

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 4, 2016

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll call taken by Leona Vigil, Interim City Manager/City Clerk.

PRESENT: Councilor Frank Ortega
Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon
Councilor David Carter
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

ABSENT: Mayor Jerah Cordova

**INTERIM
CITY MANAGER/
CITY CLERK:** Leona Vigil, CMC

REPORTER: Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

OTHERS: See attached sign-in sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon pointed out that some changes needed to be made on the agenda. 1.) #8 b was listed as Approval or Disapproval but should have been listed as Discussion with Possible Action. 2.) #5 March 7, 2016 minutes were not available. Council would only be approving March 14, 2016 & March 21, 2016 minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for an approval of the minutes dated March 14, 2016. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the minutes dated March 14, 2016. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for an approval of the minutes dated March 21, 2016. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2016. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Darlene Aragon asked if there was anyone with a public comment.

Ms. Carolyn Houston addressed the Mayor Pro-Tem and Council. She asked if a Police Chief had already been appointed. Mayor Pro-Tem Aragon, stated that an Interim Police Chief had been appointed, and that applications were being accepted until the end of May. Ms. Houston stated that she would like to recommend a Police Chief be selected from out of the Department, "Someone with experience and leadership, someone who has the respect of other officers, and who is considerate of law abiding citizens. She berated the current selection and stated that she hopes the City chooses a more qualified individual.

Dan Darnell, New Mexico Waste Management addressed the Mayor Pro-Tem and council. He provided his business card. He reported that his office is located at 6844 Augusta Hills, Rio Rancho but assured the group that he is the "Local Guy" and would be available to handle any questions, problems or situations that might come up. He commented that he had 30 years of law enforcement, had served 3 terms as City Council, and had recently relocated to Rio Rancho. He said he understood the struggles faced by a municipality.

Charles Eaton, County Commissioner District 4 (Belen, Los Chavez, Tome and Adelino) addressed the Mayor Pro-Tem and Council. He provided a copy of the Anti Annexation Resolution. His main purpose in addressing the group was to ensure that the Dennis Chavez Sewer Line Extension was not going to violate the anti annexation resolution. He mentioned that a public meeting had been held and had been attended by Mayor Jerah Cordova, Councilor Frank Ortega, and Councilor Wayne Gallegos. At that time they had assured the residents of Los Chavez that this project would be only a sewer line extension and not an annexation. Both Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon and Councilman Frank Ortega reassured Mr. Eaton that the City had no intention of annexing Los Chavez. Mr. Eaton was informed that a preliminary meeting would be held on Thursday April 14, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m. in the council chambers, to discuss all of the details relating to the sewer line. Councilor Frank Ortega reassured Mr. Eaton, that there would be public meetings held, and reiterated that the main goal for the sewer extension line was for the health and safety of the children. Mr. Eaton requested that he be invited to attend the meeting on April 14, 2016.

Julie Cervantes, Gene Green and Roger Ward also known as "The Volunteers Extraordinaire", addressed the Mayor Pro-Tem and Council. They discussed all the time and effort that had gone into refurbishing the M-190 Doodle Bug; they commented that this particular train is very rare. They mentioned that Rex Cedrick was working on getting the signals operational, they are coordinating with the Santa Fe Historical Society and will be getting the blue prints to restore the 1967 Pullman. They are planning an Open House on Saturday April 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It will begin with the Presentation of Colors by the Belen High School Jr. ROTC, they will be celebrating the Library's 50th Anniversary, a history of the Railroads and the Harvey House Museum, they will have a "Harvey Girl", book sale, face painting, the Art League will be open, refreshments will be served and they are also considering a contest to name the park where the M-190 Doodle Bug sits. They invited everyone to attend.

