



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, January 24, 2022 6:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

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**Call to Order**

- Mayor Ramsell called to order the City Council regular business meeting at 6:01 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- Councilor Gutjahr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Jim Winters.  
Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth "Lisa" Adair, Finance Officer/Treasurer Stephanie Finch, Interim Fire Chief Andrew Tabet.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes: City Council Special Workshop Minutes (1/04/2022) Minutes for the City Council Workshop & Regular Business Meeting (01/10/2022)**

- Motion made by Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr to approve the minutes for the Special Workshop of 1/4/2022 and the Workshop and Regular Business meeting of 1/20/2022. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the special workshop of January 4, 2022, the workshop & regular business meeting of January 10, 2022 were approved as written.

**Proclamation: Optimist Day**

- ❖ Mayor Pro tem read into the minutes the proclamation.

**Public Comment**

- No public comments.

**Manager Report**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained he is going to continue to get the lights restored and stated the Public Works Department is working on getting an electrician out and replace the wiring with aluminum instead.

**Electrical Sign Update**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the sign is in step 4 getting it setup to the network and start the draft policies and see how the sign can be used.

**Manager Report (continued)**

- Manager Dr. Moore continued with the road grants, plus the budget calendar coming out on the 1st meeting of February.
- Councilor Apodaca asked regarding the budget for the year, early start giving the information when will we see a completed budget and ready to turn in the calendar.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the later part of April or 1st part of May.

· Manager Dr. Moore explained we are looking tentavly February 1 next taskforce meeting.

### **Approval of Accounts Payable**

- Mayor Ramsell said the animal control bill was exceptionally low, the lowest we have ever had, hopefully it stays that way but will see in the next few months.
- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the accounts payable report as stated. Seconded by Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

### **Purchase of 2021 Ferrara Pumper Truck**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained how we need a new updated truck for our Fire Department and went into detail about the grants available and how it will be a great purchase for the community.
- Chief Tabet said he is very excited to be moving forward with this new idea not only will it help the Fire Department but make an exceptional difference for the community and be able to help with not only fire calls but any emergency that gets called in.
- Councilor Apodaca asked what will the add on costs to get it up to speed to move forward.
- Manager Dr. Moore about 50k at least but have already looked into GRT EMT grants.
- Chief Tabet stated its only 35k for everything and add ons but will be paid for by the GRT EMT grants.
- Major Ramsell asked if the truck will be turnkey ready.
- Chief Tabet said yes it will be turnkey ready once it's at the station.
- Councilor Gutjahr said when Chief Tabet talked about it you mentioned the truck being a new type but is there training that has to go with the new equipment.
- Chief Tabet said this truck has a side mount pumps, which we are traditionally use to the catwalk pumps, it is wider and before we get the truck, they will have a small training and once we bring it back to the station, we are going to have our own training just so everyone knows the proper way of using the truck.
- Councilor Winters said he believes this will be the 6th major vehicle we have in the last 6 years, so we are finally getting everything up to date and very happy we can do this.
- Mayor Ramsell said he agrees, and he thinks with the equipment and fleet its one per year since the city took over the fire department, so this is amazing.
- Motion made by Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr to approve the purchase of the 2021 Ferrara Pumper Truck. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the purchase of the 2021 Ferrara Pumper Truck.

### **Resolution 2022 - XX Open Meetings Act**

- Dr. Moore stated we have the openings meeting act resolution that is required to be in compliance with the states open meetings laws, no other changes from last year but its nice to have this law and continue to go over and beyond for the community.
- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the opening meetings act resolution. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote with a 4-0 vote Resolution 2021-03 Opening Meetings Act was passed, approved, adopted, and signed.

### **Valencia County Business Incubator Proposal (space)**

- Mr. Romero said he is representing Valencia County Incubator, a local non-profit organization, our wish is to be open to our counties entrepreneurs and right now looking into renting office space in Rio Communities and explained why they are needing some space.
- Ralph Mims said he is an advisor for Valencia County Incubator I see this as another marketing tool for Rio Communities to keep people in our County, so they do go anywhere else with their businesses.
- Councilor Apodaca said very excited and looking forward to the results in the future.
- Ralph Mims said this will be the only incubator in a rural area in our State and that is a kudos to Rio Communities, and continued as to why this is a good for the community.
- Councilor Winters said he looks at this as a resource for our local business community, he thinks this is great for our county.
- Councilor Gutjahr said giving the climate right now, it is a perfect time for entrepreneurship, and no one knows where to turn to and being able to reach out and know about this program is a great opportunity.
- Ralph Mims stated during COVID a ton of people have left their jobs and a lot of people have turned to becoming entrepreneurs and this is a great opportunity to get them the help they need.
- Mr. Romero said he's looking forward to calibrating with everyone in the community.
- Mayor Ramsell thanked Mr. Romero and told him he is looking forward in seeing how far this goes for the community and everyone outside of the community as well.
- Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to approve the proposal. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the Valencia County Business Incubator Agreement for Lease of City or Rio Communities' Property.

### **Sunny505 Proposal for Services - Public Communications**

- Councilor Winters said it seems to the world that Rio Communities does not exist, and this is a good way to get the message out in a responsible, he also thanked Ms. Griffin for doing such a great proposal.
- Mayor Ramsell said he appreciates the proposal and I look forward for this to move forward and I can't wait to see what else happens in the future.
- Motion made by Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr to approve the Sunny505 proposal for services. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the proposal from Sunny505 for services – public communications.

### **Resignation of EDC Member**

- Mayor Ramsell read into the minutes the resignation of EDC member Fran Rossberg. He then thanked Ms. Rossberg for all the time and help she has done for EDC and volunteering her time to help the community.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she has known Fran and her wonderful volunteering for a very long time, she was one of the most visible person for EDC, volunteered for many things and always ready to do something, She went on by stating we all have things we need to take care of in our personal lives and I admire her for that even more, but she will be missed.

- Motion made by Councilor Winters to accept the resignation of Francis Rossberg. Seconded by Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council accepted the resignation of Francis Rossberg from the Economic Development Commission.

#### **Council Discussion**

- Councilor Apodaca nothing to report
- Councilor Gordon nothing to report
- Councilor Gutjahr nothing to report
- Councilor Winters requested to send a letter, as a Council, to show appreciation for Fran Rossberg's service to the community and this county.
- Mayor Ramsell no report.

#### **Adjourn**

- Councilor Apodaca moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. With a 4-vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 6:38 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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Margaret "Peggy" Gutjahr,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

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Arthur "Art" Apodaca,  
Councilor

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Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Councilor

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Jim Winters,  
Councilor