

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**March 5, 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:** Leona Vigil

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK:** Brian McBain

**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 Ortega made a motion. 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 19, 2018 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. 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

**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.

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A ROAD NAME CHANGE FOR TWO ROADS OFF OF ARAGON AND GABALDON ON THE NORTH SIDE OF JOSE GALLEGOS PARK.**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented the detailed information on the name change of the two roads, stating he was approached by Mr. Larry Rael who is asking that we change the two roads in the area as detailed, wanting one road to be Albino Rael Rd

and the other road will be Aragon Place, signatures of approval were obtained by the renters, however, the owners of the property were notified and the only objection to this is from the residents at 210, this is a Y on Aragon Rd, by Jose Gallegos Park, and these two roads are currently not officially named, we were going to need to get this done anyway based on the 911 response laws. Councilor Carter advised if the majority of the land owners consent, and does this meet ordinance requirements. Mr. Tomita advised that yes they have and we have met ordinance requirements. Councilor Ortega said why we can't just switch the way the names are on the road, because this will have less impact. Mr. Tomita advised that this will not be in compliance with the 911 specifications, due to the break and change in direction.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was any discussion from the audience, opening up the hearing to public comment.

Vincent Storey: I own the road that is in question, I think it is a good idea because the police are always lost there, it is a good place, and both names are good, this will help the police and ambulance.

Larry Rael: I want to make sure that everyone understand that you guys were going to change the addresses any way right, I want to keep it traditional and the name goes back to 1906, I do not want to cause trouble for the neighbors or the Gallegos family, my family was fine with Gallegos Park, and we just want to add some history to the road, it is nice to be fair and the Gallegos family already has the park.

Brian Mascarena: I am representing the owners of 210, the Gallegos family have lived in both houses for many years, we have 4 on the property now, we did not ask for the roads to be Gallegos even though we own the majority of the property, to make it easy for everyone else, we should just keep it with the Aragon name and add something different for the roads, when the petitions were passed out, we did not get anything from this, we are just asking to keep it Aragon something. The difference in the park is that my grandfather took care of this park for the city and the kids in the area, he put a lot of work and that is why it was fair to be named after him, Mr. Rael lived further away from the road itself.

Lawrence Gallegos: My dad was Jose Gallegos, this road has been like this for years, now they want to change it, my family has been there for years, the Luna's owned this land before this, I am not against the neighbors but we want to bring that up now because Aragon has been there forever, they fought me in putting a mobile home, but that is in the past, this is different, Gallegos has been in that land. 911 is always going through there, they can find the place, the know where it is, he can have the other side for Rael if they want it but the current plan will not work, I want something right, the Gallegos always get the shaft, so look at this first before you change it.

Lawrence Rael Jr.: I think we have gotten away from the objective to name the road itself, old history is good but not the main objective, we are not discrediting anyone's history, we are not fighting the name of Gallegos Road, not claiming territory, it just the name of a road that needed a name, simple.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions.

Councilor Gallegos advised that he wanted to disclose that he is a part for the family that has lived there in that area, I think the problems here is that Aragon does fit in the area, but Aragon parkway was not a good fit to Mr. Rael, the problem is that it will offend more people to the left or to the right, I don't know if maybe we could just switch the structure of the name, just flipping the two. The county should not be telling us what to do, and this should have been done by us a long time ago, we do need to agree on something here. Mr. Tomita advised that this was not just a county mandate but is a national mandate. Councilor Gallegos advised that this was unfortunate that this was brought up because originally Aragon Parkway was mentioned by staff, and we really just need more input, something everyone can agree on/

Councilor Carter advised that we could just switch the street names presented, this has been needed for a long time, I do like the names keeping the history of the location, we need this in our area so we do not forget and not just making it something generic, however, I think that we need more information to ensure that these changes will be acceptable, and we are lacking the important information, maybe we can just hold off on this until we receive the needed information itself. This road needs to be named, and once the additional information is received, we can then make a decision.

Councilor Ortega advised we should add Aragon Court to the listing that Mr. Rael has submitted, this can allow for future change or consideration if needed.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to table until more information is gathered. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. 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

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE LEGAL SURVEY AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SALE OF AN ALLEYWAY LOCATED BETWEEN PICARD AVE AND CHAVEZ AVE WEST OF 455 NORTH MAIN STREET.**

Steve Tomita advised the details of the alleyway and presented the resolution to allow staff to move forward with the disposal of the alleyway and acceptance of the survey that has been completed, which can later be used as a plat map. Mr. Tomita also advised that there is some encroachment already, with a private sewer line in the alley for the business, stating that keeping this alley will not be needed by the City, nor will this benefit the public as this is the only stretch left of this alley that has been abandoned in the end, we are planning to split the alley between the property owners. Councilor Carter advised that given the location of the alley there does not appear to be any practical use for this alley. Councilor Ortega wants to ensure that there are no other utilities in the alley, which Mr. Tomita confirmed that there is not. Councilor Gallegos stated that this has been going on for 20 years, and while the property owners have agreed on this in the past, it must be made official for the future, given our move toward growth, we need to consider the effect to business owners ensuring that the sewer line stays on the property of the business it connects to itself. Mr. Tomita advised that the sewer line property will stay with the owners, also, existing easements will be implemented into the final agreement. Councilor Aragon advised that it would be ridiculous to have the current business/property owners have to move what has already been placed in the alley itself, this agreement needs to be completed. Councilor Ortega said we should just give up the alley itself and not charge a fee, as done in the past, we need to make sure the business owner has access to his sewer line. Mr. Tomita advised that we are currently working with our attorney to see in which direction we can proceed.

Rudy Jaramillo advised that he is representing Norbert, and has his business on the property and alleyway in question, he wants to ensure that he has access to his sewer line for his business, especially given that he has maintained it in the past 30 years, he also advised that he has maintained the alleyway itself for many years, keeping his business nice in the area, in the past we were given verbal permission from the city itself to encroach in the alley, plus permits from the city were given for this area.

Mayor Cordova advised that the city has tried to vacate the alley before but it was never completed, all we are doing tonight is giving the City administrative staff permission to move forward with disposal of the alleyway fairly between all property owners.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion. 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

***\*Resolution Number 2018-04\****

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE CHANGE ORDER FOR THE NEW BELEN FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION.**

Leona Vigil advised that there was some soil issues when digging at the location for the new Fire Station, given that this was an emergency situation which could really effect construction, I advised Council that we would need to move forward in the best interest of the city, to limit construction cost, and still maintain our timeline, I authorized this expense, but was assured my John Pate from Molzen-Corbin, stating that adjustments would be made to limit impacts, this is now being brought to Council for official approval. Councilor Gallegos advised that this was the same issue when the library was being built, the soil in that area becomes saturated when disturbed. Councilor Carter wanted to ensure that Molzen-Corbin understands that this Council is not a fan of change orders for projects.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion. 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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Leona Vigil stated two trainers came from Casselle on February 26 thru the 28<sup>th</sup> the training was great, and the water department has taken off while payroll is continuing on which we will be doing internally in July. We had an election training on Thursday, precinct workers seem to be ready to go. Last day to early vote was great, we ended with 380, we sent out 49 absentee ballots, and we are waiting on 3 more, no one was declared to be a challenge or watcher, polls open tomorrow at 7am until 7pm at the library and community center. On March 12 we will have a special organizational meeting, retiring our old council (Sine Die) and swearing in our newly elected officials, we will confirm this after the election.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilor Gallegos stated last couple of weeks have been odd due to election, but business has still been running which I am proud of. We did meet in Santa Fe to fight for Tractor Supply, the State has given us more paperwork to do in preparation for this, I am thankful for the support. We met with Valencia County seniors, everything is running well, and we do have an assessment in Belen coming up. We had some dealing with the parking lot for Belen Railway, but it seems to be moving in the right direction. Make sure you come in and vote tomorrow.

Councilor Aragon stated that she went to Santa Fe for Tractor Supply, I did call the Governor's office and thanked her for the support and help, we had out Mainstreet webinar meeting, and the election is happening tomorrow, so please come vote. I appreciate the 4 years that I have had here, I really have heard a lot of people saying they are happy the way we have done things, appreciate the movement, and people see things happening in Belen.

Councilor Ortega stated we are working on the Veteran Memorial now, it looks good for another \$300,000 to be put into the memorial, thank you to Belen Schools for the portable. Election Day is tomorrow, I want to thank the candidates who are running, everything has been civil, it takes a lot to be out there running, I am thankful to the citizens for the past four years, if they vote me in tomorrow, I will continue to work just as hard.

Councilor Carter stated I attended a training on the 28<sup>th</sup> with the schools hosted by the Belen Police Department, the Police Department and Belen Schools are working hard together, but we do not publicize this to ensure we keep our tactics secret so we do not give any heads up. I thank the Chief for all the support and the efforts of his department, the events on the 22<sup>nd</sup> were handled very professional, the FBI complemented us on our response to this, making national news also, showing that Belen is great in its response to situations. Get out and vote tomorrow, it is your civic duty, this ensures your right to complain.

Mayor Cordova stated that he went to Santa Fe to support Tractor Supply and we have a few more hoops to jump through but we will get there. Our Police Department did a phenomenal job in response to the threats, they stepped up real quick to take control of the situation, thank you Chief for handling this for us. Yes, it is Election Day tomorrow, I want to thank

Councilor Carter and Lenore for running a great race, you kept me on my toes, regardless of how it goes tomorrow, I wish everyone the best.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Ortega 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



---

Jerah Cordova, Mayor



---

Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk