencia county fair had their benefit on Saturday, May 12, 2017.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive Session to discuss land acquisition for the Belen Industrial Park, as allowed per the Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1(H-8).

An executive session to discuss the proposed hospital as allowed per the Open meetings Act; 10-15-1(H-7).

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Councilor Aragon so moved. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega second the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to re-enter into an open meeting from a closed meeting. Counselor Gallegos so moved. Counselor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for attestation that discussion was limited to discussion of the ongoing land acquisition for the Belen Industrial Park, hospital litigation as allowed per the Open meetings Act Section 10-15-1(H-7, H-8) and no action was taken. Councilor Ortega so moved. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

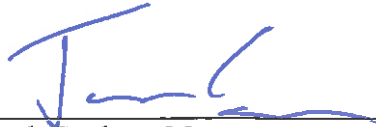
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Carter made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

  
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Leona Vigil, City Manager, CMC

  
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Jerah Cordova, Mayor