

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes  
Regular Business Meeting  
Tuesday December 12, 2017

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- Robert Teague led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn; Councilors, Bill Brown, Peggy Gutjahr, Arturo Sais and Thomas Scroggins.  
Present: City Manager Bob Skerry, City Treasurer Celina Benavidez, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, P&Z Chairman Robert Teague, RGEFD L.E Rubin and Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez.

**Approval of Agenda**

- Mayor Gwinn stated that he would like to change the agenda by putting the City Managers' report to the end of the departmental reports and table the PNM support resolution.
- Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was second by Councilor Scroggins. With a 4-0 vote the City Council Regular business meeting agenda was approved as amended.

**Approval of Workshop Minutes**

- Councilor Scroggins moved to accept the workshop minutes of Tuesday November 14, 2017 as written. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 vote the workshop minutes of Tuesday November 14, 2017 was approved as written.

**Approval of City Council Minutes**

- Councilor Brown moved for the acceptance for the city council minutes of November 28, 2017. The motion was second by Councilor Scroggins. With a 4-0 vote the city council regular business meeting minutes of November 28, 2017 was approved as written.

**Public Comment**

- Kuan Tikkun gave an update on Mission Graduates and the Workforce Development conference that she had attended. She then further explained Workforce Development is looking at trying to get internships by employers once the student has graduated from high school.
- Councilor Sais asked as far as education will there be more higher learning technical schools.
- Kuan Tikkun said more jobs are requiring higher technical education.
- Mayor Gwinn said as he understood there are a lot of vocational schools coming back throughout the State of New Mexico.
- Kuan Tikkun said as she understands CNM which was formally TVI still offers the technical training and said there are a lot of jobs for plumbers and electricians, but those jobs are not being filled because they are not finding the people to meet the basic requirements.
- Councilor Gutjahr explained how some companies offer training within the companies for tradesmen.
- Kuan Tikkun said another area being looked at is job shadowing and employers going into high schools and offering job training.

## **Economic Development**

- Manager Skerry said there has been a lot going on with EDC and explained they have been attending the AED luncheons where they are networking with other businesses.
- Manager Skerry explained at the last VALEO Mark Roper from the State Economic Development was a speaker and further explained that he had an article in the Journal saying the new shining beacon was Valencia County and expanded on the County's growth.
- Manager Skerry said through AED they have a website available to members and stated our EDC needs to come up with a small paragraph to put on their website.
- Councilor Sais asked how come the County itself is a big deficit.
- Manager Skerry said that is a good question and said he doesn't understand because he is looking at distributions from tax and rev and he sees there has been steady growth.

## **Planning and Zoning**

- Chairman Robert Teague said P&Z has been working on solid waste and read the mission statement to the audience. He then said originally, they were going to have a joint meeting with Council to go over the questions but then said since Council has the questions, they can go over them and then give P&Z their feedback.
- Mayor Gwinn said what he would like to do, is let Council review the questions and then on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the workshop they will discuss the questions. He then said we should be having a joint meeting afterwards to collaborate with each other.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she felt the mission statement was excellent.
- Councilor Sais asked we have 2157 rooftops and 750 do not have service.
- Chairman Teague said we have 3 major haulers and gave the numbers once again.
- Manager Skerry explained how many hours P&Z has put in to discuss these questions.
- Chairman Teague explained that the ordinances they have been looking at are from the municipalities within Valencia County.
- Councilor Sais asked eventually we will have a joint meeting and then said he would like to see all our procedures and policies to be consistent.
- Manager Skerry said this is what P&Z concluded and how they arrived at these questions and answers.

## **Rio Grande Estates Fire Department**

- L.E Rubin said he had received a call from Assistant Chief Peterson about giving the report on the fire department. He then explained in the last 30 days there has not been any changes in their call volume and then explained they are still doing the weekly training on Wednesday nights. He then said they are doing some community service projects for some of the kids and they had their annual banquet last Friday and appreciated seeing some of the Councilors, Mayor, City Manager and City staff at the event.
- Mayor Gwinn said he had two calls regarding smoke detectors and they wondered when they were going to be contacted.
- L.E Rubin said he will check with Chief Lewis when they can get them their detectors.

## **Municipal Court**

- Judge Heather Benavidez gave an end of the year review and update on the Courts. In fines for the year we received over \$4,000. She then stated that court costs of \$29 is given for any guilty, no contest plea or finding of guilty on her part. She then said over \$1,500 for corrections, over \$200 judicial education and over \$400 for court automation.
- Judge Benavidez explained that she took upon herself to have a dialogue with Sheriff Burkhard regarding our absence of our Police officer and when we might expect his return or status of another officer being put in place and said she is waiting for his return call.

- Councilor Sais said we have had a lot of activity with the police in this area.
- Judge Benavidez said that this is not coming to us, probably going to Magistrate.
- Mayor Gwinn said he is talking with the sheriff's department and officer Fernandez is on medical leave and as he understands the position comes up for review either January or February.

**City Manager Report**

- Manager Skerry gave a year-end report. He said asphalt is being laid and about ½ of the 18 intersections have been completed and the remainder of the work will startup soon. He further explained that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> DOT grant we have received and said that is a total of 31 intersections that have either been completed or in the process of completing. He then said there is enough money in the budget to be able to do another fog seal on Goodman.
- Manager Skerry said Sandy Schauer from the newsletter is here and explained January 9 is Candidate Declaration Day, soon after that the first newsletter will go out.
- Manager Skerry explained that we got a bid from APIC regarding maintaining the street lights.
- Manager Skerry said Roof Care has come back and recoated/resealed after we had that rain in September/October and they have also rechecked the middle roof of the fire station which has also been recoated.
- Manager Skerry said we enjoyed the dinner from the fire department and said we realize they have gone through some rough emotional times this last year. He then highlighted the nuts and bolts, starting off the year with having the EMS GRT going up and further explained the amount of calls for the year and getting 2 new rescue units. He then explained the fire house is still being worked on and what we will be ending up with is a new fire station with state of the art commercial kitchen and a new command vehicle has been purchased for the fire department as well.
- Manager Skerry said that Tierra Grande also known as Fire Station #2 is now in the ownership of Rio Communities and explained the contract and area of District 1. Manager Skerry further explained this has been a good year with the budget for the fire department.
- Manager Skerry explained that it has taken over 2 years to get the street lights turned over to us and up and running. He then said we are looking at extended lighting out in the community and targeting approximately 6 intersections with various types of lighting and maybe even video surveillance.
- Manager Skerry explained that street signs have been installed.

**Accounts Payable -- City Treasurer Celina Benavidez**

- Treasurer Benavidez requested permission to pay the following bills.

Gusto	\$ 5,166.36	Gusto	\$ 2,163.89
Southwestern HR Consulting	\$ 306.38	Gusto	\$ 63.00
Bob Skerry (mileage)	\$ 9.03	Bob Skerry (mileage)	\$ 12.04
Elizabeth Adair (court clerk)	\$ 150.75	Heather Benavidez (Dec)	\$ 100.00
NM Water Service Company	\$ 240.49	Century Link	\$ 84.85
Comcast Business	\$ 574.45	NM Self Insurers' Fund	\$ 742.00
Universal Constructors Inc.	\$ 134,380.14	NM Gas Company	\$ 418.03
PNM	\$ 374.74	PNM	\$ 317.92
Bob Skerry (mileage)	\$ 114.38		

- Councilor Sais moved to accept the billing as read. The motion was second by Councilor Scroggins. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Gutjahr-yes; Councilor Sais-yes and Councilor Scroggins-yes. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable was approved for payment.

#### **Resolution 2017- \_\_ Official Holidays**

- Clerk Adair read into the minutes resolution 2017-111 official holidays.
- Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve resolution 2017-11 official holidays. The motion was second by Councilor Scroggins. Vote: Councilor Scroggins-yes; Councilor Sais-yes; Councilor Gutjahr-yes and Councilor Brown-yes. With a 4-0 vote Resolution 2017-111 Official Holidays was passed, approved, adopted and signed.

#### **Cancel/Reschedule Workshop and City Council Meeting of December**

- Mayor Gwinn asked Council if they wanted to cancel the City Council workshop and business meeting for December 26 or reschedule to another date and opened it up for discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr made a motion to cancel the workshop and city council meeting of December 26. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. Vote: Councilor Sais-yes; Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Scroggins-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the motion was approved to cancel the workshop and city council meeting of December 26, 2017.

#### **Resolution 2017- \_\_ PNM support**

- Tabled to a future date.

#### **Employee Benefit Package**

- Manager Skerry said Council has approved getting an HR company to review all our personnel policy and do an assessment of all positions and then said one of the things that has become apparent is the need to offer benefits to employees.
- Manager Skerry said he is asking Council for direction on moving forward on what to pursue either PERA or independent sector.
- Councilor Sais asked would we give you direction on what tier to pursue.
- Manager Skerry said what he needs from Council is to give him the permission to bring in the agency in to talk with the Governing Body.
- Councilor Sais motioned to move forward with the Manager to look at benefit packages for the City. The motion was second by Councilor Gutjahr. Vote: Councilor Scroggins-yes; Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Gutjahr-yes and Councilor Sais-yes. With a 4-0 vote the motion was approved to move forward with the benefit package for the City employees.

#### **Council Reports**

- Councilor Scroggins had nothing to report.
- Councilor Sais said he would like to put a drive-up post office convenience box in front of City Hall.
- Councilor Brown had nothing to report.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she went to the County Health CWC meeting and the health crunch was on physical health and explained the next crunch will be on mental health and gave a summary of the meeting.
- Mayor Gwinn said we are looking at pot holes and hoping in the near future they will be taken care of.
- Mayor Gwinn said in January we will be starting up the dumpsters once again.
- Mayor Gwinn wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

#### **Adjourn**

- Councilor Brown moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Sais. With a 4-0 vote the Regular Business meeting of December 12, 2017 was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair  
Municipal Clerk

Approved:

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Mark Gwinn,  
Mayor

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Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,  
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

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William (Bill) Brown,  
Councilor

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Arturo R. Sais,  
Councilor

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Thomas Scroggins,  
Councilor

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