PRESENTATIONS

Employee of the Quarter: Darleen Aragon, Mayor Pro-Tem, Called on Julie Cervantes to approach the podium. A letter proclaiming Julie Cervantes as Employee of the Quarter was read. Julie was provided a copy of the letter along with a Certificate of Appreciation. Her name has been added to the "Employee of the Quarter" plaque that hangs in the main lobby at City Hall. A copy of the Employee of the Quarter Letter and Certificate of Appreciation is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Belen Public Library Day: Darleen Aragon, Mayor Pro-Tem read the proclamation declaring April 4, 2016 as Belen Public Library Day. The Proclamation was accepted by Julie Cervantes, Gene & Heide Green, Rex Ceddarck, and other library staff. The Proclamation detailed several facts about the library, the Harvey House, and the M190 Doodle Bug. A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service Proclamation: Darleen Aragon, Mayor Pro-Tem read the proclamation declaring April 5, 2016 as Mayors Day of Recognition for National Services. The Proclamation was accepted by Bertha Flores and Jim Rickie on behalf of the RSVP program. Mrs. Flores provided a spreadsheet showing the number of volunteer hours accumulated at 20 sites, approximately 230 volunteers over a 12 month period for a total of 55,977.95, when that amount is multiplied by the minimum wage rate of \$7.50 it totaled up to a monetary value of \$419,834.62. Councilor Wayne Gallegos also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the people that volunteer within the City of Belen. He mentioned he had served on the board for over 8 years and was inspired by all that the volunteers do for the City of Belen. An RSVP appreciation luncheon will be held on Friday April 15, 2016 @ the Elk's Lodge. A copy of the spreadsheet and proclamation are attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Approval or Disapproval of the Award Recommendation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant; Sludge Bed Addition RFP- Roseann Peralta, Finance Director CPO and Joe Trumm, Engineer
Roseann Peralta and Joe Trumm addressed the council. Discussion was held. Roseann explained that the RFP had been issued in Feb. 2016 with a March 2016 deadline. 3 proposals were submitted. TLC received the highest rating by the evaluation committee. Because it is an RFP and not a bid, it does not need to be awarded to the lowest bidder. She requested that the contract be offered to TLC. Discussion followed. Councilman Wayne Gallegos mentioned that a local contractor had submitted a bid, and requested clarification as to why the committee had not selected the local contractor. Roseann stated that the proposal submitted by the local company did not comply with the requirements as outlined in the RFP. They were not specific regarding the scope of work; several items that were required were not addressed. The selection committee had the purgative of not considering this particular RFP because it was incomplete. They chose to review it, but could not consider it due to all the deficits. They stated that they try to use local vendors but they must comply. Roseann was reminded that change orders were frowned upon. Again she reiterated that by accepting an incomplete RFP the prices were subject to change. Councilor Wayne Gallegos asked if the company had been notified about the rejection and the underlying reasons, Roseann said they had not, but a letter would be sent out in the next few days. Roseann was asked if this project had been budgeted, and she replied that it had, and stated that it was within the budgeted amount. Councilor David Carter noted that the calculations were incorrect. TLC was missing a score, which would have made their calculated score higher. Mr. Trumm apologized for the error and stated that he would correct it and provide the corrected calculation sheets. Counselor Gallegos asked Roseann if she recommended this award, she replied yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for an approval that the RFP be awarded to TLC. Councilor David Carter motioned to approve the award. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE INTERIM POLICE CHIEF COMPENSATION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon:

Discussion was held. Because negotiations had not been held, it was determined that Interim City Manager, Leona Vigil and Interim Police Chief, Robert Miller get together and arrive at an acceptable compensation rate. Interim City Manager was authorized to handle this matter administratively. It was also determined that the pay would be awarded retroactive to April 1, 2016.

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for a motion. Councilor David Carter so moved. Mayor Aragon asked for a second. Councilor Wayne Gallegos, seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

INTERIM CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Leona Vigil addressed the Mayor and Council; she stated that Dale Tafoya, Public Works Director had reported that the he had received approval of the overhead lights for the Main Street Bridge.

She reminded the Council that Interim Police Chief Robert Miller had taken off the week of April 10-15, 2016. He had a prior family commitment.

She stated that the DCE Sewer Extension meeting was scheduled on April 14, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m. to discuss funding, clarify any questions, and reach a general consensus of what was going to take place. Key personnel from Valencia County, Belen Schools, NM DOT, City of Belen, and Molzen Corbin were expected to be present.

She reported that Fire Chief Manny Garcia had reported that they had burned the weeds at the Reinken Overpass. He also stated that they burned the weeds on a vacant lot/private property on 10th & Delgado; which was used as “burn training”. They were not able to contact the owners and because Public Health & Safety was their primary concern, they went ahead with the burn. Councilor David Carter suggested that the owners be identified, and presented with a bill/fee for cleaning up their property. Councilor Wayne Gallegos asked that the fee be researched.

