

CITY OF BELEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 5, 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
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

CITY MANAGER/ CLERK Leona Vigil, CMC

REPORTER Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

OTHERS: See attached sign in sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jerah Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Jerah Cordova stated that he would like to make 2 amendments to the agenda. Items #8 (Discussion with Possible Actions) and #9 (Executive Session) will be switched around, and he would like to strike item #10c (Memorial Ideas for Distinguished Volunteers.) This issue has been previously discussed and there is nothing new to report. These changes will allow for Robert Uecker’s reception to take place while Mayor and Council are in Executive Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor David Carter motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 16, 2016 and June 20, 2016.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the minutes dated May 16, 2016 and June 20, 2016. Councilor David Carter stated that he had not received the minutes; therefore, he made a motion to table the minutes until Council had an opportunity to review them. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT 3 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS:

There was no public Comment

PRESENTATIONS:

Robert Uecker Proclamation: Mayor Cordova

Mayor Jerah Cordova read a Proclamation, declaring July 5, 2016 Robert Uecker Day. Mr. Uecker was asked to approach the podium. Mayor Cordova presented Mr. Uecker with the proclamation along with a model plane. Robert Uecker thanked the Mayor and Council for their appreciation and support. Councilor Wayne Gallegos thanked Mr. Uecker for all the hard work and planning that had gone into the airport. He mentioned that he worked very hard with Senator Sanchez and the State to get things done. He mentioned that the “2016 Airport of the Year Award” was truly deserved. David Carter thanked Mr. Uecker for his many years of hard work; he acknowledged that all his efforts really showed. Councilor Darleen Aragon thanked Mr. Uecker for the wonderful job he had done. She stated that he had taken the airport from a landing strip to what it is today. She wished him well. Councilor Frank Ortega stated that Mr. Uecker was leaving behind “some big shoes to fill”. He complimented him on all of his accomplishments, and thanked him and expressed appreciation for all the hard work. Mayor Cordova also thanked Mr. Uecker for all of his hard work. He stated “I can’t say enough, all your hard work, your great work ethics, all the positive feedback, Mr. Uecker; you brought the future to the airport.” He reiterated that he leaves behind a legacy and said “I hope you recognize and understand the importance of what you have done for the city of Belen.” Mayor Cordova asked Councilor Wayne Gallegos to read the inscription on the plane. It read ‘Leaving behind a legacy of growth inspiration and hope for the city of Belen’. City Manager, Leona Vigil, commented that it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Uecker. She considered him a co-worker, friend and a comedian. When she was having a bad day Mr. Uecker would say or do something to make her laugh. Her favorite slogan for him was “Leave it to

Uecker”. His work ethics were commendable, his dedication to the City of Belen and to the airport were quite impressive. She thanked him for doing an awesome job. Several members of the audience spoke on Mr. Uecker’s attributes, his knowledge, his work ethics, his hard work and all the improvements that came about during his tenure. Mr. Uecker introduced several members of the audience. He mentioned that he had a lot of support from the City of Belen and the airport community. He said “I did not do this on my own, I drove the bus, but there were many people behind me.” He thanked everyone, with a special mention to Sylvia for supporting and believing in him. He thanked Senator Michael Sanchez and commented that the first time he had gone to the Legislature was with Senator Sanchez, he was amazed to see Senator Sanchez work and get things done. Mayor Cordova again thanked Mr. Uecker for all his hard work.

Leona Vigil, City Manager took an opportunity to recognize two women that she had recently been in contact with regarding the airport. She commented that Tammy Wiggins and Vickie Husbands had provided several hours of volunteer work at the Airport. She was impressed as to how tight knit the aviation community is. These two ladies, their families, and their businesses took charge and accommodated the firefighters during the recent Dog Head fire. They went above and beyond in volunteering and taking care of the airport. Tammy Wiggins was in attendance. She was asked to approach the podium. Ms. Vigil read a Certificate of Appreciation and presented it to Ms. Wiggins. She mentioned that she would deliver the Certificate to Vickie Husbands in the next few days. Mayor Cordova and the governing body thanked Ms. Wiggins for all her hard work. They thanked Ms. Vigil for the acknowledgement.

Mayor Cordova reminded the audience that there were two more presentations and then the reception would follow.

Recreation Department Update: Brenda Gurule, Recreation Director

Ms. Gurule addressed the Mayor and Council. She reported that the “All American Celebration” held on July 2nd was a big success. She stated that it takes a lot of collaboration between several Departments to get this event done. She thanked the Fire Department, and stated that they light the fireworks. She said she had eleven vendors, 2 of them cancelled at the last minute. The event was well attended. The food vendors ran out of food. She thanked Councilor Gallegos for being the DJ and the Master of Ceremonies. She thanked Frank Ortega for helping her negotiate the cost of the band. She stated that Denise Kern had taken lots of pictures, and that she had emailed some to the Mayor and Council.

She reported that the Community Center is extremely busy. The building is rented on a regular basis. She reported a very busy graduation season. Youth basketball was cancelled due to low enrollment the Spring League is still planned.

She asked the Mayor and Council if they had any questions or if there was any specific information that they were interested in.

Councilor David Carter asked about the Board meetings. Ms. Gurule stated that she was planning on starting them up again in the fall. She mentioned that it's hard to hold meetings in the summer months because most of the board members are involved in YAFL and Little League and other sports. But she said that fall is a better time to try to meet.

She reported that she had a new employee, Chris Sanchez. His hire puts her department at three full time employees.

She also stated that the Summer Recreation Program had low registration numbers. She felt that the Summer School Program and the "Around the World" program offered by the schools for a \$10.00 fee really affected her enrollment numbers. She is anticipating higher numbers for the second session. She stated that the program is a good quality program. It operates four days a week and four hours a day. She has received a lot of positive feedback. She thanked Councilor David Carter for helping with transportation for the field trips.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos thanked her for all her hard work. He asked her if she was utilizing volunteers. She replied that she has two wonderful volunteers on a daily basis and utilizes volunteers for the big events. Councilor Gallegos mentioned that the building is holding up pretty good. He acknowledged that it get used a lot. Ms. Gurule stated that they serve a couple of hundred people on a daily basis. Councilor Gallegos thanked her for the extra effort she provides to the special needs population. He commented that the special needs dances are so important and very well attended. They are held the 3rd Friday of every month. Ms. Gurule stated that she had held an Easter Egg Hunt for the special needs population. She stated that Wal-Mart has made a very generous donation several years ago, so she had a lot of prizes. She said the weather was terrible so the event had to be held indoors. The event was amazing. She is planning on making it an annual event and limiting it to the special needs community. Councilor Frank Ortega also thanked her for all her hard work. He mentioned that the All American Celebration had been very well attended. He thanked Scott Conner, Police Chief for attending the event and for serving as a judge for the National Anthem Singing Competition, and also for entering his car in the car show. Ms. Gurule stated that attendance at the 4th of July event is affected by the holiday falling during a

weekend. More people go out of town. But she was pleased with the event. She stated that the horseshoe tournament is always a favorite; she had quite a few participants. She also reported that the fireworks were great; again she thanked Manny Garcia and the Fire Department. Councilor Ortega thanked the police department for the great efforts with traffic control. He thanked Councilor Wayne Gallegos for always helping out at this event. He also complimented Robert Lucero, stating that he had done a great job keeping the park clean and manicured. He stated that staff did a great job keeping the trash under control. He thanked Ms. Gurule for doing a great job Ms. Gurule thanked the Mayor and Council for all their support, she presented them with t-shirts. Councilor Darleen Aragon thanked her for all her hard work. Mayor Cordova also thanked her for doing a great job

Proposed VA Memorial Schematic: Steve Tomita, P & Z Director

Local architect Jim Rende addressed the Mayor and Council. He started that Steve Tomita had invited him to make a presentation of the proposed Veteran's Memorial. He had prepared a 3-D animated presentation, but due to a computer glitch he was forced to present a power point version. He stated that he would set up his lap top and attempt to run the full presentation. Mr. Rende thanked Eric Green for giving this project birth. He stated that Eric was so clear as to what he wanted that Mr. Rende was able to develop the concept. He stated that the public will experience it on so many different levels. He described the significance of several elements that the monument will incorporate; such as 5 walls representing each branch of the service, 21 Italian Cypress trees reminiscent of the 21 gun salute. The Memorial needs to reflect the importance, respect and admiration for our veterans. A copy of the presentation will be provided at a later date and will be made an integral part of these minutes by reference. This memorial will be ADA compliant. Councilor Wayne Gallegos stated that the presentation was amazing and commented that it would probably have to be completed in phases. Mr. Rende said that it was designed to allow additions, and was expecting it to take 2-3 years for completion. Councilor Gallegos thanked both Jim Rende and Eric Green for all the thought and planning that had already taken place. He also thanked Senator Michael Sanchez for all his efforts with the funding process. Councilor Frank Ortega commented on several of the memories for the veterans and the families. He also thanked Eric Green for the design. He too thanked Senator Michael Sanchez and stated that \$70,000.00 had been appropriated for this project. Senator Michael Sanchez was invited to speak, he thanked the Mayor and Council and Jim Rende and Eric Green, for their commitment to this project. He said that the State of New Mexico was committed to do what it takes to make this memorial a reality. He expressed his heartfelt condolences on the passing of Steve Pena. A close friend, a veteran and an inspiration for this project. He stated that this memorial was a dream come true, he thanked all the veterans for all they have done. Jim Rende stated that the American Legion, VFW, DAV and several area businesses were interested in raising funds, several residents have expressed an interest in purchasing "a brick" as a fund raising effort.. Councilor Darleen Aragon thanked Senator Michael Sanchez, Mr. Green and Mr. Rende. She stated that she really appreciated all they had done to honor

our Vets. Councilor Ortega asked about a “GOFUNDME account. It will be explored. Mayor Cordova thanked everyone for all the hard work and dedication that has gone into this project.

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 Wayne Gallegos so moved. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Everyone was invited to join Robert Uecker and celebrate his retirement.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into an open meeting from a closed meeting. Councilor Frank Ortega, so moved. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	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 Gallegos a so moved. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	Motion Carries

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION:

Approval or Disapproval of the Out of State Travel for Bertha Flores: Bertha Flores, RSVP Director

Bertha Flores addressed the Mayor & Council she provided the itinerary along with a requisition form for “out of state training”. She stated that she will be traveling with the Senior Core Liaison from Sante Fe. She stated that her program continues to grow. She is looking forward to moving to the Belen Business Center. Councilor Wayne Gallegos stated that travel was supported and encouraged through the current State and Federal Grants. He noted that federal dollars had to be used or returned. Councilor David Carter noted that the requisition submitted was missing a GL code. Ms. Flores stated that she would correct it and submit it.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the Out of State Travel. Councilor David Carter motioned to approve the travel. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

Approval or Disapproval of the MOU with Belen Consolidated Schools: Frank Ortega, Councilor

Councilor Frank Ortega stated that he had met with key committee personnel at the Belen Schools, to discuss the MOU. Discussion was held and MOU was approved by the committee. Belen Schools signed their portion; MOU is presented tonight to the Mayor and Council for approval and signature. He stated that he is working closely with Molzen Corbin to schedule the ground breaking. This endeavor is a major event for the City of Belen. “The project is on its way to becoming a reality.” Councilor Ortega stated that once Mayor and Council approve and sign this MOU a fully executed copy will be sent to the Belen Schools. Mayor Cordova asked for clarification regarding the plan for 60 stub outs to be available to residents and businesses along the route. Councilor Ortega stated that a letters explaining the process and the costs will be generated and mailed out to all residents and businesses.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the MOU. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the MOU. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes

Councilor Wayne Gallegos Yes
Councilor Frank Ortega Yes Motion Carries

Proposed amendments to the utility rates and charges to lower the reconnection fees associate with water shut-offs: Leona Vigil, City Manager

City Manager Leona Vigil addressed the Mayor and Council, she stated that there had been quite a few issues with the existing utility rates charges, tampering fees- destruction of city property she and Mayor Cordova were attempting to amend the rates on shut off fees, reconnect fees/re-installation fee. She stated that they were not pleased with meters being pulled. EID stresses the dangers involved in pulling meters. Councilor Gallegos agreed that pulling meters should only be a last resort. Ms. Vigil stated that Alicia Godfrey had reviewed rates in neighboring cities. A spreadsheet was provided. Mayor Cordova stated that citizens are currently struggling to pay their bills and a solution was needed. Mayor Cordova stated that an immediate solution needed to be reached, and a long term solution needed to be studied. He suggested lowering the fees being charged, and setting up a workshop to arrive at a long term solution. He suggested that City Manager Leona Vigil revisit the process being used regarding the “good neighbor fund” that she had developed in the past. He stated that the intent of the program was to help citizens, but there had to be rules in place to ensure that we are helping several citizens and not the same ones. He stated that we are an indigent community a lot of people need help, but rules need to be enforced to avoid abuse. He also stated that this was a very important process that needed to be reviewed and discussed because they would not be able to arrive at an immediate solution; he instructed staff to compile necessary data and to schedule a workshop involving city staff and citizens. He instructed Ms. Vigil to prepare a resolution waiving 4 % increase, and rate schedule. To temporarily reduce the amounts pending the outcome of the workshops to be presented on July 18, 2016. Margarita and Miguel Sanchez, two citizens voiced their concerns regarding issues they are personally experiencing at this time. Mayor Cordova invited Ms. Sanchez to be involved in the upcoming workshop that will be reviewing fees and fines. Leona Vigil stated that she is currently working on several complaints. She will follow up on the Sanchez’ situation and any other residents who are facing the same issues. Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Sanchez for her ideas and input.

