



City of Rio Communities Council Workshop
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, January 24, 2022 3:00 PM
Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Joshua Ramsell called to order the Workshop at 3:10 pm.

Attendees

- PRESENT: Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Arthur Apodaca, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, and Councilor Jim Winters.
Present City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Officer Stephanie Finch, Accounting Specialist/CPO Angela Valadez, and Fire Chief interim Andrew Tabet.

Accounts payable report

- Finance Officer Finch went over the accounts payable anything over \$500.00; 3 charges to Sharp Electronics Corporation in the amount of \$3,411.26; TLC for yearly maintenance in the amount of \$1,307.20; Wells Fargo for server in the amount of \$2,497.74; Comcast for telephones in the amount of \$529.28; 2 charges to TLC for Fire Department maintenance in the amount of \$2,071.66.
- Councilor Winters asked if there was going to be any other charges coming from the Voice over.
- Finance Officer explained there will be a monthly charge but much more affordable than we had before.
- Mayor Ramsell said the animal shelter fee was less and hopefully a good thing.
- Accounting Specialist Valadez stated there was only 4 animals for the month of December.
- Councilor Apodaca said are these one-time charges as well for the Voice Over Communications.
- Finance Officer explained how the voice over is working and how City Hall employees can download an app, so no one is missing calls especially now during these past few weeks.
- Municipal Clerk Adair explained how transferring calls have improved with the new system.

Purchase of 2021 Ferrara Pumper Truck

- Manager Dr. Moore thanked the finance office, fire chief and fire marshal office to get the push and get this back to us. Our Pumper truck is 15 years old and out of ISO compliance. He did explain we have 3 grants we are using for this purchase and continued explaining the type of truck we are requesting.
- Councilor Apodaca asked the grants came in different years correct. I know with the 1st was from 2020 and the 2nd was another year prior. In one column it did show different balances and how it is calculated.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained there are different columns, one was a grant that was reauthorization from the legislature and did contact the state to get permission to use said grants for this purchase. Then explained how the money is allocated.
- Mayor Ramsell explained the 40k is coming from the EMT GRT Funds to add official EMT equipment on it.

- Chief Tabet explained what the truck will offer which is bigger in size and a traditional truck for easy commute to and from emergencies, this truck will be able to answer more emergency calls than before.
- Manager Dr. Moore said this will improve/add to our ISO rating.
- Councilor Apodaca asked what's the life span of the truck in question.
- Chief Tabet explained the average life span depends on its upkeep. One of our trucks have been in service since 1979. So, it can be anywhere from 20 to 25 years if not longer.

Administrative Calendar

- Manager Dr. Moore explained we have made it easier to understand where all the deadlines are, but the budget calendar is different and will be handing those out soon.
- Municipal Clerk Adair explained this is a live document and will be updated as time goes on.
- Councilor Winters explained he likes the idea of this calendar because if there is something needing to add or forgotten there is an option to add in the future.

Resolution 2022 - XX Open Meetings Act

- Manager Dr. Moore explained the resolution in question is the same one as last year and was making sure members of Council had any questions or comments or changes, they would like to state.
- Municipal Clerk Adair said due to losing a posting stand, we have talked to the owner of Oasis, and he will let us post in the laundry mat next to the diner.

Valencia County Business Incubator Proposal (space)

- Manager Dr. Moore introduced Mr. Ben Romero and did express that he talked to the attorney about the proposal at hand and the attorney did give his approval for Council to officially take over but will let Council decide what action to take forward.
- Mr. Romero stated he is very exited about moving into City Hall and asked Council if there are any questions, they have he is more than willing to answer.
- Councilor Winters further asked will this operation be certified by the State Economic Development.
- Mr. Romero said not to my knowledge, but we are making sure to get all the certifications we need. We have reached out to the State Economic Development but hoping to move further in the future, this began a discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore asked Mr. Romero to let them know who was on the Board.
- Mr. Romero explained they have 3 members himself, Josh Baca-Torrez, and Lodi Silva as well as an advisor Ralph Mims, and a Firm from back east, also we are working closely with The Village of Los Lunas.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if there is a plan to get the word out and how is that going to work.
- Mr. Romero explained how this will get out by social media, advertising at local businesses, and since I am from around here, I am going to go to friends and family.
- Councilor Apodaca asked if he had another program inside of Valencia County.
- Mr. Romero said they do not.
- Councilor Apodaca asked is this city specific.
- Mr. Romero said this is Valencia County specific, best why for communities to stay together.
- Manager Dr. Moore said Mr. Mims is in support of Ben's proposal.

Sunny505 Proposal for Services - Public Communications

- Joanie Griffin stated that a news release was about the new logo and letting the community know that Ralph Mimms was the Economic Development Consultant.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained that from our Attorneys office they knew who she is and it's a very positive standpoint. He then said for a financial standpoint we do not see a problem of moving forward.
- Councilor Gutjahr said on the press information, it has been a real struggle to get information out to everyone and with that price I think it's great.
- Municipal Clerk Adair asked for more specification as to what website.
- Ms. Griffin stated it is specific to the EDC website only not the City's website.
- Councilor Apodaca said it sounds exciting.

Public Comment

- no public comments

Manager Report

- Manager Dr. Moore stated we are making some progress with the Tilery property. We have spoken to the property owner and are working with law enforcement also. We are getting to the end of January; we have received several individuals contact about the letter and due to special needs, we are working with them. We have also seen some businesses cleaning up weeds and such down 304 and seen more property owners doing more but of course we have some not doing anything, but we are going to enforce these rules rolling into February.
- Dr. Moore explained we have 7 streetlights out along 47 and had some wires stolen said that its sad people are doing that this but, we were able to recover the polls and arms and maybe 1 or 2 LED lights are working if not we will replace it.

Electrical Sign Update

- Manager Dr. Moore stated the electric sign is up and has power and are working with Sharp Electronics to start having the sign connected to the network.
- Manager Dr. Moore then went on with COVID protocols we have closed City Hall and now have moved it to appointment only, due to employee's positive results, he encourages Council or members contact the fire department for a at home test kits if they are feeling symptomatic or have been around anyone with COVID. He also explained about possibly getting additional masks (will talk to the fire department) but still haven't heard anything as of now.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained he is very pleased two of the grants have gotten off the dime for the truck and thanked Council for moving forward with the project. He then added there are additional changes in the fire departments administration office and talking to the acting Fire Chief there are going to be some other changes down the road.
- Councilor Winters said on the way to the business lunch, we had a few weeks ago, talking to a member she stated there was about 3-4 people have requesting information about the electric sign and wanting to post on it, maybe we can have a policy for businesses to post on it.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he will talk to legal Council regarding what can be and cannot be posted on the sign and will definitely bring it back on the next meeting.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked about the light pole down, was it a truck that brought it down.

- Manager Dr. Moore stated light pole was ran over about 2am and after public works picked it up and someone uncovered it and started pulling wires out.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if our insurance covers the down light pole.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained we are checking and if not, they will be added to the insurance, this lead to a discussion.

Council Discussion & Future Agenda Items

- Councilor Apodaca said in regards to the piece of land on the westside of 47, vacant property near the white building, flag pole said this is an area owned by NMDOT, Councilor Winters can help with the details.
- Councilor Winters said NMDOT probably owns the property.
- Councilor Apodaca said that would make a great all-inclusive veterans memorial park but since no parking just a visual park, if we can fine someway to utilize this piece of land.
- Councilor Gordon asked about any movement on the hold on Chamartin and San Lucas.
- Manager Dr. Moore said we are waiting on final information from the State, but we have may have received it.
- Finance Officer Finch said yes, we have, and the next step is to get with the engineers to work on it.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained he has already been in contact with HDR to contract it further, we have two separate pots of money we may need a separate set of design for restoration but do have a preliminary design as of right now.
- Councilor Gutjahr explained are we going to have a meeting for personal policies. She also stated on Thursday there is suppose to be a meeting with DOT, us and Belen and would like for paperwork to be updated, this started a discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she received an email from Representative McQueen about the Junior Bill, and we have a deadline by Tuesday/Wednesday.
- Manager Dr. Moore said he would continue with something along the lines of continuing with youth programs.
- Councilor Winters said he is a little concerned by our LEDA ordinance. When we did our LEDA, we had a templet and now with anyone applying for ordinance there are 8 types of qualifications and then read what was on the State website. Is our LEDA ordinance out of date.
- Manager Dr. Moore said Ralph Mimms let him know that at our February 14 meeting can meet with us and update our LEDA ordinance.
- Mayor Ramsell asked Council if there will be able to asset in committees and that Dr. Moore has the list if anyone is willing to help out. He also stated that if we can get a detailed list of the committees and what they are about so Council can know which one to choose.

Adjourn

- The Regular Workshop was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Transcribed by Cheyenne Sullivan, Assistant Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Margaret "Peggy" Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur "Art" Apodaca,
Councilor

Lawrence R. Gordonr,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor