

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 19, 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 R. Cordova  
Councilor Darleen Aragon  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Not Present

**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, striking item 8c: Subcontractor Change for Vivian Fields Project as we are still waiting for an objection from original subcontractor. Councilor Aragon made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	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 February 5, 2018 as presented. Councilor Aragon made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	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) BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT LIFE SAVING AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

Lt. Joe Portillo presented the live saving award to Officer Jason Skopeck and Officer Scott Gordon, not only have these officers served their country but they are also serving their community, they are true heroes. On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017, both officers answered a dispatch call for a young lady who was non-responsive and not breathing,

when the officers arrived on scene, they initiated CPR, and due to the officer's quick actions, this young lady's life was saved.

## **DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR BNSF RIGHT OF WAY DEDICATION**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented this information to the Council, detailing BNSF's need for this land for railroad expansion, they are asking for this right of way and will compensate the city with \$1500 for each easement, and the city will also be retaining its utility easements in this process. Mr. Tomita requested that the Council approve this measure with stipulations ensuring that the railroad pay for these easements, and both parties sign the payment agreement for this total project, before the deed is issued. Councilor Gallegos advised that he has been involved in the talks with the railroad, and after a long process, due to a past agreement with the railroad in 1935, this is something that we must do to ensure we maintain our utility lines to provide for our citizens. Councilor Carter questioned what the red line area was on the map. Mr. Tomita advised that this was property the BNSF has purchased privately for fencing along the area. Councilor Aragon questioned why we are not getting more, Mr. Tomita advised that we have negotiated this price and based on the value of this land, this price is acceptable. Councilor Ortega advised what they would do on Garcia, wondering if we would be putting a cul-de-sac in that area, Mr. Tomita advised that we will be looking at plans for this into the future.

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

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

### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE RFP CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE MARTHA JEAN PROJECT**

Mr. Ben Wiltbank from Molzen-Corbin presented the results from the RFP opening that to place on February 8, 2018 for the Martha Jean project. Mr. Wiltbank advised that the apparent low bidder was File Construction, however, upon further review, the bids was deemed incomplete, the next apparent low bidder was then TLC with a bid of \$826,473.55 which came in under the original engineer estimate of \$1.163 million. Based on the bids collected, and the apparent low bidder with a complete bid, Molzen-Corbin recommends TLC be awarded this contract. Councilor Ortega advised that this was a long time coming, and would like to commend the staff on their hard work making this 10 year plan come to life, glad to see that they will be finally getting sewer, water and drainage in that community. Councilor Gallegos also thanked the Mayor and Council for their action on this, while this has taken time, it is nice to see this moving forward and now ready for work. Dale Tafoya advised that we will also be using MAP funding for the sidewalks, and will hold another workshop for the citizens in the area before construction begins, currently the residents in the area are making payment arrangements to pay for this connection.

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

### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED SERVICE BY THE NEW MEXICO RAIL RUNNER**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented this Resolution, stating that the NM Rail Runner is seeking funds to comply with the new Federal regulations on positive train control, this is an expense that will require a lot of funds to complete. MRCOG is looking at helping to get a loan for this project and the Rail Runner is moving projects around to accommodate this project also, the Resolution before the Council is for the support of these efforts, and ensuring that the NM Rail Runner service continues in Belen for its citizens.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos 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 Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Resolution 2018-03\****

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF SURPLUS AUCTION ITEM (2003 FORD CROWN VICTORIA)**

Chief Scott Conner advised that the police department has a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria with about 122,000 miles, this vehicle is starting to slip in third gear, thinking that now may be a good time to sell it while it still runs and drives. Councilor Aragon advised that we could use this car to park in neighborhoods to deter crime, while Councilor Ortega advise that we could use this as a bait car also. Chief Conner advised that he has three more marked cars that can be used for this purpose in the future, so selling this one now would make more room and sense. Mayor Cordova advised that he would like to see those other cars for this purpose in parking them around the City to deter crime, maybe even mounting a camera in them for surveillance.

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION NO. 1074241 FOR JARAMILLO VINEYARDS WHICH WILL BE LOCATED AT 114 BECKER AVE IN BELEN.**

Mr. Brian McBain advised that this application came in from the Alcohol and Gaming Division for the State, we met the requirements for public hearing, posting twice in our local newspaper. A wine growers license is being sought, giving the ability for wine tasting and purchase of wine bottles, this has already gone through Planning and Zoning for conditional use, and stipulations have been placed on this use once the license is issued, this will then be re-evaluated in one year. There have been no protests brought to my attention and there were also no comments during the conditional use hearing by the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilor Gallegos was concerned about the crowd and noise in the area. Mr. McBain advised that Alcohol and Gaming Division will be monitoring their license activity and the City will be monitoring the conditions set in the conditional use agreement.