Proposed Resolution to install a three-way stop sign on the east side of Aragon Bridge: Frank Ortega, Councilor

Councilor Ortega stated that he had received several complaints from residents regarding uncontrollable speeding. Speed limit signs were posted, but were not effective. The issue of speed humps was discussed, but dismissed, because of the possible danger due to the proximity to the bridge crossing. It was determined

that a 3 way stop would be the best solution. There is currently one on the west side of this bridge, and it appears to be effective. The streets affected by this action would be Tafoya, Aragon and Aragon Bridge. Mayor Cordova questioned if there should be a stop sign be close to railroad tracks. Councilor Ortega felt that it was far enough from the railroad tracks that it should not be an issue. It will be reviewed. Mayor Cordova stated that the governing body has authorization to proceed administratively. Leona Vigil; City Manager commented that she would prefer to present a resolution which will provide an archive. She said she would be more comfortable having a record on file. Mayor and Council agreed that this was a much better practice.

Mayor Jerah Cordova requested that the resolution be presented at the July 18, 2016 Council meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leona Vigil City Manager reported:

She and the City Attorney Renee Barela Gutierrez met with Mike Provine from Molzen Corbin and Jane Lucero regarding the Air Force Joint Use Agreement, they discussed the JUA in detail. They reviewed Cost Worksheets. Renee Barela-Gutierrez, City Attorney is reviewing the document.

She met with the 911 Board; the budget was approved without counting future GRT

She and Councilor Wayne Gallegos met with Waste Management and discussed the need for an audit on trash containers.

She met with Brenda Gurule, Parks and Rec to discuss the "All American Celebration".

She met with La Viva to review in kind services for their upcoming event.

She met with Airport Manager, Deborah Albingdon, and with Police Chief, Scott Conner

She stated that she had requested HR Director Lorenzo Carrillo introduce new hires at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Cordova asked about the Transfer Station Contract. Issues were discussed and the problem has been resolved.

COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Frank Ortega reported:

He met with the Belen Schools regarding the DCE MOU. He was pleased with the meeting.

He has been supervising the Belen Beautification-Summer Youth Program. They did work at the Harvey House, Library and the Airport. He was very pleased with the project.

He has been helping out at the airport by mowing the grass, cutting weeds, and general clean up.

Councilor Darleen Aragon reported:

She had met with Rhona Baca regarding the Way Finder flags.

She met with Michael Hendly- from Socorro Tech

She met some people from Oklahoma City who were looking at property. They stated they were familiar with the City of Belen because of the controversy surrounding the Nativity.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos reported:

He met with the 911 to discuss the MOA and the GRT issues.

June 24 he participated in the RSVP Senior Pool Tournament.

June 28 the RSVP Program held a dance to honor the Veteran's.

June 29 he met with RSVP regarding the Park.

June 30 he met with Waste Management Transfer Station and reviewed the Contract. He was confident that the issue was resolved.

June 30th he met with Gloria Sanchez regarding the 911 Event

July 2nd he was the Master of Ceremonies at the All American Celebration, which included a music fest, fireworks, car show, horse shoe tournament, several kids' activities. He was pleased to report that all went well.

Councilor David Carter reported:

June 22, he met with the Master Plan Group regarding Vivian Fields discussed ADA accessibility, he stated that at this time the fence is not a priority, but the area will be secured. He also stated that the Snack Shack will go up next. .

June 23 he met with Economic Development nobody showed up. (Meeting was not scheduled)

He and Frank Ortega met with the Belen Schools regarding the DCE Sewer line extension. He would like to schedule an informal community meeting at the Dennis Chavez Elementary School Gym, just to keep the residents informed of upcoming events.

He stated that he needed his trash can replaced.

Mayor Jerah Cordova reported:

June 28th he met with the hospital board which included representation from the Village of Los Lunas, and members from Valencia County Administration.

June 28 he attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting regarding contracts & funding sources.

June 30th he met with Gloria Sanchez regarding the National Guard, Chief Manny Garcia was also in attendance. He stated that it was a very good meeting

July 1st he participated in a Mayor's conference call

July 4th weekend was great; the July 2nd event was wonderful. He mentioned that there had been several fireworks going off around town.

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:

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

Jerah Cordova, Mayor

Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC

