



**City of Rio Communities Council Workshop**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022 3:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

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**Call to Order**

- Mayor Joshua Ramsell called the City Council workshop to order at 3:02 pm.

**Attendees**

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Mayor Pro-tem Margaret R. Gutjahr, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Jimmie Winters.
  - Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon, Finance Officer (Virtual) Stephanie Finch, Accounting Specialist/CPO Angela Valadez, Fire Chief Andrew Tabet.

**Accounts payable report**

- Accounting Specialist/CPO Valadez explained everything over \$500.00; PNM in the amount of \$526.67; NM Gas in the amount of \$1,123.84; NM Local Government Law in the amount of \$873.79; NM Edge in the amount of \$650; HDR in the amount of \$589.93; Verizon in the amount of \$1,654.92; WEX Bank in the amount of \$1,011.56; PNM in the amount of \$804.52; Ortega and Son's in the amount of \$500.85; 2 accounts for TLC in the amount of \$3,523.05; Boundtree in the amount of \$1,033.24; 8 accounts for Construction Coordinators in the amount of \$11,895.09.

**Personnel - Buy Back Vacation Leave**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained under our Ordinance it states any employee who wants to buy back their vacation leave may do so and showed the council the three examples of how much each different amount would be with tax as well.
- Finance Officer Finch explained the reason what the benefits to the city as well as increase the cities net financial position and also improve budget stability and productivity and said they respectfully request the opinion of 140 hours to be bought back due to some employees having well over 200 vacation time hours. She continued to explain by keeping the hours down is beneficial due to the event an employee was to quit, the city would have to pay out all the kept hours of vacation either way.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if there was a time to use your vacation time or is it after so long you lose the vacation time.
- Finance Officer Finch said there is a 320 cap on the amount and once they get to this amount, they will not be able to get anymore.
- Manager Dr. Moore said that is why we put a cap on vacation time and then said he is making sure things are balancing correctly as in having employees take vacation.

**Resolution 2022-XX - 2023 Official Holiday**

- Mayor Ramsell said we are keeping with what we basically have kept with which is the federal holiday list.

### **HDR Engineering regarding San Lucas/Chamartin storm water drainage project alternative(s)**

- Mr. Antonio Nunez from HDR began to explain the storm water drainage on San Lucas/Chamartin and gave details on the following, DHSEM projects proposed typical sections, project sites, opinion of probable construction cost, drainage improvements alternative, and alternative's opinion of probable construction cost.
- Mr. Dan Pfeifer from HDR began to further explain the expansion of the spill way which they call a double-throated inlet which is a NMDOT standard flume, and they use this for draining off of curbs and he recommends council to add this structure. He continued to explain with the expansion of the pavement section it appears the original alignment of the spillway with investigation there is erosion and with the new updated improvements this all gets fixed. He continued to give more examples of which alternatives the council would like to choose from.
- Mr. Nunez continued to explain further if it doesn't get fixed now and if someone wants to develop further you are going to run into more problems then before and further explained the cost Alt #1 \$70,443.71, Alt #2 \$334,695.70, and Alt #3 \$479,187.21
- Manager Dr. Moore explained this is the cost for each individual builds and go outside the plan for homeland security.
- Mr. Nunez agreed and said homeland security only allows to repair the drainage as these projects are to improve the drainage.
- Mr. Pfeifer stated there is an option to mix and match the options, but these improvements have benefits in the future.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained this presentation is to ask if council would like to go out of the NMDOT grant with add ons from the alternatives talked about today.
- Councilor Winters asked if they were able to get documentation for the previous project.
- Mr. Nunez said negative they use digital imaging.
- Councilor Gordon asked if they choose alternative 1 and the roads are still curved in, wouldn't the water still flow down the street, and started a discussion.
- Mr. Nunez said due to the rolling curve the water is already flowing over.
- Mr. Pfeifer explained with the 7% slope it has a splash over and will bypass as well as move down the street and with only a 3in depth of the side of the road it is causing problems. He continued to explain that with the new updates it can all be avoided in the future.

### **City Wide Cleanup**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the courts are getting flooded with cases and the judge is working hard to get each case on the docket as well as some people not showing up and some are but there needs to be some type of wording in our ordinance to get more people to show up to court and started a discussion.
- Councilor Gordon asked if it says anything in our state statues about showing up to court.
- Manager Dr. Moore said in the state statue it says you get an arraignment hearing then you have a trial and if the person doesn't show up then the case stops until otherwise.

- Councilor Gutjahr asked so since this is in the state statute, the municipal judge would like to add this to our ordinance and asked if this would be a resolution.
- Manager Dr. Moore said it will take an amendment to an ordinance and is willing to work with the Judge Chavez to get this done.
- Fire Chief explained with code compliance they are averaging between 30 to 45 citations a week and the last court date they had about 20 people show up. He continued to explain the clean up and gave thanks to the public work department for their continuous work around the city and have been getting compliments from residents as well.
- Councilor Apodaca asked if there were any updates on the car wash property.
- Fire Chief said as of right now there isn't any updates, but Dr. Moore has spoken to the attorney, and they are working with him.
- Manager Dr. Moore further explained the plan for the public works yard next to the fire department there is a challenge with this. He then said that there are 3 conex boxes and with talking with the fire department they will be letting the public works use the 2 extra conex boxes and continued to explain the rest of the plans with the yard. He continued to explain the small conex box they are looking to add electrical in the even of liquid being stored and not freezing in the winter as well as overheating in the summer.
- Councilor Gutjahr said the blue on the black on the drawing is hard to read and would like to understand what is going to happen.
- Manager Dr. Moore gave a detailed area to area of the proposed plan and stated council approved a portion of the Bill Brown fund to pay for the public works building.
- Councilor Gordon asked if the water is going to come from the fire department instead of having to go across the highway.
- Fire Chief explained it would come from the stream behind the station.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we are looking at what is more cost effective, sewer or septic.

## **2023 City Cleanup Dates**

### **City Hall Renovation**

- Manager Dr. Moore explained that we are getting ready to open back up and explained where in the building will be getting renovated as well as talked to the fire chief about the fire alarm system and get the go ahead to replace everything.
- Manager Dr. Moore further explained for the Police Department rooms have been painted and framed with proper security measures in place. He continued to say the bathrooms are going to be in a different area and said the floors of the Police Department will be tile flooring and continued with the front glass area for the police station would like to put bullet proof glass for the front and the entrance, also setup a security door to the entrance with a camera system as well as having the entrance have a button to be buzzed in for security.
- Manager Dr. Moore said regarding the skylight out here we are going to go with a roofing contractor and ask for prices as well as had contact with the contractors regarding the gutters and they will be installing them in February.

### **Police Chief Recruitment**

- Manager Dr. Moore requested authorization to use a police recruitment services and further said his concern is needing an assertive outreach for the police chief position. He then said that talking with a colleague in relationship as to why we are having issues and they stated its due to a startup department as well as people knowing what a chief does and how big the work load is. He continued by saying some of the issues as well are some people don't understand the difference from Belen to Rio Communities and look at crime rates as well as other scenarios.
- Finance Officer Finch explained that amount we were looking at is not to exceed \$15k for recruitment services.
- Manager Dr. Moore said with a few grants that are getting ready to defer, looking at costs we will be able to de-obligate the funds to available cash in order to move forward.
- Councilor Gutjahr said when they talked about this before they had mentioned funds not to exceed \$15k.
- Councilor Gordon asked what kind of pool are looking at.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained we only have 3 people who have put applications in and are looking at about 5 candidates for interviews.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if they have a firm in mind.
- Manager Dr. Moore said not at this time but has been talking to companies.
- Councilor Gutjahr said when Gus retired, he stated the Mercer Group will still be in the state, but he will not be there, and asked if Dr. Moore has considered reaching out to them.
- Manager Dr. Moore said yes, he has.

### **Canceling the 12/26/2022 Workshop and Regular Business meeting**

- Councilor Apodaca said he thinks that is a good idea considering it is the holiday.

### **Public Comment**

- no public comments

### **Manager Report**

#### **a) Code Compliance**

- Same as above.

#### **b) Public Works Yard**

- See City hall renovation.

### **Council General Discussion & Future Agenda Items**

- Councilor Apodaca had nothing to report.
- Councilor Gutjahr had nothing to report.
- Councilor Gordon had nothing to report.
- Councilor Winters said discussing regarding the engineers we should have a discussion with the existing landowners because they have a lot at stake, and it is a touchy situation.
- Mayor Ramsell had no comments.

**Adjourn**

- The City Council workshop was adjourned at 4:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth F. Adair, Municipal Clerk  
(Transcribed by Cheyenne Sullivan, Assistant to the  
Municipal Clerk)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

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Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor

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Margaret R. Gutjahr,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

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Arthur Apodaca,  
Councilor

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Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Councilor

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Jimmie Winters,  
Councilor