



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, September 27, 2021 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Swearing in of Robert Chavez (Councilor)

- ✚ Judge Noelle Chavez swore in the appointed Councilor Robert Chavez.

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the City Council regular business meeting at 6:02.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Councilor Winters 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 Adair, Finance Officer (virtual) Stephanie Finch, Attorney Chris DeFillippo, and News-Bulletin Assistant Editor Julia Dendinger.

Approval of Agenda

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell asked to add to the executive session 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) NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8)
- 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 was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes City Council Special Business Meeting Minutes (September 1, 2021) & City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting Minutes (September 13, 2021)

- Motion made by Councilor Winters moved to approve the special business meeting of 9/1, the workshop & city council minutes of 9/13. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters & Voting Abstaining: Councilor Chavez. With a majority vote all minutes were approved as written.

Mayoral Proclamation - Fire Prevention Week (October 3 - October 9) & City Councilor William "Bill" Brown

- City Clerk read the fire protection into the minutes.
- Councilor Gutjahr thanked the Interim fire chief and the rest of the fire department for all of the work they do.
- City Clerk read the City Councilor William "Bill" Brown into the minutes.

Presentations: Valencia Soil & Water Conservation District

- ❖ District Director Andrew Hautzinger handed out information and the Vice Chair Dr. Reid of the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District #4 gave a presentation highlighting the districts mission, a collaborative effort with the City for conservation, financial assistance, community gardens programs, and environmental programs for La Merced Students.
- ❖ Vice Chair Dr. Reid explained the Rio Abajo addition to Whitfield and asked the City to host a townhall event. She further explained this week is outdoor learning week, each school will be working on outdoor projects and invited the City to attend an outdoor event at Whitfield this

coming Saturday, October 2. She then said there will be several leadership positions that will be up for vote in the elections.

- ❖ Councilor Gutjahr said she didn't realize all the numbers; Whitfield is so worthwhile to the entire County.
- ❖ Andrew said they have had Rio Abajo conservation in the area for a decade and would really like to get on the right track this winter to see it reach its potential and are looking for an active roll with the City, County and State and have asked to come back on October 11th to create a proclamation.
- ❖ A discussion began regarding October 11th.

Public Comment

- No public Comments.

Manager Report

a) Professional Service Contract for Economic Development

- Manager Dr. Moore stated at the next Council meeting, he will be presenting a proposed contract for approval for professional economic development services. He then explained he has spoken with the finance department, and they agree the City has the funds to be able to support this and have talked to legal council about a draft contract.

b) Electrical Sign

- Manager Dr. Moore said we have all the quotes we need on the sign side, but we are waiting for quotes on the electrical side.

c) Hwy 47 Streetlights

- Manager Dr. Moore said next meeting we will be presenting Council a proposal for the replacement with Hwy 47 with LED lights, repairs, and lighting of an intersection.

d) Fencing of the City' New Property

- Manager Dr. Moore said the City has property next to the fire station and we are working on a place on that property for sandbag storage
- Manager Dr. Moore said we are working on a couple of things on the volunteer fire department to help us out with cleanup of the City. He then said we are working with the County on cleanup as well.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we are going to be talking with workforce solutions to hire some temporary help and there would be outside funding for those workers.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we will be having early voting in the City Hall in the same place as last election and access to that side of the building will be closed to outside access beginning October 16th. He then explained staff will begin their move to the other side of the building as soon as elections are over.

Approval of Accounts Payable

- Finance officer Finch asked if there were any questions.
- Councilor Gutjahr said there was a laptop for the new code enforcer and all the amount to do the Country Club road is all done
- Motion made by Councilor Winters moved 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.

Cancel/Move 10/11/2021 Workshop and Council Meeting

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said there was a discussion to move the date to October 12.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to move the workshop and Council meeting originally scheduled for October 11, 2021 to October 12, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea:

Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council approved moving the next City Council workshop and regular business meeting from October 11 to October 12.

Hiring of temporary (4) individuals for City Cleanup

- Manager Dr. Moore said this issue is coming before because this is above the budget issue, but we are having significant issues with trash being dumped in the City and it needs to be taken care of. He explained we are looking at hiring individuals at a rate of \$12.00 and it would be temporary, we would also ask for volunteers, but we have to get the City cleaned up. He then asked Council to amend to budget to make the funds available and began a discussion.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr moved to the hiring of 4 temporary individuals for city cleanup. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote motion was approved to hire 4 temporary individuals for City cleanup.

Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) - Disaster Assistance Program PW #1

- Manager Dr. Moore explained on July 6th and 7th we had an emergency tied to the flood damages to City Hall and we are able to use some on the Homeland Security Management funding to pay for some of that damage to City Hall. He further explained the damage, the State would pay for \$13,000, and what would be done with the money, but the City would have to match a percentage of that.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve project #1 and allow to spend the \$6,000 and to have Dr. Moore to sign off on it. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the motion to approve Disaster Assistance Program PW #1 and allow Manager Dr. Martin Moore to sign off on it was approved.

Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) - Disaster Assistance Program PW #2

- Manager Dr. Moore stated project #2 is the larger one to repair damages to roads, drainage areas, damage alongside of the roads. He then explained the damage along Del Fuego and other areas that have erosion problems. He continued to explain the total cost of the damage is \$400,000, the State would pay for \$300,000, and the match from the City would be \$100,000. He then requested approval.
- Councilor Winters said we have been waiting for Del Fuego to be repaired for about 6 years and is happy to be moving forward on that. He then said Del Fuego is also on the drainage plan and that helped us obtain funding for this complaint.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the homeland security disaster program, approving the \$100,000 match and City Manager to be the signature. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote, the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) - Disaster Assistance Program PW #2 was approved.

Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) - Disaster Assistance Program PW #3

- Manager Dr. Moore explained this has to do with removing the debris on the City roads, cleaning hundreds of cubic yards of silt and debris. He then explained the cleanup process using a company as well as the fire department, cleaning culverts on Hwy 47 to prevent future

flooding. He explained the cost of the project was \$65,000, the State's portion was \$48,750 and requested the funding be approved.

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to approve the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM6 - Disaster Assistance Program PW #3 and approve \$16,250 match with Dr. Moore as our signature. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the motion was approved.

Automatic Assistance Agreement for Fire Protection with Belen Fire Department

- Manager Dr. Moore said the interim fire chief is here to answer any questions, this is an automatic agreement rather than a mutual aid agreement, allowing for expedited response times. He continued to explain the agreement.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters to move forward with the Automatic Assistance Agreement for Fire Protection with Belen Fire Department. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the agreement was approved.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Winters had no discussion items.
- Councilor Gutjahr thanked Whitfield for their presentation.
- Councilor Chavez gave shoutouts to the 2 EMT's, Kendal and Jessie, for their outstanding performance on a medical call. He then said the second thing is realizing the importance of water, needing to learn how to be good stewards of our water, and having people educating other in such a very positive way is such a good thing.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell thanks coming out to water soil conservation for their presentation, thanked the Chief for the training of the EMTs that are doing so well, and mentioned there is a State of the City review coming up.

Executive Session For the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) 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 Pro tem Ramsell asked what the pleasure of the Council is to go into an executive session for the purpose of limited personnel matter – interim fire chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) 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 as stated by the Mayor Pro tem. Seconded by Councilor Chavez. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Chavez, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive session at 6:55 pm.

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

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr moved with a roll call vote to go back into the regular business 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 7:38 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 September 27, 2021 a Closed Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) 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.

Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding the purpose of limited personnel matters – Interim Fire Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2)

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said there is no recommendation from Council. No action was taken.
- Fire Chief Interim Tabet said they will be having a get together this Friday at 6:00 pm at the fire station to meet the new chief and have invited the other fire departments in the area and began a discussion.
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Adjourn

- Councilor Winters moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Chavez. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:41 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