



## City of Rio Communities Council Special Workshop with Planning and Zoning Commission

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

Thursday, May 18, 2023 6:00 PM

### Minutes

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

#### Call to Order

- Mayor Ramsell called the special workshop with planning and zoning to order at 6:14 pm.

#### Attendees

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Mayor Pro-tem (virtual) Margaret R. Gutjahr, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Jimmie Winters. Planning & Zoning: Vice Chairman Scott Adair, Secretary Melodie Good, Member Lena Benavidez, Member Chad Good.
  - City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, Fire Chief Andrew Tabet.

#### Zoning Taskforce Recommendation

- Manager Dr. Moore went over the presentation from the taskforce.
- Manager Dr. Moore continued to discuss the proposed new prohibited inside the current city limits and eliminating I1/I2 development zone, permitted uses of M-1 and M-2, other development standard considerations. Traffic concerns are a huge issue regarding how we handle it. He continued to explain how the rail spear works.
- Councilor Winters asked if any received in the mail from PNM they are now recommending swamp coolers rather than refrigerated air.

#### Comprehensive Plan

- Manager Dr. Moore explained that working with Ralph Mims we are working to bring in development into the city. He further explained this is something coming up regarding our comprehensive plan and continued the discussion.
- Secretary Good asked for an example.
- Manager Dr. Moore said a good example would be we want to get some incentives for landowners to get some development in the city that doesn't cost us money.
- Councilor Gordon said he thinks it is a good idea.
- Councilor Apodaca said we need to do what we need to do as a city to move forward.

#### Animal Ordinance

- Mayor Ramsell said the survey that came in everyone said sure have your animals but not in my neighborhood.
- Councilor Apodaca said it is costing us more and more money every year. The discussion continued.
- Fire Chief said on the code enforcement side we get complaints about cats and dogs. Some houses have eight dogs, five dogs getting out walking the neighborhoods we are also getting complaints about horse stables that are getting thrown together that are temporary stalls. So, we watch and monitor it. Our number one complaint is dogs getting out of yards.
- Clerk Adair said in our current ordinance fees do not match up with what the County is charging us for animal control. So, when a resident comes in, we can only charge them what our ordinance says while the county is charging us by day.

- Councilor Winters said he doesn't think we need to increase the fee people are not picking up the animals and they are just staying there. The discussion continued.
- Councilor Gordon with goats, horses, chickens, make a mess and the flies and insects do not respect boundaries.
- Secretary Good said she does not think farm animals should be in residential area.
- Mayor Ramsell said one of the things that they talked about is going through the process.
- Manager Dr. Moore asked when you want us to start and continued the discussion.

#### **Public Comment**

- Dick Irvine said when you say animals, you need to break that down to what type of animal. It seems like when you say animals, we are all thinking dogs. We need to break that down to a better definition.
- Manager Dr. Moore said our chairman of the planning and zoning commission resigned I recommend we do something for him before he moves out of state.

#### **Adjourn**

- The Special workshop with Planning and Zoning commission was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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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