



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, January 10, 2022 6:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

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**Call to Order**

- Mayor Ramsell called the regular business meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- Councilor Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr and Councilor Jim Winters.
- Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, Finance Officer Stephanie Finch and Valencia County News-Bulletin Editor Clara Garcia.

**Approval of Agenda**

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr, Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Ramsell, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters

**Resignation of Lawrence R Gordon from the Planning and Zoning Commission**

- Mayor Ramsell read into the minutes letter of resignation for Lawrence R Gordon from Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Councilor Apodaca said glad he is here.
- Councilor Winters said I just want to thank you for his time and efforts on Planning and Zoning and its hard to see someone who has made an impact on a committee leave but very happy he is now part of City Council.
- Mayor said I just want to say thank you for stepping out and being a part of this and everything you have done the last 4 years on Planning and Zoning and taking on new challenges.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to accept the letter of resignation from Lawrence R Gordon. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council accepted the resignation form Lawrence Gordon from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Organizational Meeting**

**a) Appointment of Mayor Pro tem**

- Mayor Ramsell made the consideration of Councilor Gutjahr serving as Mayor Pro tem.
- Councilor Winters said the only comment I have is how we appreciate her serving this compacity before and stepping in when our city really needed someone for a long time with a city who was without a manager for a long time, and I think she would be an excellent person for this role.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to approve the appointment of the roll of Mayor Pro tem to Councilor Peggy Gutjahr. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the appointment of Margaret "Peggy" Gutjahr as Mayor Pro tem.

**b) Re-Appointment of Judge Pro tem**

- Mayor asked for the recommendations for Judge Pro tem to Michael Vallejos.
- Councilor Gutjahr said when we appointed him for Judge Pro tem, we were very pleased with what he was going to bring to the position.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr move to re-appoint Judge Pro tem Michael Vallejos. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the re-appointment of Michael Vallejos for Judge Pro tem.

**Approval of Minutes for City Council Special Workshop with P&Z 12/8/2021 & Special Workshop with EDC 12/13/2021**

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr for the approval of the minutes for the City Council Special Workshop with P&Z 12/08/2021 and Special Workshop with EDC 12/13/2021. Seconded by Councilor Winters.  
Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the special workshops with P&Z 12/8/2021 and EDC 12/13/2021 were approved as written.

**Minutes for the City Council Workshop & Regular Business Meeting (12/13/2021)**

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve the City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting of 12/13/2021. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the City Council regular workshop and business meeting of 12/13/2021 were approved as written.

**Public Comment**

- Phillip stated he is a resident of Belen but has a business in Rio Communities called Paul's Sons Signs and Graphics. He then asked for a little bit of leniency as he presents. He proceeded with telling the Council that a few months back he came to tell them about illegal use of ATV(s), was told we would look into it and will take action, he was told since he wasn't a resident, he didn't have a voice. He explained he is a voice of reason, safety, and concern and bringing up this matter shows a serious problem does exist and an action must take place.

**Manager Report**

- Manager Dr. Moore stated the two phases of the electronic sign are now complete and would like to thank everyone who has helped with this project. The wiring is in its correct place, the next step forward is phase three, which is having an electrician come and connect the sign together and then start training with the company.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained the signs weigh approximately 900 pounds apiece but are substantially anchored and appreciate all the companies that have helped us get where we are.
- Manager Dr. Moore then stated we are still continuing with our streetlight plans and will provide plans to the Council so they can give incite on the project. He then goes on to explain that we should expect and talking with the Mayor we suggested this is a good time to introduce our Mayor and our City Manager to our State Legislators in Santa Fe to show them what we have done and will do in the future, and introduce our top priorities such as or geared towards public safety, our roads lights, our erosion due to the flooding, to show the funding we are asking for will be going to address these specific public things.

- Councilor Gutjahr stated she is thrilled to have the sign up.
- Councilor Apodaca said he also is happy about the sign and the logo, and they both are making us look very professional and it's just another step in the right direction.

### **Municipal Court Department**

- See agenda packet for report.

### **Approval of Accounts Payable**

- Councilor Gutjahr said there were 2 sets, one from December and the most recent and the one I was looking at was for HDR Engineering and I know we have spent about \$7k with them, which they are looking at the road issues, but I don't have any other concerns.
- Councilor Winters said our gas bill was sky high and I'm pretty sure our citizens are seeing the same thing right now and have no choice but to pay and try to find ways to reduce the amount.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to pay accounts payable as presented. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

### **Community & Youth Program Grant**

- Manager Dr. Moore said Legislator McQueen in the last year's legislative session had came up with \$75k to start our junior appropriation which is a direct benefit for the citizens of the community, we gave a presentation at the workshop, talking about creating something called makers space, which will be available to the public, this program is from pre-k to adults and tying in with the library and also with programs that are vocational its giving people chances to get hands on graphics and technology that I haven't even heard of, we highly recommend approval of the proposal and we proceed forward.
- Councilor Winters said the presentation today was a very good presentation and if this gives us the ability to, with the assists or calibration with some of the other clubs or Cities, for us to create some programs just like the library where we can get kids busy and off the street not riding the ATV's all the time. I think it's a great program and thank Matthew McQueen for providing these funds for us and this one is an interesting program and ties with the library as well some of these skills youth and adults haven't seen before and think they will be very interested in it.
- Councilor Apodaca said someone earlier talked about giving some kids tickets to Belen swimming pool, and I don't know if there are any other funds available to buy resource materials plus throw a little money to the swimming pool as well. I liked the idea of buying tickets and handing them out to the kids.
- Councilor Gutjahr said there are very strict requirements on what the grants go for and may not be able to do so and then said there are multiple organizations that have wanted to work with us, the money that has to be spent has to be done by May is to have the purchases done by May the projects don't have to be done by then. She then went on by saying this is the first time I do have to say that a program is from little kids on up and it being so inclusive and innovative in quite a while.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we currently have on the \$3,000 to go to the summer recreation in conjunction with the City of Belen and possibly have other discussions as well and definitely see if the pool can be on that discussion with Belen, Los Lunas, and the county all of us talking together.

- Mayor Ramsell said this program does include the Pre-K level all the way to High School including programs such as OSMO Early Learning System, Coding, Robotics, Drones, 3D printing, Laser printing/Engraving, Circuit, Photography, Video/Sound, Filming, Plastic Recycling, of course Graphic Arts and Designing so it's an extremely broad program that allows pretty much anyone into it.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the community youth program as presented. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the proposal for the Community & Youth Program Grant.

### **City Logo**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained we do recommend the approval of the new logo.
- Councilor Winters said he heard today it was very professional and it's something our old logo did not have and goes very well with our tag line as well.
- Mayor Ramsell said I agree with Councilor Winters and thinks it's very forward moving and very professional and this started a discussion.
- Motion made by Councilor Gordon to accept the City Logo. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Ramsell, Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the new City Logo.

### **Resolution 2022 - xx BAR #2**

- Finance Officer Finch explained we went over the budget adjustment today in the workshop and was wondering if anyone had any questions.
- Councilor Gutjahr said really appreciated how you explained to us about our quarterly report.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approved Resolution 2022-01 BAR #2. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Resolution 2022-01 BAR #2 was passed, approved, adopted, and signed.

### **Resolution 2022 - Second Quarter Financial Report**

- Mayor Ramsell explained we went over the second quarterly report in the workshop does anyone have questions or comments.
- Councilor Winters said it appears the City is in fine shape as far as we needed to be overall. We had adjustments such as bills being higher than we anticipated as in catching more dogs and cats then normal but it's just a thing with Cities and think we are in good shape.
- Councilor Gutjahr said our finance director is really good at looking where we are percentage wise halfway thru the year, going back to the BAR, those areas that we spent more than 50% are actually being balanced right now and was really good to see where we are as a City.
- Finance Director Finch said it is very important to keep Council aware since they are the ones who approve the budget and its very important to keep you guys abreast of the situation.
- Mayor Ramsell thanked Ms. Finch for taking the time to hear comments or questions as needed.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr, Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Resolution

2022-02 Second Quarter Financial Report was passed, approved, adopted, and signed.

### **Council Discussion**

- Councilor Apodaca no comments.
- Councilor Gutjahr explained if there is going to be a new Councilors training.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that there are some but virtually this year and are talking about a in-person training but have not set a date. This started a discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr said on the conservancy to what Mr. Phillips had mentioned, since there has been vandalism has anyone changed the locks. This also started a discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she would like to have this matter on another agenda, but has brought this up before, she would like to have a different form to be able to bring people from outside virtually such as zoom or other means.
- Councilor Gordon said when it comes to the comprehensive plan, we are going to start having our own school system soon and breakaway from Belen, since they are closing down a school maybe talk about adding a school out here. He then said was contacted by the African American Chamber of Commerce and was asked to speak on behalf of Rio Communities sometime in February.
- Councilor Winters said we have a problem with our sign when you come into the City, it is in private hands, they need to have a meeting with the property owners and see what their plans are with the sign because we really need a better introduction to the City.
- Mayor Ramsell said with the energy audit City wide, the fire department is trying all they can to reduce usage but not sure if we can order exterior LED lights to make it brighter and energy efficient, also the fire departments current heating system tends to bake the paint on their vehicles but need to figure out a way to maintain this situation.

### **Executive Session - For the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Fire Chief Recruitment and 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)**

- **Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**
  - Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to go into executive session - For the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Fire Chief Recruitment and 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). Seconded by Councilor Winters.  
Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters.  
With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive session at 6:58 pm.
- **Motion and roll call vote to go back into the regular business meeting session**
  - Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to go back into regular business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Councilor Apodaca, Councilor Gordon, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council returned to the regular business meeting session at 7:55 pm.
- **Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem**
  - Mayor Ramsell stated: The Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on January 10, 2022 a Closed Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were for the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Fire Chief Recruitment and 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) as posted on the agenda.

**Action Items - Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding the purpose of Limited Personnel Matters pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Fire Chief Recruitment and 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)**

- Mayor Ramsell said there was no recommendations or actions taken.

**Adjourn**

- Councilor Winters moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Gordon. With a 4-vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:56 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