Mayor Cordova opened the public comment and asked if there was any discussion from the audience, there being no public comment, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. The Council had no further questions or discussion on this matter.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter 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 Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Nothing to report at this time, City Manager was not present for meeting. Mr. Brian McBain advised that he was not aware of any issues at this time, but early/absentee elections have been going great here at City Hall. Mr. Dale Tafoya introduced Mr. Ben Wiltbank of Molzen-Corbin, advising that once Doug retires, Ben will be taking over as a representative for the City.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilor Carter stated:** On February 6<sup>th</sup>, I made it to the business center just in time when they set up so timing is everything. I spent a lot of time at the trade's conference, on the 12<sup>th</sup> we met with AC Disposal to iron out some issues in implementing their takeover of the convenience center on March 1<sup>st</sup>, they will be collecting money for passes at their office location. I went to the forum on the 13<sup>th</sup>, which went good. I voted on Valentine's Day, so don't forget to vote, we have an election going on.

**Councilor Ortega stated:** I would like to thank Dale for his work on cleaning 900 ft. of sewer line on 4<sup>th</sup> and Baca, the schools needed it due to the smell in the buildings, and he will be working with the schools to put in back flow preventers. I went to the RSVP luncheon on the 13<sup>th</sup> and then went to the trade's conference on the 8<sup>th</sup> which was a great event. I was excited that the VA Memorial portable was put on site today, we will be remodeling this to make it an information center. We will be starting a brick campaign for funding, this will be for both peace and war veterans here in Valencia County, and Steve has been working on this with me, I would like to thank Belen Schools for giving us this portable for this use, and thank you to Roseann for helping with the funding for this project. Mayor Cordova advised that it appears we will be getting some extra funding from the Legislature, helping to fund this project fully into the future. Councilor Ortega advised that he is aware of this funding but is waiting for this to be finalized before announcing.

**Councilor Aragon stated:** I want to thank Steve Tomita for his hard work on the trade conference, also the hard work of the Belen Economic Development team for this also, this really showcased Belen well. Leona and I met with Chief Gurule of Los Lunas, he advised us about the CHIP grant program available to get more officers for the city, this grant will pay for two officers up to 75% of their salary for three years, as long as the City makes a one year commitment for these officers, they will be assisting us in writing that grant. Also we were advised that Los Lunas Police Department only has 38 officers for 15,000 people, and I think we should really work with them moving forward to ensure that we come together to fight crime in our area, they also said that the text and e-mail tips are working really well for them, we really also need to get the Valencia County Sheriff's office on board with this. I also attended the candidate forum and think we all did well. The Recycle Center is back up and running, however, you now need to separate your recyclables before placing them in the bin, which is new but effective.

**Councilor Gallegos stated:** There is graffiti at Ross Park on the tables and on our walls at the Library, it was embarrassing that we noticed this at the Belen Railway Credit Union annual meeting which took place at the Library, so we need to get that cleaned up. Early voting has started, I attended the VALEO meeting, and I received an e-mail from Deputy Chief Miller concern the text tips, which he is working on. I also spoke with a Los Lunas Police Officer this weekend, on what their buy in is, he was very excited, as they have their main job but also are assigned to special duties, he seemed really excited about his job and what they are doing to fight crime in their area. The trade's conference went well, I was really proud to see the schools there and all the High School students that attended. I did my taxes and saw my doctor who says I am physically and mentally able to still serve here. I also met with AC Disposal on getting permits for recycle and convenience center, I want to thank Brian for putting things on PDF, we met behind the scenes with Leona and Roseann, we got these issues resolved. On the 13<sup>th</sup> I attended the senior dance, they did pick a new king and queen which went good. I made a couple of trips to Santa Fe this year, the Belen Senior Center will get some renovation in the amount of \$25,000 for the building, and the kitchen itself will receive \$90,000 for upgrades and equipment. The Belen Vets are looking to receive \$300,000 for the VA Memorial Project. Our ICIP was numbered but we did not hear much on this. Mayor Cordova advised that it looked like they were giving around \$350,000 to each municipality for projects so our money may be in the Vet Memorial that we receive.

**Mayor Cordova stated:** On the 6<sup>th</sup> I had the VALEO meeting, on the 7<sup>th</sup> Tommy and I did a walk through on Rosedale for the new sidewalks and five trees will be coming down to accomplish this project, we did talk to the neighbors about this, and we also looked at ensuring that we do not spend all our money on this one project. The trade's conference was great on the 8<sup>th</sup>, went to senior center on the 13<sup>th</sup> for Valentines dance, I also met with the Art League about expanding on the courtyard, wanting a little more space for this, however, I advised that we wait for the Fire Station to be built first and if the food pantry returns, we will need to ensure they have adequate space. The Credit Union opening was great, the water tower will be painted sometime later this week, and they will be painting the Belen back on this.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

*(Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 pm)*



---

Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk



---

Jerah Cordova, Mayor