

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes
Regular Business Meeting
September 25, 2018

Call to Order

- Mayor Gwinn called to order the city council regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Frank Stasi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn, Councilors; Bill Brown, Peggy Gutjahr, Arturo Sais and Joshua Ramsell.
Present: Finance Officer/Treasurer Celina Benavidez and Deputy Clerk Pam Johnson.

Approval of Agenda

- Councilor Sais moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was approved as written.

Approval of Workshop Minutes

- No minutes to approve

Approval of City Council Minutes

- No minutes to approve

Approval of Solid Waste Forum Minutes

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve the solid waste forum minutes of August 21,2018. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the solid waste forum of August 21, 2018 was approved as written.

City Manager Report

- Manager Skerry was absent.

Public Comment

- Sandra Ganeau, Rio Communities; said she is here to see what kind of support they are getting from the police and the fire departments, she then said she sent all of the governing body letters, and some have answered, she wants answers from Councilors even if it means raising taxes.
- Ken Sandlin, Rio Communities; said at the workshop today Council addressed some issues but the one issue needing to be addressed is the City Manager; he then asked do all agencies report to the City Manager and if so, he is in direct disagreement with how the fire department is run now and asked how it can run effectively if he is trying every way to make it not run properly. He then said the City Manager should recuse and let council decide. This issue needs to be addressed and understands there are some things we can and can't do and they need definite answers. He said the community wants action now and if can't do the action tell us why you can't and then said the presence of individuals with perceived authority will deter crime.
- Misty Lemon, Rio Communities; asked if we have heard more about the young lady murdered under bridge and what are we going to do to protect other young lives and Rio Communities.
- Mayor Gwinn said this is an open investigation and they are not putting any information out and this is being handled by the County.
- Ms. Lemon asked what one can do about a neighbor that has barking dogs.
- Mayor Gwinn said Council can answer that question at the end of the meeting under Council reports.
- Charlene Whitener, Rio Communities; she said she had brought to Council's attention several times before is the ordinance which they are not enforcing for drug enforcement and then said she is

being told it is being investigated, it's been watch and said it is not. The situation is not being monitored and has been given lip service. She had brought a copy of ordinance council adopted back in March and May of 2017 and you're still not enforcing it. She then said a lady on Horizon Vista who was looking at moving to this area with two small children, first thing she asked was about crime. Get the criminals out of our community and enforce ordinances which has been presented to you several times.

- Andi Lee, Rio Communities; said the problem is the security and crime in the City. Then asked why we can't hire a security company to help if we can't afford another police officer and said there are numerous drug houses in the County and said it was sad that citizens had to repair wall.
- Mayor Gwinn reminded the wall is a privately owned.
- Ms. Lee then said further questions she has is the fire department, the Chief knows how to run it and should continue, said we do not need a paid Chief but need four EMT's to guarantee coverage. She then asked regarding the grant received to fix city hall, could this have been asked for other items to benefit the City.
- Mayor Gwinn explained the Capital Outlay grant must be capital improvements and other grants used was the NM DOT money for roads.
- Andi Lee said the DOT money isn't enough money to cover everything that needs to be done.
- Jody Skelton, Rio Communities; said we need some kind of protection either by citizens patrolling or hire a company to do that for us or get another officer. It is not safe here, people are getting broken into in broad daylight every day. The drug houses are more moving in here every day, the deputy knows where they are, and only one has been taken out.
- Angie Madrid, Rio Communities; she has 2 issues, the last time she had mentioned to council someone shooting at the golf course and then said someone shot at the apricot tree in her backyard and her daughter called the police at 6:07 and officers didn't come to her home until 6:45. She then said at the last meeting she gave councilors literature regarding Bosque Farms volunteer program and explained the program, such as add volunteer rider to their insurance, the presence helps and police will know when they get a call on something going on.
- Frank Stasi, Rio Communities; said this council has opportunity to look into issues and do something, taking the information Angie gave us and do something now. He said we need to address the weeds, hire someone, get a bid get it done. The Council needs unity and he can't believe you are going forward with the fire house when councilors disagree, this is important, and everyone should agree, listen to the people and get ideas. He then said regarding the remodel and understand the fire house is included, is the same architect doing it, and did this go out at the same time and he doesn't understand how the funding for this can happen. He then said he understand the fire house gave PO's to the city and was told there was an order to not write the check.
- Jo Stasi, Rio Communities; thanked the City for light and ramp in the back and then said what was discussed at the workshop, the Councilors saying they want to hear from you and if you have concerns, Mrs. Stasi said she printed out cards with phone numbers on it and they need to hear the citizens' concerns. She then said call individually. She then said the weeds are a priority and Council isn't looking for someone. She then asked regarding the purple building on the corner of Horner and 47 can't the City Manager find owner and take care of that issue.
- Gloria Perea, Rio Communities; said yes we need police protection and weeds are a problem but her main concern is don't we have good contractors in the County, why did they get one from Colorado.
- Mayor Gwinn said he is licensed in New Mexico and Arizona.
- Ms. Perea said she had heard he was one of Bob's friends from Colorado.

- Deputy Knight explained after the meeting he will wait in another room and address concerns anyone may have. He then said he served a search warrant on a drug house that he had been working on for 6 months and then said action has to start with him.

Accounts Payable

- Treasurer Benavidez gave the report on accounts payable and asked permission to pay the following bills.

TLC Plumbing & Heating	\$	5,228.77	Department of Public Safety	\$	15.00
Sharp	\$	214.70	Gusto	\$	2,232.12
Gusto	\$	6,256.99	NMML (Conference & Training)	\$	1,740.00
Century Link	\$	203.08	AC Disposal	\$	360.00
Universal Constructors	\$	4,929.23	Rio Communities Service Station	\$	128.92
Gilbert Garcia & Sons	\$	136.80	Card Service Center	\$	3,953.83
Heather Benavidez (Judge – Sept)	\$	300.00	Robles, Rael & Anaya	\$	209.63

- Councilor Gutjahr made a motion to pay our bills and accounts payable from 9/13/2018 – 9/25/2018 as presented. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Sais-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Council approved the payment of accounts payable.

Council Reports

- Councilor Ramsell said he is addressing some of the concerns that citizens have asked; at the end of this year we will have spent 300,000 on road repair this year alone through the DOT grant and said we are trying to build-up infrastructure that is 30-40 years old; regarding street signs, most have been replaced at least once and we have another go around for more, this is more than have been replaced by the county in the last 30 years. He further said he will take on looking into the security company of costs. He then said regarding the weeds, we are having an issue finding someone who is licensed and bonded. Council will be meeting with fire department on October 3 at 7:00.
 - Audience member asked about weed cleaning could it be a seasonal employee of the City.
- Mayor Gwinn said they will be looking at hiring a maintenance man at the next workshop.
 - Audience member asked if we spend more money having to bid out and adverting then having someone as a full-time employee as a maintenance person.
- Mayor Gwinn explained that it was cheaper to go the bidding way instead of hiring and then said once again we will look at it.
 - Audience member said it would be great if we could start on those corner houses where the are stop signs.
- Councilor Sais said there was a wreck on Manzano and Hillandale and that area needs to be looked at, and Manzano is dangerous.
 - Audience member asked who they call if they see a corner without a stop sign.
- Mayor Gwinn said to call City Hall and the Deputy Clerk (Pam) will get the information and explained that we have a contract with the County to install after we have purchased the replacement.
- Councilor Brown encouraged anyone that has issue with traffic violators to see Officer Knight after the meeting. He then said it may look like nothing is being done by the police but that’s not the case.

- Councilor Brown reminded that the joint meeting with the fire department is on October 3 at 7:00 pm at the station and the reason for this meeting is because of miscommunication and he is hoping this may help to solve problems.
 - Audience member said regarding the Officer, he may be doing stuff, but we have too many things going on in this City for him to handle, we need more security, need more police officer, and volunteers.
- Councilor Brown said when it comes to the drug houses there is a joint task force, not just one officer.
- Councilor Brown said regarding the issue of weeds, he agrees entirely and we as a council have been asking the City Manager to get a code enforcer hired and a new person will be in place soon.
 - Mary Lee Serna said asked Council to listen to the Citizens request, they do not want a paid Fire Chief or paid assistant fire chief but want 4 fully trained EMT's. She then addressed Officer Knight and said people are saying they do not see him patrol their area, they never see him, what hours does he patrol.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she does care about concerns of residents and understand their frustrations, she then addressed a few issues; we keep an ongoing priority list of issues and thanked Angie for the report and she will look into that issue. Other issues council is doing is looking at funding, they are fully aware but understands people's frustration. She then addressed the issue on presence of the officer, it is not a good idea for the community to know patrol hours. She then said as far as the perception on weeds, there is always an issue of private property vs. what we can do as the City, we have put out several times an RFP for weed control but have not had responses and will continually try.
- Councilor Gutjahr addressed the issue that was brought up by Mary Lee and said when she was on council, she was refereeing to what was called the Cops Grant from the Justice Department, which yes it helps provide 4-5 officers but we would have to be able to sustain that amount of officers by 4 years and we're having trouble to fund the one and maybe two officers now and further said the grants now are not available to cities with less than 20,000 population.
- Mayor Gwinn thanked everyone that came out for clean-up. He also reminded everyone about the joint meeting on Oct 3 with the fire department and then asked those members on leave to be at the meeting and also those members that have left. He further said the Treasurer and Manager have been working with the fire department to get a budget because that's what the auditors are look at. Further items regarding the fire department is we get money from the State Fire Marshal to supply this station, PO's have to be reviewed and have been well over \$100,000 in the past two months but we don't have a budget in the fire department and we have to show the auditors and DFA that we have enough money for the rest of the year.
- Mayor Gwinn addressed other issues; regarding the barking dogs it is better handled by animal control and he'll talk to County because picking up stray dogs is in our contract. He then said if you have questions to talk to the councilor's one on one; they will look at hiring a person for maintenance. As far as the drug houses and we have to talk to the sheriff, they have had two that have been busted but have not gotten to court and we need to talk to the legislators about changing the laws.

Adjourn

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Sais. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Taken by Pamela Johnson, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Arturo R. Sais,
Councilor