



City of Rio Communities Council Special Workshop with the State Legislator(s)

City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002

Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:00 AM

Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Ramsell called to order the special workshop with the Legislators at 10:12 am.

Attendees:

- Representative Kelly Fajardo, Representative Gail Armstrong, Representative Matthew McQueen, Senator Liz Stefanics, Senator Greg Baca, Senator Joshua Sanchez, Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Jimmie Winters, Councilor Lawrence R. Gordon, and entered late Councilor Arthur Apodaca.
- Also attending: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair.

Capital Outlay Discussion

- City Manager Dr. Moore started a presentation on the capital outlay.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the city's current project statuses and then said the \$300,000.00 is separated into 2 parts for City Hall Construction and for 1 of those parts mainly will be for city hall safety such as wiring, ceiling replacements and fire safety that needs to be up to date. He went on about the Junior Procreation stating its a \$75,000 grant and is mainly focused on youth and community programs. He then stated that we are waiting approval from the state to move forward with this plan but have made an outline of how the money will be distributed which includes the library space. With this program instead of having to partner with Belen on summer programs, like in the past, we want to have our own summer programs where children of our community can participate.
- Manager Dr. Moore continued with going through the projects that we are requesting from this Legislative Session, 1) is to completely redo the residential streetlights throughout the City of Rio Communities, 2) is to completely redo the storm drainage infrastructure system for the city, 3) is to completely redo the existing City Hall Multi-Purpose Complex for public use, 4) is to acquire properties, plan, design, and construct projects identified in the Rio Communities Parks and Open Spaces Assessment Plan for the City. 5) is to reconstruct Goodman Avenue for better roads, sidewalks, and trails. 6) is to purchase land, construct a building, and furnish said building for our Public Works Department. 7) is to purchase heavy equipment for our Public Works Department.
- Representative Fajardo asked about the parks if this is what VIA owned or is it land, we own.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that we have a couple of small pieces of land and explained that the VIA sold the existing properties to private owners and continued with the presentation.
- Senator Baca asked is the County completing tasks right now with the City or lending you equipment.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained this was a special project and further explained that the County Manager has been very helpful with emergency projects and lending us equipment if we are in dire need but most of our public works have had to be contracted out for the jobs to get done and continued with the discussion.

- Manager Dr. Moore went into a Special Project Request called Federal Rescue Plan Funds with this we came up with a plan called Complete Streets, it's not just the roads, its everything from the curbs to the above ground gutters, to sidewalks, and includes bus stops for the children and continued with the presentation showing a map red marked with the streets that he had talked about.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that the Master Drainage Plan will design, construct, excavate, fill, repair, replace, and equip the infrastructure. With the flood damage we had we did go to the Homeland Security and get some help we needed but with this plan it will prevent future mishaps.
- Manager Dr. Moore then went on about the Parks and Trails Master Plan, to purchase/acquire land, design, demolish, construct reconstruct, and equip parks and trails will benefit the community as children and adults like to walk, ride bikes and be outside, and presided the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we have talked over with City Council, request for federal funds would be to complete phase 2 and 3 of the City Complex re-construction (including design, demolition, construction, equipment, and furnishing) of the Municipal Courtroom, Community Center, and Library and continued with the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that we are trying to expand Fiber Optics into the building and then eventfully into the Community Center and trying to renovate to where Council will have a full City Council room not just a conference room. We are trying to renovate the rooms we have existing without having to do major construction. We are making sure every individual room will have independent access and have emergency exits as well.
- Representative McQueen said we have been great about using the money that was funded and we've had a lot of problems, but you are doing a great job, he then said our list of the ICIP projects was substantial but will get back to you about how much money can be funding and began a discussion.
- Representative Armstrong said she is very impressed on the amount of money we are able to spend and her representing 3 counties and none of them are working as hard as we are. She also said she is looking forward in working with us in the future and appreciate the incite on our projects.

Other Items of Interest

- Councilor Gutjahr thanked everyone of the legislators and not just the money but all the times that they have reached out to us under difficult situations to make sure everyone is being heard. We are really at the point to move forward a lot of the money you have gave us have been spent to get us where we are today. There is something that is not on the ICIP, but we are putting up a large electrical sign and will be up in front of City Hall and hope to give the community more insight on what we are doing.
- Councilor Winters said this is the year of Economic Development for us and said that we have several new houses, new businesses and want to entice people to come to Rio Communities and thanked them for all the help they have given us over the years.
- Councilor Gordon said being new to the Council I'm looking forward in working with everyone.
- Mayor Ramsell thanked to all the Legislators, Representatives and Senators, thank you for all the help you have gave since day one and greatly appreciate all help and look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Adjourn

- The special workshop was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Transcribed by Cheyenne Sullivan, Assistant Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur (Art) Apodaca,
Councilor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor