



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, November 08, 2021 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Robert Chavez, (virtual) Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Jim Winters
Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, Valencia County New-Bulletin Editor Clara Garcia.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilor Chavez to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes for the City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting Minutes - October 27, 2021

- Motion made by Councilor Chavez to approve the minutes of October 27th, Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the workshop and regular business meeting for October 27, 2021 were approved as written.

Public Comment

- Tommy Westmorland who lives on Godard explained one of his neighbors was out cleaning and asked about the code enforcer resignation and began a discussion.
- Tommy Westland said he looked on how the taxes were paid, explained that after 4 years of not paying them the property could potentially be sold. He then mentioned the Valle Del Sol property, should be declared an EPA disaster with the amount of trash, and noticed the home had new doors and it was locked up and it appears it is going through foreclosure. He was asked about the budgets for the salary on the Code Enforcer & City Manager.
- Municipal Clerk Adair said those salaries were included in the budget.
- Tommy Westland continued the discussion regarding the budgeted money for the City Manager and the Code Enforcer, explained the public is upset with the Planning and Zoning survey, and are wanting to have code enforcement clean up the code enforcer, and he is personally going to look through the lawsuit with AC Disposal and the probates for the problem areas.
- Michael Scales from Nash St. would like to setup a meeting with City Manager would like to have a closed-door meeting regarding some major miscommunications and have not been able to get a meeting and rested to have a closed-door meeting with City Council at their discretion, to present my complaints and findings over the misconduct over the fire department.

- Kuan Tikkun who lives on Maddox said she is coming to the Council to appoint more commissioners for the Economic development, there is one application, would like to see that person and others appointed soon.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained the process of appointing commissioner and asked if there were other applicants.
- Kuan Tikkun explained they are losing a commissioner and are concerned there will no longer be a quorum and continued the discussion.

Manager Report

- Manager Dr. Moore explained we have ordered 70 LED lights for 47 and are working with an electrician to get them installed and explained where the lights will be placed. He then explained the additional work to be done in relation for the electronic sign, boring underneath. we are working on proposal with the engineers for city-wide streetlight plan, working on our grants, three have been completed, three more have been added, and we have requested another quote for additional pothole repair.
- Manager Dr. Moore said talking with our public works director that he has experience with working in code enforcement, abatement of the nuisance property and is working on the paperwork for those, and the goal is to have an updated and possible solution to present to Council at the meeting on 22nd of November.

Commissioner and Board Reports

Economic Development

- Councilor winters said regarding Economic Development, there was a request from someone for the location of the City and he gave them the brochure with a nice map.
- Kuan said you have about 3 - 7 seconds with people, and if we had a large map that people could see where we are, it would help.
- Ralph Mimms explained he will extract some of the information on the brochure and put together an economic brochure that is quick and to the point to show people and continued the discussion.

Planning and Zoning

- See agenda packet

Library Board

- See agenda packet

Department Reports

Municipal Clerk Department

- See agenda packet

Finance Department

- See agenda packet

Public Works Department

- See agenda packet

Municipal Court Department

- See agenda packet

Approval of Accounts Payable

- Motion made by Councilor Chavez for the approval of the accounts payable report for this evening. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

Swearing in Ceremony for the newly elected officials (December 29th)

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected officials will be setup on December 29th at 6:00 pm.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Chavez had no comments.
- Councilor Gutjahr congratulated the winners of the election and thanked all that ran, thanks to the pastor of Abundant Life Church for hosting the public forum for the candidates
- Councilor Winters answered the question regarding the tax structure, VIA is in the process of folding their operation and within a short period of time and began a discussion.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained the County has a process that collecting the back taxes regarding to budgets or salaries if it is not spent it does not get carried over that money sits there but not an additional amount is put into that position. He then explained Economic development is now recruiting and Ralph Mimms is focusing on bringing in business next year.

Adjourn

Councilor Chavez moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Winter. With a 4-vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,

 Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
 (Transcribed by Amy L. Lopez, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

 Mark Gwinn, Mayor

 Joshua Ramsell,
 Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

 Robert Chavez,
 Councilor

 Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
 Councilor

 Jim Winters,
 Councilor