



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, September 13, 2021 6:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the City Council regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Council Winters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr and Councilor Jim Winters
Present: Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth “Lisa” Adair, Finance Officer Stephanie Finch, City Attorney Chris DeFilippo, and Valencia County News-Bulletin Editor Clara Garcia.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda for September 13, 2021 was made by Councilor Gutjahr. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Brown, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2021

- Motion to approve City Council Workshop and Regular Business Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2021 was made by Councilor Winters. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote the minutes for the workshop and city council meeting was approved as written.

Swearing in of Code Enforcement Officer

- ✚ Clerk Adair swore in the Code Enforcement Officer Ricardo Yzquierdo and the Fire code Enforcement Officer Kendal Good.
- ✚ Mayor Pro tem Ramsell explained Kendal Good was one of the Junior Fire Fighters when they restarted that program, and she is heavily trained and is one of our first fire fighter/EMTs. He then said Jesse Tourney is our other fire fighter/EMT.

Public Comment

- no public comments.

Manager Report

a) Enhancing Law Enforcement

- Manager Dr. Moore said talking with the sheriff’s office to discuss law enforcement and agreement with the law enforcement protection fund to help pay for additional services to help target and improve community safety.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained other areas to report. The lights on 304 are back on and the problem had been a disconnect had been melted by a power surge, protecting the breakers.

We are working on the other lights that are not on yet. He then explained we will be placing the chip seal on the roads that were being worked on.

Commissioner and Board Reports

- Manager Dr. Moore stated that the Council has received reports from the Commissions/Board and asked if they have any questions regarding the reports.

Department Reports

- Manager Dr. Moore stated that the Council has received reports from the departments and asked if they have any questions regarding the reports.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said under the department report regarding the potholes, we have been trying to find a way to spread out that work, more potholes keep popping up.
- Manager Dr. Moore said there will be reports later on the process of getting those potholes filled and if the cost does not exceed the amount designated by Council by the time we are ready to fill the potholes, we will proceed.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell asked about if we will reseal on Hillandale before we restripe.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he will follow up with finance as it was not on the scope of work.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if Hillman can also be resealed.
- Court Clerk Adair stated that the courts did not have a report this month since there was no activity.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Accounts Payable

- Councilor Gutjahr said she appreciate the breakdown by department on what goes out to the Municipal League to the Self Insurer's and asked does that include workmen's comp.
- Finance Officer Finch explained what is covered, including workmen's comp, general liability insurance, automobile insurance, public official's errors and omissions, civil rights insurance, property insurance, and volunteer coverage. She then explained they are working to get better rates.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said under the HDR did a damage assessment after the flooding so that we may report to aske FEMA or Homeland Security for funding and that came out to \$16,367.33.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr to pay the bills. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution 2021 - XX Travel Policy

- Finance Officer Finch explained the changes to the policy including the new rate and adding the library board.
- Motion made by Councilor Winters. Seconded by Councilor Gutjahr. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote Resolution 2021 – 21 Travel Policy was passed, approved, and signed.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resignation of Councilor William "Bill" Brown

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell read into the minutes the resignation.
- Councilor Gutjahr explained she has known Councilor Brown for a very long time, he has done a lot for the City and was faithfully championing for what he felt was best for the City.
- Councilor Winters said it was a pleasure to serve with Councilor Brown and thanked him for his service, explaining all of the ways he was involved in the City.

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said before the City existed, he was looking out for the community, finding anything he could to benefit the residents and thanked Councilor Brown for his service.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr accept the resignation. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote Council accepted the resignation of Councilor William “Bill” Brown.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Appointment of City Councilor

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell recommended Robert Chavez, a former City Councilor to fill out the remainder of Councilor Brown’s term on City Council. He then asked for comments.
- Councilor Gutjahr explained she worked many years with him, not only as a former Councilman and in the schools, and I feel he is full of integrity and is a good choice.
- Councilor Winters said he was a hard worker and was always prepared for Council meetings.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell made recommendation to appoint Robert Chavez to fill the remainder of Councilor Brown’s term.
- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr moved to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote Council approved the appointment of Robert Chavez as the next City Councilor for the remainder of the year 2021.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said Robert Chavez will be sworn in at a future meeting.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Winters said we did a lot of road work done this summer and we should post what has been done to the public. He then said we still have more grants in the process.
- Councilor Gutjahr has no comments.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell reminded people to turn on your lights at night, overgrown vegetation should be cleared to prevent being a target.

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) NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8)

Motion and roll call vote to go into close session

- Motion made by Councilor Gutjahr with a roll call vote to go into close 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) NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8). Seconded by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote Council went into a closed executive session at 6:29 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 Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Ramsell, Councilor Gutjahr, Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote Council was back into the regular business meeting session at 7:01 pm.

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem

- Mayor Pro-tem Ramsell welcomed everyone back and then stated the Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on September 13, 2021 a Closed

Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were the purpose regarding the limited personnel matters – interim fire chief and discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body as posted on the agenda.

Action Items - Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding Interim Fire Chief and of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body

- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell stated there are no recommendations. No action was taken.

Adjourn

Councilor Gutjahr moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. With a 3-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:09 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