CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 16, 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 Gallegos 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 2, 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

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 11, 2018 as presented. Councilor Gallegos 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

PUBIC COMMENTS
There was no public comment and this portion of the meeting was closed.

PRESENTATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION FOR THE 2017 BELEN EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM DAY.
Mayor Cordova congratulated the football team, stating that he is proud of what they accomplished, then he read the proclamation to the audience proclaiming, January 17, 2018, "Belen Eagles Football Team Day", and presented the head coach with the certificate. The Council then spoke individually, congratulating the team on their accomplishments and stating that they really brought this City together with their efforts, making this town proud.

B) EMPLOYEE OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2017.
Mayor Pro-Tem Frank F. Ortega read a letter summarizing the accomplishments and awarding Jon Pairett of the Belen Fire Department, the Employee of the 4th Quarter 2017, congratulating him on his award.

C) INFORMATION ON TRAFFIC SIGNAL LOCATED AT 314 & CHAVEZ RD.
Councilor Wayne Gallegos stated that he has been asked by people on Tafoya Rd. to see if they can look into putting a light in this area, there is a lot of traffic and trying to head north at times and defiantly south can be hard on the people living in that area. I want to present this to try and locally support this, maybe meet with NMDOT, or the Legislature so that we can ensure this is getting looked at, I really want to ensure that we address this before something bad happens in that location. Mayor Cordova advised that we have spoken to DOT many times concerning this issue even putting in a MAP and COOP Application, in the past they did not want a light in that location, however, now given the traffic issues they may look at this again and proceed with these types of improvements. The police will be in that area coming up soon to slow people down and ensure people are aware of the importance of obeying traffic signs in that area. Councilor Ortega advised that maybe with the extra money that is being reported from the Legislature, we can get some money for projects like this within the City.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2018 ELECTION PRECINCT BOARD MEMBERS AND TRANSLATORS
Ms. Leona Vigil, Belen City Manager/Clerk, presented the list of names to the Council for approval, stating that 3 workers will preside at 3 separate locations (Belen Recreation Center, Belen Public Library, and Belen City Hall), advising that there are translators at each location, and all members are registered voters within the municipality limits. Ms. Vigil also stated that we did use some city employees because they were interested in participating in the process, and this was granted because there were very few people interested in volunteering for this process, we have exhausted the list provided by the County Clerk. Councilor Ortega advised that he had a conflict of interest with one of the people on this list, which was a past relationship. Ms. Vigil advised that we will strike the presiding judge for early/absentee at City Hall and replace with an alternate, also advising that we will work a bit more on the list itself before the deadline and call a special meeting if we need to get this reapproved by the Council.

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

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPERTY LEASE FOR MR. BIVENS AT THE AIRPORT
Ms. Deborah Abingdon, Belen Airport Director, presented the lease to the Council, showing the area that will be leased and advising the Council that an Appendix A has been added to the lease so that Mr. Bivens can start construction on the hanger, however, if the FAA does not approve the design, Mr. Bivens will be fully responsible for the costs. This lease has been drafted as per the standard lease that has been created in the past for private use of a hanger, also, the lease rate is the same as other properties at the Airport with a standard 20 year term.

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

DISCUSSION

A) MUNICIPAL COURT COMPENSATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Brian McBain presented this draft ordinance to the Council, with changes to the ordinance as required. Mr. McBain advised that we looked at this ordinance because given the upcoming election, we needed to address changes to this ordinance to ensure that we are following our own rules, this will come up for public hearing on February 5, 2018, if passed this will be in effect on February 20th before the election as required to enact. Councilor Ortega asked why this ordinance is coming up now, and would like to see the ordinance on how the Council/Mayor are compensated. Councilor Aragon advised that the current Municipal Judge is requesting a raise in the current rate of compensation of $45,000/year before the election. Ms. Leona Vigil advised that we looked at other municipalities on ordinance structure and compensation and we find that our current Judge is paid the highest given our population size. Councilor Carter advised that if the current Municipal Judge would like a raise, then she should present to the Council as to why a raise is justified. Mayor Cordova agreed that we need to hear from the judge at some point and also advised that elected officials should not get leave, and should indicate what hours of operation are needed to effectively serve the public.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil stated: The Chamber Gala is Saturday, the City has purchased tickets for the Council. VALEO meeting is scheduled for February 6 at the Harvey House, crime will be the main topic of discussion (Mayor Cordova advised that a letter was sent to Mayor Keller in Albuquerque to develop a partnership of crime prevention). The 1st draft of the letter to Los Chavez residents stating the start of Phase 2 has been completed and is being reviewed, we will start the process of creating an RFP for an approved contractor to complete the grinder pump installs, and the ponds have been completed. The contractor has installed about 900 new water meters, we will be reading these meters via radio tomorrow as a test run. Steve is working with our attorney in getting a fair market value for the alleyway at Rutillios, this will allow for fair sale to both parties. The school board has donated a portable to be used as a welcome center/office for the VA Memorial. I signed a purchase offer for the property on 13th St. that was demolished, we will receive $20,000 for this property. I met with AC Disposal to go over the contract and the moving of the recycle center, we discovered that we need to do some work with our permits at NMED because we are exceeding our limits due to the increase in County resident traffic, and they will also be submitting an ops plan for this. Vivian Field groundbreaking will take place on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Absentee voting begins on 1/30/2018 and early voting will start on 2/14/2018, voting will take place in the conference room at City Hall so we will need to watch the traffic of those running being in the building and voting areas. They will start pouring p-gravel in front of the Junior High this week. We have offered the Water Dept. clerk position and they will start next week. Councilor Ortega asked that Leona talk about the DOT meeting and getting off the high risk list. Ms. Vigil advised that we met with NMDOT, working with them to get Belen off the high risk list, they will be doing an audit to ensure that we have a chance at getting off this list. Tomorrow is shut off day and this month we only have 44.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Gallegos stated: For DOT, the attitude has changed a bit and we are starting to work together to make things go in a positive direction, it can be hard when money is asked for from the state, so opening up communication will help in the future. On the meeting with AC Disposal, the permits are needed to ensure that AC is now determined as our contractor, so our permit is good and up to date but we just need to ensure it is updated to reflect the changes and things happening, NMED was very helpful in the process, we will look at the fees being charged for dumping by County residents that can be brought up at a later time. The MLK vigil was great, it was cold but was very successful.

Councilor Aragon stated: We did have our election draw at 5:01 pm Thursday and I was #1 on the ballot. We did have our sidewalk workshop and I attended the MLK ceremony last night, it was cold but great. I did get some complaints on

moving the recycle center, also there is an old trailer on 2nd and Chavez, sent a complaint to Dwayne, it is not skirted and has been there, however, Chief Conner advised that they have gotten all permits, but I am concerned that this is a historic zone and that is what people are concerned about.

Councilor Ortega stated: The Martin Luther King ceremony was great and that you MC Express for always being there donating your time Mr. and Mrs. Green spoke and did a great job, saying that Belen is wonderful. I will be going to the Montanza on January 27th at Eagle Park, please come out and enjoy. The sidewalk workshop was great, we have a good plan to move forward. We did attend a the school Board and they donated a classroom portable so that we can have the Veterans Memorial Information Center on site, the Veterans, myself and Councilors will be working on this to get it cleaned up and remodeled. I will be meeting with the Legislature tomorrow to try and get more funding for the VA Memorial, we will meet with Senator Baca to try and carry our bill.

Councilor Carter stated: Economic Development Meeting took place, the tradeshow is coming up on February 8th at the business center. I attended a community meeting for follow the star, it will be happening this year on December 7th and 8th. I attended a graduation organizational meeting and they will have a few request for the City down the road.

Mayor Cordova stated: I attended the Chamber mix and mingle at the Tome Art Gallery, it was very nice, got to talk about art in the area, including Belen Art League, they still have the art trail going that connects Los Lunas to Tome and then on to Belen, and encourage art tourism.

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 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