



**City of Rio Communities Council Workshop**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, December 13, 2021 11:00 AM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

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**Call to Order**

- Mayor Pro tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the city council regular workshop at 11:08am.

**Attendees**

- PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Robert Chavez, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Jim Winters.
- Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Officer Stephanie Finch and ED Consultant Ralph Mimms.

**Presentation: Joanie Griffin - Sunny505 - Results Producing Marketing, Public Relations and Advertising**

- Ralph Mimms introduced Joanie Griffin of Sunny505, a well-known marketing influencer.
- Joanie Griffin explained what Sunny505 provides, all the marketing communication support is in-house, and started her proposal to get Rio Communities on the map. The presentation included fixing the City's website and spending money to do a photo/video shoot to increase the chances of bringing businesses to Rio Communities. She then focused her presentation on bringing tourism into Rio Communities and why it is important when trying to expand.
- Councilor Winters said we have a separate EDC website, the best we could do with no money, but hopefully we can improve and began a discussion.
- Joanie Griffin said Rio Communities has much to offer and the people need to know that A: we are in New Mexico and B: this is the place you want to be part of.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained when he was with the City of Eunice, they did the same thing and while showing the presentation they had, right away people were telling everyone to go check it out and were amazed.
- Joanie Griffin said with AREA, we need to be more visible, and with Mrs. Casey wanting to be a part of Rio Communities growth, more marketing is the right decision.
- Ralph asked what some of the media outlets she deals with are.
- Joanie explained the sites they look at are New Mexico media but would like to start looking at Site Selector Magazines as well as other media. The discussion continued.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said budget time would be a good time for the discussion, with the key part focusing on getting the word out because it is important and continued the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore said there has been some softening and talked about City Limit signs and city gateway signs but there are some protocols we must follow if we wanted to go that route. The discussion continued.
- Councilor Winters said the Welcome to Rio Communities sign is no longer owned by city and we aren't sure if they are going to allow the sign to stay and continued the discussion.

## **Accounts payable report**

- Finance Officer Finch gave the updated accounts payable list, everything over \$500; 2 charges for GSD- Administrative Services Department for Health Insurance in the total amount of 7,226.58; Tyler Technologies for Incode-Court Training in the amount of 2,729.48; ICMA Membership Renewals for Dr. Moore's annual dues in the amount of 697.00; Sharp Electronics for Wireless Access Points in the amount of 2,200; Sharp Electronics for Installation & Configuration in the amount of 1,320; Sandra Schauer for December 2021 Newsletter in the amount of 3,329.29; NM Gas Co. for Natural Gas in the amount of 662.14; Quill for a Finance Clerk Desk in the amount of 1,159.99; Village of Los Lunas for E-911 Dispatch Services in the amount of 7,741.50; Ralph T. Barnes for Labor in the amount of 1,350; Carpet Warehouse for Fire Admin office carpet in the amount of 1,684.26; Quill for Desk in the amount of 1,159.99, Home Depot for Fire Admin Office Upgrade in the amount of 613.34; L.N. Curtis & Sons for PR for SCBA fill in the amount of 1,768.13; WEX Bank for Fire Dep. Fuel in the amount of 587.94; PNM in the amount of 695.17; Universal Constructors, Inc for Pothole Repair in the amount of 18,898.63; NM Department of Transportation for Reimbursement in the amount of 1,869.15; Green Light Depot. for Street lights on the amount of 1,196.65; Universal Constructors, INC for Asphalt Curb & Patch in the amount of 1,079.38; HEI, Inc for Electrical Work for Sign in the amount of 18,122.29; HEI, Inc for extra 1 ¼" PVC in the amount of 2,072.40.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the streetlights on the bridge are tied into the electrical vein point transformer that are part of the streetlights and stoplights. In order to finish this project, we had to replace all lights.
- Finance Officer Finch explained due to the cost of the sign and buying extra PVC, we are able to add multiple items to the sign in the future if needed.
- Councilor Winters asked if we replaced the aluminum wire in the lights on the bridge and if not, can we consider doing that in the future and began a discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked what SCBA fill is regarding fire protection.
- Finance Officer Finch explained it is what they use to breath when they are inside a fire, and informed council that about twice a year they need to be serviced.
- Finance Officer Finch introduced Renee Adams, the new finance clerk, and who started today.

## **Canceling the 12/27/2021 Workshop and Regular Business meeting**

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell started a discussion, Councilors Chavez and Winters both informed Council they would not be attending if they did not cancel regardless. Council agreed on canceling meeting.

## **Resolution 2021- XX - 2022 Official Holiday**

- Clerk Adair began a discussion on the resolution, stating switching from state holidays to federal holidays would be beneficial.

## **2022 City Cleanup Dates**

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell started the discussion and are staying with the third Saturday clean up days.

## **Resolution 2021 - XX 503 Hermosa Property**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the Hermosa property is the first piece of property to be abated under the new nuisance abatement ordinance and will need Council to approve the property is dangerous so that we can move forward.

## **Public Comment**

- no public comments.

## **Manager Report**

### **Special Legislative Report**

- Manager Dr. Moore began a discussion on the legislative report, informed Council that our goal was to complete 9 grants and we did just that, for the year in total we have 22 grants, 2 in process with the library IT being part of this and we've already spoken to the Library Board as the other is in 2 parts and are both for construction on City Hall. 5 are waiting for paperwork, 6 stuck in committee with 3 labeled PW1, PW2, PW3 are for the flood in July and waiting for approval on these as well and continued with the discussion.

### **Manager report continued**

- Councilor Chavez asked if some of the lights on wooden poles belong to the City.
- Councilor Winters said the one on Hillandale and he believes is PNM's pole.
- Manager Dr. Moore further explained what other lights belong to the city, he informed Council the lights in question belong to the City and continued the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the letter that was sent to property owners to thank everyone who has been doing their part and to let those who are not know they have till the end of January to clean up what they need to. He continued to explain if property owners are going through hardship, medical/physical/financial limitations and need extra help to let us know what we need to do to help them.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if this was going out to everyone and not targeting anyone and continued the discussion.
- Councilor Winters said would it be ok to send a letter to thank them for making our city a better place.
- Manager Dr. Moore gave a report on the Sheriff Department report on calls and patrols.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained that out of 209 calls only 33 were crime related and that's good to know only 15% were crime related.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained there were 28 calls on traffic stops in the month of November and 7 drunk drivers and continued the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the special session is running until Christmas, and we are playing the waiting game to see what the governor comes up with.
- Clerk Adair passed to Council the prospective logo and they began a discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if the Manager has reached out to the legislator.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he has made attempts but has not heard anything yet and continued the discussion.

## **Council General Discussion & Future Agenda Items**

- Councilor Chavez had no report.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if there a time frame for the sign.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he does not have a scheduled at this time but was told it was being delivered to the warehouse.
- Councilor Winters had no report.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained there has been some landscaping placed around the sign. He then explained the PNM merger on hold, the solar representative has been approached

regarding the transfer station being packed, and more people in the community want to go solar but will have to talk to PNM about moving forward.

- Councilor Winters said that is probably why we stopped permits for home solar for about a year now.

### **Adjourn**

The city Council regular workshop was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

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Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor

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Arthur (Art) Apodaca,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

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Lawrence Gordon,  
Councilor

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Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,  
Councilor

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Jim Winters,  
Councilor