

# BELEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 4, 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, City Clerk.

**PRESENT:** Councilor Frank F. Ortega  
Mayor Pro-Tem David Carter  
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova  
Councilor Ronnie Torres  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Not Present

**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 Ronnie Torres	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 May 21, 2018 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Torres seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

## PUBIC COMMENTS

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

**Dr. Daniel Dieterichs:** I am an optometrist here in town, I wanted to make you aware that we have submitted plans to the city to erect a new building, we are going to remove the brick building at 851 W. Castillo, current building is 1200 sq. ft., the new building will sit on the foot print but will be about 4400 sq. ft., expansion with room for growth into the future, the plans have been approved as of today by planning and zoning, Joshua Sanchez will be our contractor. Councilor Gallegos advised that he asked the Dr. to be here to be familiar with the process and staff to ensure that the timeline is followed, Mayor Cordova advised that if he needed any help with CID to let us know, they can be tough sometimes. Councilor Torres thanked Dr. for reinvesting in Belen and staying here, Dr. Dieterichs advised that the Belen location has been great, and one of the most successful.

Ms. Roberta Thomas: I live on North Eleventh and we are well aware of the flooding that happens because of the rain, it is not the rain water but the runoff water, neighbors and the neighborhood are doing all they can to protect their stuff, we need some help from the city immediately, it is a major concern. My next concern is getting some speed limit signs on North Eleventh between Ross and Aragon Street, there are none, and people fly down the road and because there are kids, we need safety precautions, can you help us? Mayor Cordova advised that we would look into this.

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

## PRESENTATIONS

### **A) ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Mr. Manuel Rodriguez president of the St. Vincent de Paul society, and at the invitation of Councilor Ortega and Gallegos, we would like to present some issues that we are having in meeting our mission of making the community a better place to live, helping the needy with resources to succeed, in the past the Council has helped and we are asking this again. Ms. Janell Chavez advised that we have a lot of people come in for shelter, Belen does not have shelter so we help them with hotel rooms but we can no longer afford this, we instead are looking to send people to Albuquerque shelters. The problem is the metro has not worked with us to get us tickets for the people that need it, if you could help us get them transportation though the rail runner and the metro bus system, we need your help getting passes that are open to different dates, we would like you to also offer Eagle Park for showers for the needy at no cost. Ms. Liz Schmitz advised that we need to you to contact the metro for us to get these passes, I have spoken with staff but need help to get this done, we need open date passes for the rail runner and bus passes good for 30 days without the required 24 hour notice so that people can get to and from work until they get their paychecks and settled, I want to make sure we follow up on this. Mr. Dennis Mummer would like to partner with the city to help, this will ensure we get a steady stream of help, we have provided \$67,000 of help to the people in the year, we are looking at a number of helping around 5-12 people at a time. The Council advised that the city will do what it can to follow up on these requests, it can be hard to fund these request on the city side given the size and budget of the city itself, but we can use the city to reach out to the metro divisions to see what can be done for the people.

### **B) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/P&Z DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented a slide show giving updates on the economic development happening in Belen and how the Planning and Zoning Department has been handling this growth. The slides to this slideshow have been made a part of these minutes and are attached for the record.

## DISCUSSION

### **A) VIVIAN FIELDS CHANGE ORDER CREDIT**

Mr. Chris Chavez gave the Council some information on the change order that was originally requested for the relocation of a water line at Vivian Fields, he also stated that he had received the wrong information from Molzen-Corbin, all of the changes were authorized by Molzen, and the costs presented are legitimate and itemized. The water line itself was fixed because Ralph Jaramillo advised that it needed to be done, the leak needed to be fixed but the city could not handle it at the time, so this was completed by the contractor after a proposal was submitted, and since we did not hear back the subcontractor did the work, and I dispute the information that Dale Tafoya presented at the last meeting because there are not itemized costs associated with this low estimate. I put up the fence to accommodate the people, I could not use the old fencing safely so this was done. The job is complete, Little League is using the park now and are happy, I am asking that the Council reconsider their amount of the change order presented at the last meeting and instead approve all changes. Councilor Gallegos advised that he was concerned with the communication, showing that the change order presented is labeled as the fire station, which could be why there is confusions, he was disappointed in the project management of this and is concerned that this is what has caused the issues of the change order itself. Councilor Carter advised that the difference we are talking about is \$873.62, while Councilor Ortega advised that only two changes orders were presented at the meeting and two were removed prior to being presented. The Mayor advised that action could not be taken tonight but this could be added for action at a later meeting if the Council desires.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2018-2019 LODGERS TAX BUDGET**

Ms. Rhona Espinoza presented the lodgers tax budget for the upcoming fiscal year, showing that the committee has approved this budget and is now requesting approval from the Council. Councilor Gallegos was concerned that we always try to squeeze every penny out of this fund, but have trouble collecting the fund itself, he was also concerned with the committee make-up itself, wanting to ensure that everyone was present and agreed upon this budget, and to ensure that anti-donation parade costs were addressed. Ms. Espinoza advised that the board met today, and many members were present, also advising that Roseann Peralta and Councilor Torres represent the City as informational members, this was discussed and given the better number from Roseann, we were able to up some of the fund and distribute the money correctly, we have also implemented some deadlines to ensure money is collected better and we are considering all functions in the city for funding, allowing for everyone to have a chance at putting in an application for funding. Ms. Espinoza is also requesting that the Mayor write a letter to BNSF for further funding because of the lack of funding we are receiving in the tax due to the extended stays that they are utilizing in the current hotels and areas. Councilor Carter advised that he was concerned that the budget presented and the city ledger did not match, Ms. Roseann Peralta advised that there were some adjustments but the budget presented is correct, and we can just update the ledger to reflect these changes once the budget itself has been approved.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to approve the proposed budget and fix the city ledger. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MOU**

Ms. Cheryl Estill of the Friends of the Library and Ms. Julie Sanchez, Library Director, presented this MOU to the Council for consideration, making the functions of the library and the friends of the library defined in what can be done and how they will respectfully serve one another.

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

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Brian McBain stated: Open burn ban has been initiated within city limits per the Fire Chief no permits issued and past permits have been revoked, music fest went well, 1200-1500 people total for the weekend, did get feedback on how to improve next year. Fourth of July event will start advertising tomorrow, will be held June 30<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 10 pm. Summer Rec did start today and will go until June 22, there are 13 employees with 130 kids this year. Flooding issues did occur, spoke with Tommy on Sunday and he was working with Ralph, crews were out doing what they could to ease flooding, the Fire Department was also out checking the streets, Tommy has already pumped out about 28,700 gallons, working on Barboa, Christopher, West Castillo, De Soto, Washington, 7<sup>th</sup> and Gilbert, Aragon Trailer Park, and Aragon Rd. Saturday there was a police officer involved car accident, both parties are ok, this is being investigated and procedures are being followed. Concession stand is open at Vivian Field, we are working on water meters, and we are getting a lot of readings in, now we are working on the Caselle billing issues, but we are addressing these issues. The electricity quote has been turned into the state for approval on the VA Memorial. All the flags should be in by Friday for this also, and Leona will be back Wednesday.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilor Gallegos stated:** Memorial Day was great, thanked Representative Armstrong for donating flags for our event. Music Fest was a little different, no carnival but it was nice and hopefully will go better next year. Monsoon season is here again, we need to be prepared, there is a water shed problem, the high-line did break down south sue to a natural arroyo in that area, we are working on drainage master plan and more ponds, we are hoping that the Councilors going to Washington DC will get some funding for this.

**Councilor Carter stated:** School is out for summer so the kids will be all over town during the day, be careful driving out there. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> attended the quarterly meeting on Celebrate Belen, still having trouble casting for Follow the Star, we are out of actors and singers for the production, still need to build the village. Took some video of Rio Aragon, always concerned about the run off on Aragon and the high line that breaks, the ditch helped this time.

**Councilor Ortega stated:** Attended memorial service and Col. Chavez was the main speaker, introduced the VA Memorial and the event was real nice. Attended a meeting today with the art club to discuss the murals they are working on for the portable, I did get an e-mail from State Representative Armstrong, I asked her for a tank to place at the memorial, I got paper work to fill out to try and get this done, I gave this to Brian but I am not sure he will go for this. RFP for electrical work has been completed for the flag pole light, portable and shed, they are also hooking up water and sewer for the portable as well.

**Councilor Torres stated:** I had a concerned citizen about street light and I explained we are talking to PNM about this, I want to thank Roseann, and she gave us great information at the lodger's tax committee meeting. We also met with Roseann about the Airport, she provided great information about this. The relay for life that we had with the festival was a great success. The art league is very excited to work on the Memorial with Councilor Ortega, also want to give kudos to EMT's, they have great response.

**Mayor Cordova stated:** 22<sup>nd</sup> had a meeting with Valencia County Missing Persons which is a local organization that has been working on missing person issues in the area, they wanted more information from the police but informed them that BPD would release what they felt appropriate, but we are working with them. That same day I had a second meeting called Project Flight, still working on getting this business into our airport. I had a neighborhood watch meeting in my neighborhood that evening, and of course we had that burglary around that same time in our area, great story in the newspaper about the outcome of that. Attended a forum with Sheriff Candidates on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, very interesting, but tomorrow is the chance to vote, so I encourage the public to get out and vote. On the 24<sup>th</sup> had a historic properties meeting, first of the board, they will again meet this month at the Harvey House. On the 31<sup>st</sup> had a Belen Mainstreet breakfast, discussed the happenings in downtown Belen. On the 1<sup>st</sup> had a conference call with some attorneys that are offering support on our flag issue should be need it, would be pro-bono.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

  
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David Carter, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
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Brian McBain, City Clerk/Treasurer