



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the regular business meeting at 6:07 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

- PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Robert Chavez, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr and Councilor Jim Winters.
- Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth "Lisa" Adair, Finance Officer (virtual) Stephanie Finch, City Attorney Chris DeFillippo, and Valencia County News-Bulletin Editor Clara Garcia.

Approval of Agenda

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell asked to move items 9 & 10 to after accounts payable.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the agenda for the regular business meeting was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes for the City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting Minutes (September 27, 2021)

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the workshop and regular business meeting minutes of September 27, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. with a 4-0 vote the minutes for the workshop and the regular business meeting of September 27, 2021 were approved as written.

Proclamation - Valencia Soil & Water Conservation District

- Teresa from the Valencia Soil & Water Conservation District read the proclamation.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she does appreciate Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District for all they do and the articles in the paper because they have been very helpful to the public.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell also thanked them for allowing students to participate, it makes a big difference.
- Councilor Winters said we are very happy to be part of the process and continued the discussion.

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Manager Report

a) Public Safety Taskforce

- Manager Dr. Moore stated public safety has been a big concern and we are discussing creating a public safety task force to make sure we maximize our opportunity to provide better safety for the community.

b) Electronic Sign Purchase & Installation

- Manager Dr. Moore explained next meeting we will be announcing the sign and electrical company as well as a time frame for the installation of the electronic sign.

c) LED Streetlights on Hwy 47

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the city is planning on replacing the streetlights on HWY 47 with LEDs on each side of the highway and lighting up an intersection. He then explained there is a separate grant that will provide lighting for the neighborhoods.

d) EDC Tradeshow & Business Luncheon

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the Economic Development Commission is attending a 50+ tradeshow to help promote the city and will also be hold a luncheon for the businesses in the city.

e) Solid Waste Compliance

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the those that have been on the long term, noncompliant list has been pared down to 58 and we are working other with utilities that are in desperate need by directing them to state resources. He then said staff is working together to get potholes filled in the community.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained we are forming a taskforce committee, consisting of 2 council members, 2 planning and zoning commissioners, business community, law enforcement and the justice system to get some communication and issues taken care of in the city.
- Councilor Gutjahr said Bill would be very please to have the electric sign up.

Commissioner and Board Reports

Economic Development Report – see agenda packet

Planning and Zoning – see agenda packet

Library Board – see agenda packet

- Council had no questions for any of the commissions and boards.
- Councilor Gutjahr complimented the library board for moving ahead so fast.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said the fire department responded to 65 calls with the additional EMS and he thanked the volunteers.

Department Reports

Municipal Clerk Department – see agenda packet

Finance Department– see agenda packet

Code Enforcement Department

Public Works Department – see agenda packet

Fire Department – see agenda packet

Municipal Court Department

Approval of Accounts Payable

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said the fire department bill was large because the lights have been on more since the new doors have been installed.
- Councilor Gutjahr reminded the public all reports as well as accounts payable can be found on the website in the agenda packet and explained how to view it.

- Motion made by Councilor Winters to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

Fencing of the City' New Property

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the cost would not exceed \$40,000.
- Motion made by Councilor Chavez to accept the proposal made by the City Manager to approve up to \$40,000 to fence the property. Second by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the motion to fence the new city property in an amount, not to exceed \$40,000, was approved.

Professional Service of Economic Development

- Manager Dr. Moore explained his is proposing an agreement with a contracted professional, Ralph Mims, not to exceed \$50,000 for a period of time from October 13, 2021, until June 30, 2022, to obtain businesses for the City of Rio Communities.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the contract for professional service of Economic Development. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the motion to approve the contract for professional service of Economic development.

Resolution 2021 – XX BAR #1

- Finance Officer Finch read into the minutes the BAR Resolution.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if we could have a quick review.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained what a BAR stood for: Budget Adjustment Resolution to provide for changes in revenues and expenses. He continued to explain grants and other revenue sources and how they work.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to approve Resolution 2021-22 BAR #1. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Resolution 2021-22 BAR #1 was passed, approved, and signed.

Resolution 2021-XX 1st Quarter Financial Report

- Finance Officer Finch read into the minutes Resolution 2021- 1st quarter financial report.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained that property taxes are usually slow coming in.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve Resolution 2021-23 1st Quarter Financial Report. Seconded by Councilor Winters.
- Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Resolution 2021-22 1st Quarter Financial Report was passed, approved, and signed.

Library Mission Statement

- Library Board Chairman Bobby Caldwell said at the last meeting was a task and we finally got a chance to make a clear, concise, and correct mission statement for the library. He explained the library board is working hard to make sure there is a good framework for the library, and we have asked others who have already done this to help us out. He continued to explain they are working on their policies and goals and make decisions as they go. He then read the library board report.
- Council suggested a change to the mission statement to "City of Rio Communities Public Library connects all Citizens to resources, technologies and programs, that enrich personal, educational and cultural growth."

- Motion made by Councilor Chavez to approve the mission statement as amended. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the mission statement for the library board was approved as amended.

Road repairs/resealing

a) Pothole Repairs

b) resealing

c) striping

- Manager Dr. Moore recommend approval to proceed for up to \$30,000 for pothole repair.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve road repair and resealing, potholes and restriping up to \$30,000 as stated. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote, road repairs have been approved for up to \$30,000 as stated.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Winters said unsolicited, the library board members come to me and tell me how happy they are to be on that group, and we appreciate it.
- Councilor Chavez said it has been a while since he has sat in the meetings as an official and it is amazing how the city is moving forward, it takes time to build a city from scratch, following a very good plan, and there are some issues, especially with public safety, but this task force is a great start to dealing with it. He then said we need to emphasize code enforcement and problem properties to draw in business into a clean city, we have a huge amount of potential.
- Councilor Gutjahr said one of the conversations has been the broken window syndrome, unattractive properties attract the criminal element task force and having police, getting the community to understand cleanup would help exponentially.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said Abundant Life Christian church will be having a candidate forum on October 21, 2021 at six pm, it is free, open to the public, and it is a private event, not sponsored by the City, to meet the candidates.

Executive Session - For the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters – Fire Chief and Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2)

Motion and roll call vote to go into close session

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr with a roll call vote to go into executive session for the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters for the Fire Chief and Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2). Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive session at 6:48 pm.

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

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr with a roll call vote to go back into the regular business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council went back into the regular business meeting session at 7:40 pm.

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell stated: The Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on October 12, 2021 a Closed Executive Session was held and

the matters discussed were the purpose of limited personnel matters regarding the Fire Chief and Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) as posted on the agenda.

Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding the purpose of limited personnel matters regarding the Fire Chief and Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2)

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell stated there were no recommendations therefore no actions were taken.

Adjourn

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Taken and Transcribed by Amy L. Lopez, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Robert Chavez,
Councilor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor