



City of Rio Communities Council Special Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Ramsell called the special business meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Mayor Pro-tem (virtual) Margaret R. Gutjahr, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Jimmie Winters.
 - Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, Finance Officer Stephanie Finch, Fire Chief Andrew Tabet, Valencia County News-Bulletin Editor Clara Garcia.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the agenda for the special business meeting was approved as presented.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

- Manager Dr. Moore started to explain the spending of ARPA funds and continued to explain the amount for the State-of-the-art audio and visual systems in City Hall Council \$86,161.88 is what HDI quoted with NM state pricing. He then explained security for the police department \$8,667.89, Fire Department Admin Office \$6,585.74, City Hall security for all exterior of building, in case of active shooters, security cameras and video intercom systems, intercoms, panic buttons \$148,163.41.
- Councilor Apodaca asked if these high-resolution cameras are going to be able to be used in court.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he thinks so and continued to explain how the security will help. He further explained that we were originally looking at spending out of general funds, the service truck was talked about at the last council meeting and the ladder truck. He further said the decontamination unit at fire department we do not have, and we need one it can work for any infectious disease.
- Councilor Apodaca asked I know you have been looking at used truck have you narrowed any of the used trucks down or have any on hold.
- Fire Chief Tabet said he currently has one service truck on hold and four ladder trucks we are looking at.
- Manager Dr. Moore talked about Artesia fire equipment and explained that it has been identified as SCBA.
- Chief Tabet explained that an SCBA is a breathing apparatus and further explained what it is used for. He also explained that each firefighter will have their own mask fitted to their face.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the COVID Suits for the fire department. Construction Coordinators, court room to reimburse the city for monies already expended \$35,656.82,

Security for the Police Department security wall/window for COVID and case of active shooter the construction has started for this, and we are waiting for the remaining security for the interior that cost was priced \$17,304.98 we are waiting for the last component. He further said we had not brought to the City Council - premium pay for the employees to the employees the period they were employed during the federal emergency. We want to do something for our employees and then there was after all that was \$26,062.28 left, we have talked about upgrading our security at our two fire stations. The ability to know what is going on at both fire stations and being able to see it remotely would be beneficial.

- Councilor Apodaca said it has been well thought out.
- Manager Dr. Moore said I give much credit to our finance department.
- Councilor Gordon asked if there was a time limit.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the grant expires 2024 should be expend by December 31 of 2026 that is what it says in our grant agreement.
- Manager Dr. Moore gave a brief review due to audio.
- Councilor Winters said it looks like the fire department and police department are the big winners. Which is a good thing.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if the amount \$1,122,193 is that total amount of what we got and what we are spending is it totally wiped out after that and then said on the employees pay this is for people that worked through COVID. I thought it was for extra work. This is not for extra work.
- Manager Dr. Moore said it was working through COVID as essential workers.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she had thought this was not money given to them for taking on extra duties it's for working during that time of COVID.
- Finance Officer Finch said it is comparable to hazard pay.
- Mayor Ramsell said we will be saving \$52,000.00 general funds this year and \$140,000.00 next year a total of \$200,000.00 going back to the city.
- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds as presented. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Mosquito/Pest Control

- Manager Dr. Moore said we do have an approximate cost not to exceed \$20,000.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked how we can alert the community to those who don't want it near them.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we have a few different ways to notify them, giving them a chance to say they don't want it around their home.
- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the mosquito/pest control not to exceed \$20,000. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the mosquito/pest control not to exceed \$20,000.

Executive Session - For the 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 Apodaca with a roll call vote to go into closed session regarding matters stated on the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-tem

Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote council went into executive session at 6:56 pm.

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

- Motion made by Councilor Gordon with a roll call vote to go back into the special business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council went back into the special business meeting session at 7:30 pm.

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor

- Mayor Ramsell stated: The Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on May 30, 2023 a Closed Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were for 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).

Recommendation, Discussion, Consideration, and Decision - Of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body

- Mayor Ramsell stated there was no recommendations at this time.

Adjourn

- Motion made by Councilor Winters, Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. with a unanimous vote the special business meeting session was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date: _____

Approved:

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Margaret R. Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Councilor

Jimmie Winters,
Councilor