

BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 4, 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 Wayne Gallegos
Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova
Councilor Frank F. Ortega
Councilor Ronnie Torres

CITY MANAGER/: Leona Vigil
ACTING CLERK

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 to approve. Councilor Torres second the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 22, 2019. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos second the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

PUBIC COMMENTS

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

Danny Bernal Jr: He stressed his concerns regarding the San Lorenzo/La Luz project. He wants to know why the public has not received an official update and would like to know where the money went.

Yvonne Tarango: She lives on La Luz Dr. She is upset that nothing has been done on the project, and she too wants to know where the money went.

Lisa Mann: She lives on La Luz drive. She expressed her frustration with the delay of the project and reported that there are many potholes as well as piled up dirt. She too wanted to know where the money went.

Councilor David Carter asked Leona Vigil when the project was going out for bid. Leona answered the project is going out for bid in the middle of February.

There being no other public comments, this portion of the meeting was closed.

PRESENTATION

EMPLOYEE OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2018 – Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter

Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter presented the Employee of the 4th Quarter award to Officer Amanda Richards. Attached hereto is a copy of the nomination, along with the award and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION – Mayor Jerah Cordova

Mayor Cordova read and presented the Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Proclamation to Ms. Monica Gonzales. Attached hereto is a copy of the proclamation and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

DIRECT IMPACT PROJECT PLAN – Mayor Jerah Cordova

Mayor Jerah Cordova presented his proposed Direct Impact Project Plan. A copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

2018 CRIME STATISTICS – Chief Victor Rodriguez

Chief Rodriguez went over his crime stats; a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A LETTER OF AGENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER CORPORATION (ICC) TO AUTHORIZE ICC TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FCC E-RATE DISCOUNTS FOR FIBER INSTALLATION AND FASTER INTERNET SERVICE AT THE BELEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND HARVEY HOUSE BRANCH LIBRARY ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELEN – Kathleen Pickering

Kathy Pickering expressed her desire to update the Wi-Fi access at the Library and Harvey House. She stated that ICC will help provide faster access. She reported that currently the City does not have fiber to the Harvey House, so access is sporadic. She mentioned that the City currently operates with 100 MB of internet access; E-rate funding will subsidize 90 percent funding, to move up to a 1G. A copy of the saving projects is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Cost for fiber installation is \$40,000 actual; E-rate will subsidize 85% of the cost and the City will have to pay a onetime fee of \$8,000. Mike Boyle, Director of ICC informed the Council that there is 18 months of work to do, once approved. He added that it is a burdensome federal program. Councilor Gallegos stated that the deadline to apply is now in February.

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

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF TIF FUNDING TO COVER 80% COST OF NEW SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AT THE BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING – Johnie Johnson

Johnie reported that the old cameras at the Police Department do not work. He would like to use the funds from the TIF budget to purchase a video system which will have a 180 day retention. This will be a standalone system and will not integrate with the current city system. Johnie advised the Council that the TIF committee approved the project. Councilor Gallegos added that the TIF committee has the money available. A copy of the proposal is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

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

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

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL FOR THE DISPOSAL/DONATION OF THE CITY OF BELEN’S SOLAR DISH POWER UNITS – Leona Vigil

Leona Vigil reported that the City received and installed (3) 3 kilowatt solar units in 2009 to reduce energy cost at City Hall. After a couple of years there was no proof of energy savings and there were several malfunctions; until they became inoperable. The Contractors were asked to remove the dishes, but filed bankruptcy and the bank did not want ownership. As per the procurement code requirement, Leona is seeking approval to dispose of the (3) solar dishes. She mentioned that there is a University that has asked the City to donate the dishes to use for studies. Once she receives approval to move forward with the disposal, she will seek legal advice as to donating the dishes. She will follow up with the Council.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil: She had a concern with NMDOT; they cancelled their quarterly meeting again this month. She reported that they only met 3 times last year. Fire Chief interviews were held today; they interviewed 3 qualified experienced applicants. Brian McBain submitted 2 pay request to Homeland Security for reimbursement. Charles Cox is moving back to City Hall; the City would have lost \$65,000 in funding had he located to the new Fire Department. Valencia County Day is at the Round House on the 15th of February. Old City Hall nomination at SHPO is right after, starting at 1:00 P.M. She will be meeting with Mike Rios tomorrow at 10:00 A.M. to go over flooding issues. Leona will be out on vacation from the 18th to the 22nd. Councilor Ortega advised Leona that the light on Theresa Drive is still out. It was also reported that the lights on the north side of Camino de Llano were out.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Ortega: The Matanza had a great turn out; the VA Information Center was used as a first aid station. Contractors are waiting on their building permit to start construction on Phase II of the VA Memorial.

Councilor Torres: The MLK celebration went well; he thanked all those involved. The Bugg Light Project is moving ahead.

Councilor Gallegos reported that the Matanza was a success. He was in Santa Fe on the 28th to lobby, he said to keep an eye out for Senate Bill 100 sponsored by Senator Greg Baca for flooding issues. Reconstruction of the kitchen at the Senior Center is taking place; they will be using the business center as need for up to 2 weeks. On the 31st he met with the Schools to review the newly designed pedestrian bridge that would go over Main Street. The point of the bridge is to get the kids across Main Street safely. Councilor Gallegos suggested establishing an agreement between the City and the Schools in order to help seek funding. \$407,000 is needed for startup and 2.5 million is needed to build. He participated with interviews for the Fire Chief.

Councilor Carter: He announced that Belen Consolidated Schools are the 5 times Matanza Champions.

Mayor Cordova: He met with the NM State Cooperation Extension Board; they work on agriculture issues in Valencia County. He was assigned to a working group which will set the pace for the year to include building a database of local farmers. He is hoping to have a nomination for Fire Chief within the next 2 weeks. He reiterated what Leona said, that Mike Rios has been concerned with his road and property for some time and he asked the Council to keep Barboa and Gabaldon Pl. on their minds for a solution.

Councilor Frank Ortega asked if Max Cordova could come speak to the Council on the proposed pedestrian bridge. Mr. Cordova stated that this is in the preliminary phase, but stressed that he is on board with the idea. He added that the main objective of the bridge is for the safety of the kids. He would like for the City and the Schools to work together on this project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval/Disapproval to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of attorney/client privileged matters regarding pending/threatened litigation, as allowed per the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H-7)

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

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to return from a closed meeting to an open meeting. Councilor Torres made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

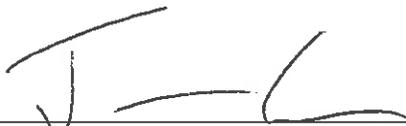
Mayor Cordova asked for a motion that only matters referencing pending and threatened litigation was discussed in Executive Session. Councilor Carter made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

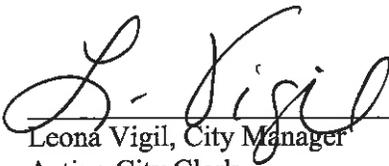
ADJOURNMENT:

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 David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carried



Jerah Cordova, Mayor



Leona Vigil, City Manager
Acting City Clerk