She reported that the debris situation on South Main had been addressed and the residents had requested 30 days to clear it out.

She reported that Dale Tafoya, Public Works Director, had applied for funding for the 2017 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for a sewer project on Campana and Ross.

She stated that a “Dispatch” meeting was scheduled for April 14, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. there will be discussion on increased monthly payments. Because of conflicting schedules Councilor Wayne Gallegos and Roseann Peralta will be attending the “Dispatch” meeting.

Budget hearings are scheduled for the last week of the April.

She stated that she had met with HR Director, Lorenzo Carrillo; he reported that he had received 4 applications for City Manager and 3 applications for Police Chief. Leona reported that they had discussed advertising in major state wide publications, the issue being, that Santa Fe, Las Cruces and the Albuquerque Journal will run

the ad at approximately \$1,200.00. They have instead posted the opening on the New Mexico Municipal League website. The position of Community Development was moved into next year's budget.

She stated that she will be attending the RSVP Luncheon.

A copy of the project update report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilor David Carter: He reported that he had had a very nice Spring Break. He also reported that he had met with an individual who is retired from the BNSF/BLET Union and they are interested in planting trees as memorials for members who have passed away. Councilor Carter asked for suggestions for planting trees. Councilman Wayne Gallegos suggested the Library and RSVP Park on 10th & Ross, Councilor Darleen Aragon suggested Anna Becker Park; she stated that her main concern is the watering of the trees. Councilor Carter mentioned that the details still need to be ironed out. Councilor Wayne Gallegos said we would come up with a more comprehensive plan. All members agreed that it was a good idea. A plan will follow.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: Again complemented the volunteers for all the hard work that they donate to the City of Belen. He thanked Leona Vigil for addressing the Main street zoning issue. He commented that a meeting had been held on March 24, 2016 with personnel from NMDOT (Jill Mosher), Valencia County, Rio Communities, and City Of Belen, they are very informative open door meetings. He stated that meetings are held every quarter. He was pleased to hear that the overhead lights had been approved for the Main Street Bridge, he said that lights had been requested and was surprised to see that "Pedestrian lights" had been placed on the bridge. He said from the freeway they look really pretty, like a rainbow, but they do not meet the intended need. He also expressed concern regarding the de-acceleration lane. He stated that DOT rules call for certain safety criteria and we always abide by them, so he was pleased that DOT is working with the City on our requests. His final comment was regarding the fact that because of the changes in Administration it is very important that all staff, directors, engineers etc work together and include the Finance Department in all projects to ensure that proper steps are being followed.

Councilor Frank Ortega: Discussed sale of properties on Aragon, and options regarding acceptable uses for the monies. One of the properties will become a park with tables, playground equipment, Bar-B-Q grills and trees, it already has lights. Some of the money could be applied to refurbish the old City Hall or Harvey House. He mentioned that the \$70,000 appropriation for the Veterans Memorial @ Eagle Park has been approved, and will be available in July 2016. Public meetings will be scheduled. He stated that he was pleased that their last meeting with DOT was very positive resulting in the acquisition of the overhead lights on Main Street Bridge. He commented that he expected that the Speed humps on Vivian Street would have been completed prior to the baseball season start up. He asked Interim City Manager Leona Vigil to look into it.

Councilor Darleen Aragon: She reported that she had attended an Economic Development meeting on March 24, 2016. She also participated in the Main Street Webinar on March 29, 2016. 70% of all board members are required to participate in the webinars. She also held a Main Street Meeting at the Belen Chamber of Commerce Building. She reported attending the Job Fair hosted by Senator Michael Sanchez, and was impressed by the number of attendees. She also attended a funeral for Mr. Glenn Oliver, a well respected member of the community. She said he was a great man. She was present for the 2016 Little League Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Vivian Fields on April 2, 2016. She said it was wonderful to see all these little 3-4 year olds playing T-Ball. It said it was a great experience. She also mentioned that the Little League Field Lights were operating. She thanked the Valencia County News Bulletin staff or all of the coverage and support that they provide the City of Belen.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular City Council Meeting. Councilor David Carter motioned to adjourn. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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

Darleen Aragon, Mayor Pro-Tem

Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC