



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, November 22, 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 6:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Winters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilor Winters approved agenda. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes - City Council Workshop & Regular Business Meeting (November 8, 2021)

- Motion made by Councilor Chavez to accept the minutes and regular business from November 8, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the workshop and city council regular business meeting on November 8, 2021 were approved as presented.

Presentations

Cyndi Sluder - presentation of Bill Brown Beneficiary Bequeath to the City

- ❖ Cyndi Sluder said thank you so much for this opportunity to come before you, it is great to see how far the City has come since 2013.
- ❖ She then explained that Bill Brown loved this community, and he wanted the City to exceed on so many levels. She then explained Bill Brown met with his financial planner, and he set out how he wanted his finances to go and wanted to thank the fire station for a beautiful celebration of life for Bill Brown. She presented a check to Mayor Pro tem Ramsell on behalf of Bill Brown in the amount of \$330,809.44, bequeathed specifically to fund parks, trails and/or the public works.
- ❖ Councilor Chavez said he is speechless, he never heard of this, and it just goes to show what kind of character this man had.
- ❖ Councilor Gutjahr said if you were ever at his house, he had piles of everything for the City, he was a great resource and she knew he loved this city, no matter if you argued with him about an item once the vote was done.
- ❖ Councilor Winters said a simple thank you is not enough.
- ❖ Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said Bill's generosity goes beyond what most people can understand.

- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore said he had the opportunity of having a great encounter with him and he showed himself and Mayor Pro tem a file of things he planned to entrust to the City of Rio Communities.
- ❖ Clerk Adair said she will miss him calling City Hall and when she would answer, “Hi this is Lisa,” and he would always say, “And this is Bill Brown, how the heck are you?”
- ❖ Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said with his generation, he truly showed how much he cared about this City and the community.
- ❖ Councilor Gutjahr recognized Cindy Sluder for being in Mr. Brown’s life till the very end.

Jill Sweeney from Sherman & Howard - presentation on Bonding/Economic Development Tools

- ❖ Mayor Ramsell explained Jill Sweeney was not able to attend the meeting.

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Manager Report

a) Federal Infrastructure Funds

- Manager Dr. Moore said at the budget conference there was a ruling within the State, and it was determined the funds would be managed through the State and the municipal league was approached to put items that are shovel ready forward, recommending projects project parks & trails, storm water master plan, phase II of the building, and roads. He then explained the City will be asking for around \$3 million and began a discussion.

b) Streetlights & Potholes update

- Manager Dr. Moore gave an update on the potholes: 40% of them have been filled, a purchase order has been issued of the next round of potholes and explained how repairs will be rotated around the City to ensure everyone is being taken care of on a regular basis after repairs are made.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the streetlights on Hwy 47 is nearly 2/3 complete and the lights will be going all the way to Manzano Expressway.

Approval of Accounts Payable

- Councilor Gutjahr reminded everyone there is the accounts payable report available on the City’s website and explained the charges for new office equipment is for the new finance clerk, the emergency flooding charge will be reimbursed, and we have purchased a new command vehicle for the fire department and that will be paid for out of county EMS/GRT.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained charges for pothole repair and replacement of older computers.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to pay accounts payable. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

City Slogan

- Ralph Mimms said we have come out with a wonderful "spectacular views endless opportunities" and further said once the City approves the logo, we will be able to be able to do some marketing to help us recruit some businesses.

- Councilor Chavez said he feels this is a good thing to have a slogan to tie something to the City and began a discussion.
- Mayor Ramsell said Deputy Clerk Lopez created the slogan in-house and asked Council to accept this slogan and move forward.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to except this slogan and move forward. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the City Slogan “spectacular view endless opportunities” was approved.
- Ralph Mimms mentioned Councilor Brown came to see him often and was passionate about Economic Development and getting Rio Communities to grow and asked him if the City could hire him.

City Wide Street Light Proposal

- Manager Dr. Moore said public safety is probably the top issue among residents and after speaking with engineers, he would ask Council to approve HDR’s proposal to do a City-Wide streetlight plan using a \$60k grant and we could get a notice of obligation to the State within a day or two of approval to get this started.
- Councilor Winters said it was ingrained in us, after attending Municipal League meetings, to plan first and having an available plan will help us to get funding and said this plan will help us get funding for streetlights for the whole city. He then explained the business owner he spoke with was very happy we have lit up Hwy 47 because his business is lit up now.
- Councilor Chavez said it is important to be proactive, plan and not piecemeal which would lead to issues later on.
- Councilor Gutjahr said we have had this engineering firm, the same who has done our drainage plan and they have done a good job in the past and feels they will get us the results we are looking for and began a discussion.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr that we approve the city-wide light proposal as submitted. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the Proposal from HDR to do a city-wide streetlight plan was approved as submitted.

Business License Fee for 2022

- Manager Dr. Moore recommended the business license fee for the 2022 year be waived.
- Councilor Gutjahr said people are still recovering from Covid economic downturn and we would like to give them another year without a license fee to help them, even though the fee is \$35.
- Councilor Chavez said this is a good partnership between the City and businesses, showing them, we support them, and we realize they generate income for the City.
- Councilor Winters said is the unknown portion is the homebased business, need to work with those folks to make sure they are getting their licenses.
- Motion made by Councilor Chavez accept the business license fee which is being waived. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved to waive the business license fee for 2022.

Mercer Group Proposal

- Manager Dr. Moore said we went back to the Mercer group to look at the top candidate in the pool, they have moved on, they are willing to work with us to expand the search and they are asking for a fee of \$7,500. He then explained the Mercer group is looking at newly retired fire

chiefs because they would have the experience and recommended Council approve the fee for the Mercer Group to find a fire chief for the City.

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the proposal of the Mercer Group. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the proposal of the Mercer Group.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Chavez had nothing to report.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she was unaware the four numbers that follow the zip code is the location code and it is really important to use it; it should always be on the address or when we make orders online. She then explained the location code narrows down the area on a map and using that on internet sales will be instrumental.
- Councilor Chavez asked how you can find the location code and began a discussion.
- Councilor Winters said the 4-wheelers are back again and so are hunters that are hunting on the west side of the City, and we may need to get ahold of Game and Fish.
- Councilor Chavez said he did not realize that was a problem, but there are no hunting signs near the golf course and continued the discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr said in the past on the eastside, we had trouble with hunters as well.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said there is a current compiling of missing or damaged street signs, getting them replaced, and a traffic calming plan is in the works.

Executive Session - For the purpose of 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), for the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) and pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) – AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities

- **Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**
 - Mayor Pro tem Ramsell stated for the purpose of 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), for the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) and pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) – AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities
 - Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr as stated by the Mayor with a roll call vote to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the City Council went into executive session at 6:52 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 was back into the regular business meeting session at 7:48 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 November 22, 2021 a Closed Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water

rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H), for the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) and pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) – AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities as posted on the agenda

Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8), for the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) and pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) – AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell stated there were no recommendations.

Adjourn

Councilor Gutjahr moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Chavez. With a 4-vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(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