



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, August 28, 2023 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Joshua Ramsell called the regular business meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- PRESENT

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell
Mayor Pro-tem Margaret R. Gutjahr
Councilor Arthur Apodaca
Councilor Lawrence Gordon
Councilor Jimmie Winters

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore
Clerk Elizabeth Adair
Fire Chief Andrew Tabet
Attorney Randy Van Vleck
Press Clara Garcia

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items Minutes for the City Council Workshop, Regular Business Meeting (08/14/23) and Accounts Payable

- Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr to approve the consent agenda as listed on the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the consent agenda.

Swearing in of the Police Chief

- ❖ Mayor Ramsell said we have an historic moment for the City of Rio Communities with the swearing in of our first Police Chief.
- ❖ Judge Chavez swore our new Police Chief Felix Nunez

- ❖ Police Chief Nunez said thirty years ago I started off in Law Enforcement and thought where I will be in 30 years and here, I am in the City of Rio Communities a community that has strived and started to build over the last 10 years. This is your police department, this isn't mine it is yours, and every time I'm in my office I want to get ideas from you and try to blossom those ideas and try to grow those seeds into making this a strong department. I won't be the Chief forever, but I guarantee we are going to make a foundation that is strong and that is going to stick out in all the communities surrounding knowing Rio Communities has a strong public safety we already have a strong Fire Department and make sure we have a strong Police Department. I want to thank you for the opportunity to take this first challenge on. My door is always open, good, or bad, I want to hear your opinion.

Presentation:

Valencia County Business Incubator - Ben Romero

- Mayor Ramsell said that he will postpone the agenda item.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that Ben Romero unfortunately won't be able to make it part of his presentation about Congressman Gabe Vasquez coming but that is going to have to be postponed to a later date.

Public Comment

- Dick Irvine gave our chief a welcome gift and then said it has been 10 years to get a police chief and his 31 years of experience will help us build a Rio Communities police department. Hopefully you will get funding from the City, and I heard you are good at writing grants. I love your quote on one of your biggest concerns is traffic violations and that you are going to hit that right away you are welcome to sit in my back yard.

Manager Report

City Project(s)

- Manager Dr. Moore said I am pleased to report we are showing progress on our grant progress about nest door we are waiting on punch list items to cut them a check and let us move in, having the appropriate security blinds in the windows we also received on of our 3 capital appropriation grants, we did some paperwork right auditors are coming in tomorrow. We are working on standard operating procedures, part of what is changing is our procurement processes. He thinks our Police department will be a good piece, all things are in place, demolition over at the fire department is moving along, already shown there is a lot more room. Work out equipment has already been moved.
- Manager Dr. Moore gave an update on the grants. He said the good news is we are getting grants completed and others are coming in especially the sizes of the grants is important with cash flow. He said if anyone needs to see the projects they can come sit down in my office and see the project board.
- Councilor Apodaca said he would like to personally thank the City Manager for all that you do, you manage a lot here and you are on top of everything and give us updates. So thank you we are lucky to have you.

Resolution 2023 - xx City Procurement Policy Manual

- Mayor Ramsell explained previously we adopted a resolution that was 2020-158 that was stricter with our city's procurement policy with this it will bring us back to State Policy.

- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve Resolution 2023 - 20 City Procurement Policy Manual as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Resolution 2023 – 20 City Procurement Policy Manual was passed, approved, adopted, and signed.

Limited Term Positions - Change Code Enforcer to Fire EMS Code enforcer & Fire EMS

- Manager Dr. Moore explained as a young city grows needs change, particularly with increased numbers of medical emergency transport and fires that are happening we have had an increase. We are not in the position to hire permanent positions we do have codes that need to get enforced as far as our fire and EMS, we have 2 full-time EMT's, the other part of it is we are asking for one of the positions to be fire EMS code enforcer and the other to be fire EMS. It will take a little stress off us on calls with the medical emergency service funds will let us focus on particular cases.
- Councilor Gutjahr said the people involved have been excellent boulders and marbles in the city. Then asked that we would not tax ourselves with the GRT is the funding coming from City or EMS.
- Manager Dr. Moore said this funding is coming out of our limited term funding.
- Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr to approve the limited term position Change Code Enforcer to Fire EMS Code enforcer & Fire EMS Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the limited term employee.

Critical Path on Zip Code Issue

- Manager Dr. Moore went over the critical path worksheet and continued with the discussion.
- Councilor Apodaca said he is glad to see we have a clear-cut path.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she likes the outline.
- Councilor Gordon said the bullet points really help out a lot and gives us options on what we can do.
- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve Dr. Moore critical path for the zip code issue. Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the Critical Path on Zip Code issue.

Change Order to the 10th Anniversary Celebration

- Manager Dr. Moore said there is a planning group going over a plan, we are asking to change the total budget to not exceed \$15,000 instead of \$10,000. My recommendation is to do the change order for \$10,000 to \$15,000.
- Councilor Apodaca said the increase is necessary. We want to have a good celebration for our 10 year it is money well spent.
- Councilor Gutjahr said how exciting it is that there is still a lot of work, but I appreciate the enthusiasm. It is going to be a wonderful event.
- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the change order from an initial amount of \$10,000 to increase not to exceed \$15,000. Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the Change Order for the 10th Anniversary Celebration not to exceed \$10,000 to not to exceed 15,000.

Approval to Proceed with the Design & Construction for Parks and Trails on City Property

- Manager Dr. Moore said we have two grants, one is being partially used in the park in Chamisa we still have other grants, his recommendation and request to move forward with parks and trails on city property.
- Councilor Apodaca said the parks are a big deal for the community, getting the City their 1st park is going to be nice.
- Councilor Winters said because we have had such big problems locating land, I think the smaller parks are our best option.
- Mayor Ramsell said with this we are not giving up on other parks and park properties.
- Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr to approve to Proceed with the Design & Construction for Parks and Trails on City Property. Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council approved the Design & Construction for Parks and Trails on City Property.

Ordinance 2023 - XX - Chapter 10 Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) - 14-day public review

- Manager Dr. Moore thanked legal counsel for working with us and Jill Sweeny, we asked them to come up with an ordinance that incorporated all the upgrades and changes. He further explained the process of application of incentives.
- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve ordinance 2023 – XX Chapter 10 Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) for a 14-day review. Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr

Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council the 14-day review of Ordinance 2023 – Chapter 10 Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) for a 14-day review.

Ordinance 2023 - XX - Chapter 10 Industrial Revenue Bond Policy (IRB) and Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) - 14-day public review

- Manager Dr. Moore said again he appreciates our legal counsel review and Jill Sweeny and then explained the process in place to deal with industrial revenue bond.
Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr to approve Ordinance 2023 - XX - Chapter 10 Industrial Revenue Bond Policy (IRB) and Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) - 14-day public review.
Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council the 14-day review of Ordinance 2023 – Chapter 10 Industrial Revenue Bond Policy (IRB) and Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) - 14-day public review.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Gutjahr made an announcement that Fire Chief Eliot Hoult passed away.
- Councilor Winters said we might have a small group of wayward children doing destructive acts in the city by getting into electrical boxes and graffiti. We appreciate the help from the residents that are reporting them.
- Mayor Ramsell said Elliot Hoult and his wife dedicated a lot of time helping to develop a EMS program for the County he always had a smile on his face even if he had a bad day. He then read a thank you note to the Fire Department.

Executive Session - For purpose of the discussion of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8)

Motion and roll call vote to go into close session

- Motion made by Councilor Winters with a roll call vote to go into closed session. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive session at 6:55 pm.

Motion and roll call vote to go back into the regular business meeting session

- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca with a roll call vote to go back into the regular business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Winters.

Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Winters

With a 4-0 vote Council went back into the regular business meeting session at 7:24 pm.

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor

- See Agenda for Statement.

Recommendation, Discussion, Consideration, and Decision - For purpose of the discussion of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8)

- Mayor Ramsell said there are no recommendations at this time.

Adjourn

- Motion made by Councilor Winters to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. With a unanimous vote the regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth F. Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Margaret R. Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Councilor

Jimmie Winters,
Councilor