

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 7, 2016

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 Leona Vigil, City Manager.

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

ABSENT: Councilor Wayne Gallegos

CITY MANAGER: Leona Vigil

DEPUTY CITY CLERK: Charlotte Jaramillo

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 asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Ortega motions. Second from Councilor Carter.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the October 5, 2016 minutes Councilor Ortega motioned to approve the October 5, 2016 minutes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the October 13, 2016 minutes Councilor Ortega motioned to approve the October 13, 2016 minutes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Carter seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Abstain (Not Present at Meeting)	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the October 17, 2016 minutes Councilor Ortega motioned to approve the October 17, 2016 minutes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Abstain	Motioned Carried

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the October 25, 2016 minutes Councilor Ortega motioned to approve the October 25, 2016 minutes. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Abstain	Motioned Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Richard Sanchez: City of Belen, Streets, Parks, Solid Waste Water, Council, Police, doing a good job, Police needs a little work. Fire Department is honest, they care about their jobs, they are there right away, friendly, especially their Chief. Keep your employees happy! God Bless.

Mr. Kim Blum: Sunrise Bluffs resident concerned regarding traffic control on the entrance on the Frontage road. Several near misses, accident a couple of weeks ago. Requesting stop signs in that area, cars speeding, can't see because of the weeds.

Mayor Cordova responded that the Chief has to do an analysis to find out what is appropriate, has to be a certain distance, etc. then we can move forward with that.

Frank De Planche: Sunrise Bluffs resident weeds on front side of frontage road where road was repaired is nice and clear. I had to come to the City three times to get the West side cleared up, never happened, so I cut them myself. But they have regrown again. I couldn't see the cars coming around the corner, and I couldn't see them, I totaled my car in a wreck, \$14,000 damage. I am requesting the weeds cleaned up and installing the stop signs put up before one of us are killed coming out of there.

Mr. Mike Moreno: Thanks for City help with flooding on 7th and Gilbert. Good response. Acknowledge City employee that is cutting weeds on Becker and Main St. he is amazing. He really cares about cleaning the streets. I put a letter in the paper about Economic Development and the loss of 28 business in the past 5 years. Offer up his services as a volunteer take of the liaison part of Steve Tomita's job, to help if possible. Will submit a resume, that part of his job can be put to volunteer work, so he doesn't have to worry about that.

Mr. Jose Gurule: Issue regarding trees on Reinken, Aragon to Camino del Llano, extending over to the road, RV's cannot pass through there. Tree on Reinken by the Cemetary that is extending way over onto Mesa Road.

Mr. Steven Furguson: I was here two weeks ago asking if the Council could send a letter to BNSF about the quiet zone on Jarales Road, and Rio Road. Was there any action, or letter sent? Got information off of the Federal Railroad Administration website, that intersection on Jarales Road has had 5 accidents. To make it a quiet zone, they have to put in a channelization barrier, ½ mile long. Further Railroad information discussed. Submitted a folder of information to City Manager Vigil.

Mayor Cordova responded that staff did put together a letter for BNSF regarding a need for an overpass in that area, the letter was two parts addressing the quiet zone issue that you brought up and the second part was addressing the long term issue of getting an overpass and that has been done. We have not got a response at this point. They do not want to pay for it, tight lipped about it at this point.

Dr. Roland Sanchez: Comment on intersection that is being proposed that will serve Loves, the schools, my office etc. I would like to recommend that the City confer with Traffic engineers in Santa Fe regarding installing stop signs vs. street light

Mr. Randy Gettings: Thank the City for addressing issue on 10th street and Esperanza, thanks to the Police Chief for the action against the crime. Keep up the good work.

PRESENTATION

International Care & Kindness Week Proclamation read by Mayor Cordova, presented to Pilot Club of Belen.

Rhona Espinoza-SW District Governor of Pilot International. Thankful for honoring this week. We have an awesome district and club, always open for new members. (Picture taken)

Employee of the Quarter July-September letter read by Mayor Pro-Tem Aragon, certificate and letter presented to Fire Service Employee Christopher Martinez

Christopher Martinez comments on his career of 6 years, and thanks to the council (Picture taken)

Citizen Crime Concerns, Ronnie Torres

Ronnie asks the audience who has been affected by crime and wishes to extend that everyone present comes in peace to work together with the City and the Police to combat crime. Expresses that he is a strong supporter of the Police Department, that they are over worked and under paid. Community is thankful for the PD's presence in town. I have been broke into five times, home invasion, stolen vehicles, tv's. We are small enough to stop this before it gets worse. Railrunner parking lot, cars being broke into, houses on 5th street, Mesa Road, all over town that people are breaking into. Crooks different now, they use social media, Facebook, buy-sell-trade, they ride around on their bicycles with back packs every day. The community is watching these people, we all watch all the time. Don't buy from the internet, if they don't have a audience to sell to their business will slow down, I don't allow anyone to sell anything at my salon. Almost 100% happy with the Police Department, need more detectives to look for the crooks and our stolen items and would appreciate a phone call back every once in a while. When you don't have enough staff to do things certain areas of their jobs suffer. The only people that can say to give the Police Department is the Council. If there is any extra money in the budget, please consider giving to the PD that should be the #1 priority. A safe community brings in business. Gave ideas to help the community, patrol car with camera, eyes of the community, direct line to the PD, put something in place with P/Z nuisance law for renters that keep getting visited by the PD because of criminal activity. Go after the property owner who only cares about getting rent money, because they keep renting to these criminals and exhausting Police resources on their rental property. Wanted the news to cast positive light on Belen. We need help in our areas. Report suspicious activity at the Police Department. Website started: "Belen NM Community Watch" page on Facebook. We are

here to work together and take our community back. It would be nice to put something in our water bills, who to contact with phone numbers.

Councilor Ortega commented that the non-emergency dispatch number for the Police Department is 505-865-2039.

Paul Baca also addressed the council, saying he too has been the victim of numerous crimes at his businesses, Kicks 66 and A&W and Long John Silvers on South Main Street. Extended thanks and support to the police department and all their efforts with the resources they have available. Crime has no boundaries and relationships have to be formed with other entities around the county to help solve the problem. He also encouraged the council and residents to talk with local legislators and ask them why drug and alcohol abuse programs aren't being funded.

Scott Conner Belen Police Chief thanked both Torres, Baca and the community for their support, as well as the city's administration and council. Charts of the property crime rates in the city over the past 10 years were showing a small increase, about 18 burglaries per month. Even though the amount of burglaries hasn't necessarily increased, the amount of stolen vehicles has. Either way, he said he and the department are implementing several initiatives to work with the community.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 12, the police department will be at the old Baca Auto dealership on South Main Street to provide free VIN (vehicle identification number) etching on vehicles. There will also be free coffee and doughnuts provided by Kicks 66. Neighborhood Watch meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the Belen Community Center. The department has also acquired two LoJack units in which they can track any vehicle with the system that is reported stolen and is working on getting a couple of "bait cars," to help apprehend car thieves plaguing the city.

The Neighborhood Engagement Team is another new initiative the police department has engaged, in which officers will work in four-hour blocks to be proactive to crime in the city rather than reactive. Hope to expand detective division as well, and the new detective will also work on an on-call status for major crimes and large crime scenes and would be responsible to supervise a patrol shift in the event the patrol sergeant is unavailable.

Max Perez from BC Schools thanks everyone, comments on the Truancy issue with the schools, received a grant anti-truancy liaisons working with the district. We have a lot of effort going into keeping kids in school and off the streets. Please call the non-emergency number if you see kids on the streets during school hours, they should be in school. Typically, don't suspend kids for long periods of times, we find places for them within school if we can. Wanted to urge the City to take great care as you develop the truck stop that is coming, intersection changes. Safety for the kids, we have 30 buses every day. Excited for truck stop, good economic development.

Councilor Aragon asked about truancy signs with phone numbers posted around town

Further extensive open discussions were held including safety tips, individual victimization of robberies and comments from several citizens.

1st Quarterly Financial Report. Roseann Peralta

Discussed General Fund Revenues, 22% should be at 25%. GRT's a little low, one month we cleared what we need, other months less than \$10,000 short, holiday season should kick that up. 1st quarter always low on revenues and high on expenses because everyone starts purchasing items and spending money that they have been given for their budgets, revenues are smaller because we haven't received "Small Cities Assistance", "Property Tax" etc. Expenses for the first quarter at 28%. Cash carry over keep things in the black. Capital Projects page 9 discussed. Sidewalk and Fire station bonds received. Expenditures 5.62%. Enterprise funds, revenues 31%, expenditures 31.5% water fund. Solid Waste 26%/expenditures 29%, Waste Water 22% revenues/expenditures 26% huge pay request for the final portion of a project. Cash reserves discussed. Several projects coming up that weren't in original budget and match amounts.

Councilor Carter asked how the revenue budgets were projected. (Revenues budgeted by the year, across the line, equal for each month)

Councilor Ortega requested information regarding water breaks and GRT's monthly reports. (Water breaks always budgeted for)

PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Approval or Disapproval of the Revised Sign Ordinance. Presenter: Steve Tomita

Reflective changes from the workshops, political sign ordinance was revised to be a part of the zoning ordinance, subsequently P/Z amending the zoning ordinance to add in the manufacturing signs, when that was done it threw out the revised political sign ordinance. Re-combed through the entire ordinance to change the size of signs, the manufacturing of signs, and parameters for removal of political signs. P/Z approves the recommended changes and recommends adoption of the revises sign ordinance.

Mayor Cordova extends that the purpose of revision was three fold: 1) Ensure that we restore the political sign portion to enforce against political signs 2) Correct a couple of issues that we see around town of abandoned signs of boarded up buildings to request removal of said frames and poles, 3) Allow taller sign for businesses that are located within a certain distance of the interstate.

Mayor Cordova asked for public comment on the issue, no one objected. Public hearing closed.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the Revised Sign Ordinance. Councilor Ortega motioned to approve the Ordinance. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Carter seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Approval or Disapproval of the Auction listing. Presenter: Ashley Perez

A copy of the listing is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference, mostly from the Police Department. Pictured is the microwave, but it is not listed on the actual list.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the Auction Listing. Councilor Aragon motioned to approve the Ordinance. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Federal Highway Administration STIP Project Selection. Presenter: Steve Tomita

Transportation State/Federal improvement program, application due the 28th of November for the year 2022-2023. Match fund would be the same at 15.5%, limited to rural major collector roads, Roads that qualify- Camino del Llano, Airport, Mesa Rd, Gabaldon, Delgado, Bernard, Baca and 10th Street. Consultants recommend: Extending Aragon West from Mesa Rd on up to I-25, and going under and connecting to the frontage road and also look at extending Mesa Rd

South from Camino del Llano on down to Cannon Road. Recommended by Mr. Cog to submit for a pretty significant road because of all the conditions, oversight, match in fee, reporting etc., make if more worthwhile.

Councilor Ortega questioned about the road project on Mesa all the way under the bridge, will that help take care of the flooding that we have coming down, holding ponds there? That is one of the biggest areas that we have problems with. Would like to address the flooding situations or we will be back to square one.

Mayor Cordova explained that we currently have funding programs from a few years from now that will address Aragon Road from Main St to Mesa Rd. but we don't yet have funding from Mesa, further West, to include drainage funding, ponding etc.

Councilor Carter questioned if we were required to put on the application what specific roads we wanted the funding to go to(yes) How much are we going after, with a 15.5% match(that is why Steve presenting for what we would like to request, needed direction from Council)

Steve to have consultant to determine costs and present resolution at the next meeting and the maximum amount of drainage would be on that application and we would know what we would have to address outside of that

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the Project Selection of Extending Aragon West from Mesa Road and South from Camino del Llano. Councilor Carter motioned to approve the recommended project selections. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

CDBG Grant Project Selection. Presenter: Steve Tomita

Requesting CDBG Grant for planning, comprehensive. Explained CDBG process, a copy of the process is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. All projects to be on the ICIP. State revelation states that if our comprehensive plan is more than five years old, and it is, we have to do it first, we must update it first before anything. Workshop myself and P/Z commission recommend that before any other kind of work is requested is to update the comprehensive plan. We must update that first because we might lose the ability to apply for other grants and get them approved. \$50, 000 under the planning grant, maximum amount to go after, 10% max (\$5500.00). We must be in an area that 51% of the population is classified as moderate to low income, and we do meet that qualification.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval to apply for the CDBG for the Comprehensive Plan. Councilor Ortega motioned to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Approval or Disapproval of the 1st Quarter Budget Adjustment Resolution. Roseann Peralta

One adjustment for a transfer for the Wastewater fund that went in the red because we paid out the last portion of the sludge bed project. Needed to do a transfer from Solid Waste Fund into Wastewater fund, will be able to pay back after October's revenues.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the Budget Adjustments. Councilor Carter motioned to approve the adjustments. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

DISCUSSION

Changing the City of Belen Municipal Ordinance to change the name of the airport. Presenter Jerah Cordova

Mayor wanting to bring before the council, changing the name because 1) we are called Municipal, would like to change name to include Regional to expand our audience for use of the airport facilities. Goal 2) Change the code of the airport from E80 to "BLN" or something comparable to recognize the City (i.e. Albuquerque is ABQ, LAX etc. based on approval from the FAA 3) Change the name from Neil Alexander (Former Mayor helped establish the airport) to Art C Goebel (former Belen Resident, aviator stunt pilot extraordinary in the 1920's etc., airstrip built up on the mesa "Goebel Airfield" just north of the existing airport.) Proposing to formally through the FAA change the name of the airport to Belen Regional Airport, informally The Arthur C Goebel Belen Regional Airport. Mayor Cordova asked for input from the council, ordinance needs to be amended, FAA approval etc..

Councilor Ortega comments that once something is named for someone one, it should stay that way. Suggested Alexander Regional Airport. It would be bad to change it. Should remain the same.

Mayor requesting a proposal to bring before the council and brought back at a later date.

Steve Tomita expresses that it might be important to re-classify the airport as Regional, P/Z been working on land use plans to protect it and properly plan for its development and growth, input on the workshop from the public is envisioning big things, warehousing and office and manufacturing and that Regional vs. Municipal big impact when marketing. Presentation is important.

Deborah expresses that whatever formal name the City decides on the FAA really would prefer that it not include a personal name or private individual, any name that you want after a person really needs to be identified in an informal title.

Traffic Control Regarding Intersection of Camino del Llano and Christopher Road

(Previous comments made by Dr. Roland Sanchez and Max Perez during the Citizen Crime Agenda Item above in favor of a stoplight)

Chris Chavez discussing property bought by Love's across from the News Bulletin here in Belen. I was contacted by Love's real Estate agent in February, met with him and Steve Tomita, recently met with Wayne Gallegos regarding a traffic impact study that was done by Love's Travel Stop. Conclusion reached by the study calls for a four-way stop sign to be installed at the intersection of Camino del Llano and Christopher Road. Christopher Road will now continue South

in front of the Love's Travel Stop. "I am concerned that four-way stop will not be adequate enough to control the additional truck and passenger traffic" Best interests of the Mayor and Council to take another look at this impact study and provide a stop light to regulate the traffic, consensus of myself and others is for the stop light to control safe movement of traffic at this intersection. Stoplights cost \$150, 000, 1% of Love's development cost of this site. It is an investment in this area. Second concern is Christopher Road extending South, plan calls for a two lane, I would hope it would be designed to mirror North Christopher Road with the turning lane, when considering N. Christopher Road was rebuilt three times because it was never built right, I would hope that Council and Mayor would take into consideration of installing the turn lane to ensure safety of all travelers and alleviate congestion. Traffic lights can be regulated by sensors to accept the kind of flow that school busses would be having at certain times of the day. Would request that you make this a public hearing to the citizens of what they want at that intersection, not just one person's input, you would come to a better decision. The impact is to the future, not just for today. Take some action before its finalized.

Max Cordova- Happy project is coming in. More traffic potentially coming down Camino del Llano, hopefully the hospital is still in play, so this will become a highly congested area. 30 buses in the morning and afternoon, I know it will be more of an expense, but possibly to negotiate with them and possibly match some of that fund with them. In favor of the traffic light.

Paul Baca- State HWY did have us put the turn lane in, \$35,000 to me as the developer for safety reasons.

Councilor Ortega- concurs that safety is important, and Police Chief should get involved with traffic safety

Steve Tomita-explains the process, this project is under the jurisdiction of the NM DOT liaison to the Federal Highway Administration, (actually under the jurisdiction of the Federal Highway Administration). Consultant reviewed the study, and their comments were basically that nothing was warranted to be done, but I expressed the bus traffic concern. The written response to Loves was that the City would look at what was appropriate. The City review goes through the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, Planning and John Best, Engineer. Multiple decision. DOT will have the final say based on the impact of a federal highway, they will require de-acceleration lane as they exit the highway. We cannot demand Loves to develop for future impact that they are not creating. Will be several weeks before a decision can be made by DOT.

Mayor Cordova extends that all information should include Chris Chavez so he is aware and understands as well as the citizens and the school district

Councilor Carter asks what the projected truck traffic through that area per day (report given to Councilor)

Jay Peters expresses that everyone wants safety, stop sign is safer than a light, we should look at both options.

Communications from the City Council

City Manager Report: Leona out tomorrow November 8, 2016 working elections

Councilor Ortega: Nothing reported

Councilor Aragon: Handed out the public infrastructure initiative, grant that they are writing for the proposed...(inaudible talking over) issues with the façade.. (further talking inaudible)

Councilor Carter: Nothing to report, motioned to enter Executive

Mayor Cordova: Nothing reported

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session to discuss the ongoing hospital litigation, per the Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1(H-7).

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

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to re-enter into an open meeting from a closed Meeting. Councilor Carter so moved. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

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

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight’s Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Carter motioned to adjourn. Councilor Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motioned Carried

Jerah Cordova, Mayor

Leona Vigil, City Manager, CMC

