



**City of Rio Communities Council Special Workshop**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, July 19, 2021 6:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

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**Call to Order**

- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr called to order at 6:04 pm.

**Present:**

- PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy Gutjahr, (virtual) Councilor Bill Brown, Councilor Joshua Ramsell and Councilor Jim Winters.  
Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, (virtual) Finance Officer Stephanie Finch and City Attorney Chris DeFillippo.

**Final Budget (Manager/Finance Officer)**

- City Manager Dr. Moore started a discussion couple of items that were added: the special revenue fund had a new fund added called the American Rescue Plan and the estimated projections for that fund will be over a million and the fund will be Federally regulated rather than State and the funding has to be spent by 2024. He then said he thought it would be wise to spread the money over the three years and reviewed the basic layout of where the general funds are with no changes or surprises.
- City Manager Dr. Moore explained the salary and wage expenses are up a bit, explained the street funds, the separate code enforcer position at 20 hours, assistant clerk at 25 so the extra meeting minutes can be taken care of as well as City Hall being opened two Fridays a month. He then explained the other change is offer to the firefighter/EMT \$17.00 for the first 6 months with the option of \$17.50 after. He then explained the repairs and projects, parks, Library and opportunities for grants, the digital sign is in the budget. He then asked for City Hall to get a vehicle within the year. He continued to review the budget.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr asked if the Fire Chief's salary is included.
- City Manager Dr. Moore said yes it was included in the preliminary budget and continued explaining the final budget, covering grants, loans, and revenues.
- City Manager Dr. Moore went over the recap: the GRT is looking healthy, Capitol Projects, Appropriations Projects and other funds, and began a discussion.

**American Rescue Plan (Council/Manager/Finance Officer)**

- City Manager Dr. Moore started a discussion on the American Rescue Plan regarding how much of the funds to use in FY2022 and what the City is allowed to use it for: \$650,000 for possible use for drainage and streets (possibly Hillandale, 304, Damen, Horner and other streets with drainage issues), personal protective equipment, wastewater program for ditches.
- Finance Officer Stephanie Finch explained the difference between the wastewater and storm water, with wastewater being sewage.

- Council continued with the discussion, including projects serving disadvantaged communities, economic health, violence, mental health and substance abuse.
- City Manager said some things that would be beneficial to us in the economic development to get help Rio Communities promote itself as an entity.
- Councilor Winters said the project he has been intrigued with is the idea of having a public service nurse to analyze phone calls that come to the fire department as there are a lot of repeat callers, this would allow some of those callers to get into the programs they need and reduce the calls. He then explained some similar programs. The discussion continued
- City Manager Dr. Moore said he does not know if we can get additional law enforcement, but he recommends doing the project that we do know we can fund might be a good place to start and we can do budget amendments as needed and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Pro Tem Gutjahr asked if we can put money into contract services to providing more law enforcement and continued the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore explained what will be coming back to Council with a list of what we are recommending, which are contract services, infrastructure, and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr explained what we look at someplace on this side to be able to have a staging area for public if there is an emergency.
- Manager Dr. Moore said there is a place in there to pull in recreational programs in to this funding and continued the discussion.

**Executive Session - For the purpose of pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) - AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities.**

**Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**

- Councilor Ramsell moved with a roll call vote to go into executive session for the purpose of pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) - AC Disposal v. City of Rio communities. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Gutjahr, Councilor Brown, Councilor Ramsell, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive closed session at 7:04 pm.

**Motion and roll call vote to go back into the special workshop session**

- Councilor Ramsell moved with a roll call vote to go back into the special workshop session. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Gutjahr, Councilor Brown, Councilor Ramsell, Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote Council returned back into the special workshop session at 7:30 pm.

**Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem:**

- The Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on July 19, 2021 a Closed Executive Session was held and the matters discussed were limited only to pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) - AC Disposal v. City of Rio Communities.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr stated no decision was made.

**Adjourn**

The City Council special workshop was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk  
(Transcribed by Amy L. Lopez, Deputy Clerk)

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

Approved:

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Mark Gwinn,  
Mayor

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Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

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Bill Brown,  
Councilor

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Joshua Ramsell,  
Councilor

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Jim Winters,  
Councilor