

# CITY OF BELEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 20, 2016

6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER** 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/City Clerk.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jerah Cordova  
Councilor Frank Ortega  
Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon  
Councilor David Carter

**ABSENT:** Councilor Wayne Gallegos

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Jerah Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the agenda. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes |

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** May 3, 6, & June 6, 2016

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the minutes dated May 3, 2016. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the minutes dated May 3, 2016 Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion Carries |

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the minutes dated May 6, 2016 Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the minutes dated May 6, 2016. David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |

Councilor Frank Ortega      Yes              Motion Carries

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the minutes dated June 6, 2016. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the minutes dated May 6, 2016. David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter      Yes  
Councilor Darleen Aragon      Yes  
Councilor Frank Ortega      Yes              Motion Carries

**PUBLIC COMMENT 3 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS:**

Nick Blea representing Medical Care Advocates of Valencia County addressed the Mayor and Council. This group is instrumental in advocating for comprehensive health care throughout Valencia County. He provided information about the group, and stated that the group meets every week for lunch. The Mayor, Council and the audience were invited to attend their weekly luncheons. They would like to reach an agreement to end the lawsuit soon. The current contract expires on July 17, 2016, there are three options available: 1. Extend the contract; 2. Cancel the contract for non-performance; or 3. Compromise. If they reach a compromise they are ready to move forward. Mayor Cordova thanked him for the invitation and presentation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**An executive session to discuss pending or threatened litigation regarding the hospital as allowed per the Open Meetings Act; Section, 10-15-1 (H-7).**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter      Yes  
Councilor Darleen Aragon      Yes  
Councilor Frank Ortega      Yes              Motion Carries

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into an open meeting from a closed meeting. Councilor Frank Ortega, so moved. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter      Yes

Councilor Darleen Aragon    Yes  
Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes        Motion Carries

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for attestation that discussion was limited to discussions of pending and threatened litigation referencing the proposed hospital as allowed per the Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1 (H-7).and no action was taken. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter        Yes  
Councilor Darleen Aragon    Yes  
Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes        Motion Carries

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION:**

**Approval or Disapproval of the Zone Change Request on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Reinken from R-1 to C-1: Steve Tomita, P & Z Director**

Steve Tomita addressed the Mayor and Council. He reported that the property located at 6<sup>th</sup> & Reinken owned by Herman Tabet had been presented to the P&Z on May 31, 2016 requesting a zone change from R-1 to C-1. Mr. Tomita stated that there was support from the community. Mr. Tomita also stated that other property owners are wanting to re-zone their properties. Councilor David Carter commented that the minutes from the P&Z meeting did not specify if the zone change had been approved. Mr. Tomita assured him that it had been approved, by unanimous vote. Minutes will be amended to reflect the approval of this zone change. Mayor Cordova asked for confirmation that public hearings had been held, and that they had not received any negative responses, Mr. Tomita confirmed. Discussion was held, Mayor and Council agreed that this was an appropriate zoning for this parcel. Mr. Tomita thanked the board.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the Zone Change. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the zone change. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter        Yes  
Councilor Darleen Aragon    Yes  
Councilor Frank Ortega        Yes        Motion Carries

**Approval or Disapproval of the City Manager Employment Contract: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova commented that the City Council is responsible for approving the employment contract for the City Manager. He stated that negotiations had taken place and that the City Managers' salary had been previously discussed and approved. Councilor David Carter asked Ms. Vigil, City Manager if she had been present during the negotiations. She replied "yes". Discussion was held. Mayor Cordova reiterated that all "appointed position contracts" will specify that appointed personnel must report to work a minimum of 40 hours a week.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the City Manager's Contract. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the contract as presented. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Leona Vigil thanked the board. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion Carries |

**Approval or Disapproval of the P & Z Commission Nominee: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Jerah Cordova regretfully informed the Council that he had not been able to lock in a nominee. He stated the he had reached out to a few individuals but they declined. He will continue working on this and should have a nominee shortly.

**Approval or Disapproval of the Lodger's Tax Board Member Nomination: Jerah Cordova, Mayor**

Mayor Cordova explained with Ronnie Torres leaving the City, he also left a void in the Lodger's Tax Board. He stated that he had reached out to the Valencia County Fair Board. They recommended Fair Board President, Lincoln Hill. This appointment will serve two fold. It will fill the existing vacancy in the Lodger's Tax Board plus it will strengthen ties between the City of Belen and the Valencia County Fair Board. Discussions were held.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the nomination. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the appointment. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

|                          |     |                |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes |                |
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes | Motion Carries |

## **DISCUSSION**

### **City of Belen Flag Proposal: Councilor Frank Ortega**

Mayor Cordova reported that approximately 10 years ago a Belen Flag had been created. Leona found that flag and introduced it to the Mayor and Council. Councilor Ortega expressed his desire to create an official flag. Three designs were presented for review. Discussion was held. Positive points were discussed regarding each design. Councilor Aragon mentioned that the Building Blocks Grant was being prepared and one of the flags would correspond with their goal. Councilor Ortega stated that these new flags had been drafted with the intent of avoiding controversy. In the past there was issues with the Zia symbol and the Nativity Scene. The new design embodies the State of New Mexico, and the City of Belen's heritage. Even though it was not an action item, discussion was held, a design was selected, and the City Manager was directed to research the situation, and provide a resolution or proclamation as needed to adopt the flag. Once approved flags will be placed at all the City Buildings.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager, Leona Vigil reported: On June 9, 2016 a Department Head meeting was held followed by a Director's meeting. Each Department head presented an update regarding ongoing or upcoming projects. The Directors were tasked with creating a 3 yr. Strategic Plan. Follow up meetings will be forthcoming.

She reported that a new Airport Manager had been selected. Her name is Debra Arlington, she currently resides in Roswell. She said that once Lorenzo Carrillo, HR Director returns from vacation, the paperwork will be processed and she will begin working.

LaShea Latasha was selected as the Executive Administrative City Clerk. She will start on July 11, 2016.

Scott Conner the Police Chief is scheduled to report to work on Friday July 1, 2016.

Hermann Madrid was selected to fill the Community Maintenance Director. He will oversee Parks, Streets and Solid Waste.

She stated that personnel from the Air Force has been very difficult to contact. She was recently instructed that if contact was not made in the near future the appropriated funding would run out. She stated that she has made several unsuccessful attempts to contact them via telephone and email. She will continue to attempt to make contact.

She reported that on June 16<sup>th</sup> she and Councilor Wayne Gallegos met with the Assistant County Manager to review the 911 MOA.

She mentioned that she and Mayor Cordova are working on amending the water rates, shut off and tampering fees, and repayment agreements. She is researching the possibility of working with the court system on the tampering with City Property cases.

She is also researching amending the Vacant Building Ordinance to allow for charging owners by the square footage instead of a flat rate as currently in place.

She and Councilor Frank Ortega met with the Belen Schools regarding the Dennis Chavez Sewer Line Extension project. Everything is progressing smoothly, Ribbon Cutting is tentatively set for Sept. 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

She thanked Councilor Frank Ortega for helping out by supervising the Summer Youth Employees.

Finance Department has posted two vacant positions: Payroll Benefits & Finance Specialist

## **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL**

### **Councilor Darleen Aragon reported:**

She attended an Economic Development meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> she mentioned that the board is trying to enforce the importance of board members attending the meetings. Because this group is in its infancy, there is more work to be done and attendance is critical.

She in conjunction with Belen Main Street Project are working on the Building Blocks Grants. They are wanting to incorporate the stairway, the acequia, and the walkway under the bridge to generate more interest in that area. They are planning on placing “Way-Finder” banners leading to the Harvey House and the Historic District.

She and Councilor Wayne Gallegos helped serve breakfast at the Belen Senior Center for Father’s Day. She said it was very hectic. There were lots of participants and only 5 servers.

She met with staff from the Harvey House. Their big concern is the “Bugg Lights”. She assured them that she would do all that she can to ensure that “the show must go on.” They talked about sharing some of the decorations with Ana Becker Park, however, the majority of the decorations will remain at the Harvey House.

She also discussed the need for donations for the museum. They are in need of memorabilia from the 1930’s and 1940’s. They need items like old iron beds, trunks, etc. They want to set up one room to resemble the house mother’s quarters and one to resemble a Harvey Girls rooms. She suggested running a story or an ad in the News Bulletin asking for donations. Mayor Cordova commented that several people have items that they might want to donate, we just need to get the word out,” if we ask, we will receive.”

**Councilor Frank Ortega reported:**

He and Leona Vigil attended the meeting with the Belen Schools regarding the DCE sewer line. He said everything is moving in the right direction. He will be meeting with Molzen Corbin to start working on the Ground Breaking details. He wants all the State Representatives that were instrumental in securing the funding to be invited.

He stated that he, Eric Greene, Jim Rendi and Steve Tomita had been working on the Veteran’s Memorial. The \$1,500 for the scope of work has already been approved and he is anxious to move forward. A Ground Breaking will be forthcoming.

He mentioned that the water fountain at the Ana Becker Park was inoperable and he would like it repaired.

**Councilor David Carter reported:**

He attended a meeting with the “Follow The Star” committee. It looks like this years event will be bigger and better.

He also attended the DCE Sewer line meeting, he felt it was very productive. He is awaiting the breakdown from Molzen Corbin to show what each entity will be responsible for paying.

**Mayor Jerah Cordova reported:**

He attended a Legislative Dinner on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Fat Sats. Also in attendance were Alonzo Baldonado and Kelly Fajardo.

He had a constituent meeting on Saturday June 18, 2016.

June 20<sup>th</sup> he met with Economic Development regarding Camino Del Llano. He felt the meeting went well.

Also on June 20<sup>th</sup> he, City Manager Leona Vigil and City Attorney Renee Barela-Gutierrez signed the necessary documents for the GO Bonds to be processed. Money from the GO Bonds will be available July 20, 2016 allowing us to move forward on the new fire station and the sidewalks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular City Council Meeting. Councilor David Carter motioned to adjourn. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Councilor Frank Ortega   | Yes |                |
| Councilor David Carter   | Yes |                |
| Councilor Darleen Aragon | Yes | Motion Carries |

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Jerah Cordova, Mayor

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Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC



