

Rio Communities City Council Solid Waste Public Forum Minutes  
August 21, 2018

- Mayor Mark Gwinn called the Public Forum on Solid Waste to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn, Councilors; Bill Brown, Joshua Ramsell, Arturo Sais
- Absent: Councilor Peggy Gutjahr.  
Present: City Manager Bob Skerry, Treasurer Celina Benavidez, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, P&Z members; Jim Winters, Dennis Kintzler and John Thompson.
  
- There was a total of 3 audience members and Clara Garcia from the Valencia County News-bulletin

**Solid Waste Public Forum**

- Mayor Gwinn asked Jim Winters to explain how the solid waste began.
- Jim Winters said P&Z was tasked with developing a trash or solid waste ordinance. They divided up into quadrants and teams and focused on trash ordinances throughout the State.
- Jim Winters went over the list of reasons Rio Communities is developing a solid waste ordinance.
- Jim Winters explained that P&Z had come up with 23 points that they wanted to make. One of their recommendations was to make this a single hauler system.
- Jim Winters explained that P&Z had looked at many ordinances from other cities and went with one specific ordinance as a template because it seemed to match our needs, uses the same attorney as we do and the ordinance was recently written. He then went over the proposed ordinance.
- Trace Moss said a neighbor across the street also has a house in Albuquerque which is their main residence, will they be required to have a trash container even though they only come to Rio Communities once a month on the weekend.
- Mayor Gwinn said this is an area that we will have to further explore and find the best practice.
- Jim Winters explained that we will explore the minutes for all these questions and find answers.
- Councilor Sais said he has a place in the Marzano's and he pays the trash fee even when he is not there.
- Mayor Gwinn asked if it is required.
- Councilor Sais said all he knows is they have trash pickup and he pays the same as his neighbor regardless if he is there full time or not.
- Manager Skerry said what was suggested mandatory is mandatory not case by case.
- John Thompson from P&Z explained that he was the holdout because he was opposed to government telling us what we had to do and then said he changed his mind after visiting an area north of the City and visiting that area he experienced the lack of garbage control and he also experienced on the cleanup days and became aware of how bad the problem is in the City how people were hoarding their garbage. He then said he lives in a Cal-de-sac and how the streets are being damaged due to the amount of haulers that are driving through there. He further said his own wife said we will pay for garbage service regardless if it is mandatory or not.
- John Thompson explained how the P&Z members each took a section of the State and asked those municipalities what they were doing and then said that almost all had single hauler and mandatory. He then gave an example of a an article on one person that totally recycles everything and doesn't produce much garbage and then said do we make an exception to that one person if that is the only one we have or is mandatory mandatory. He then said regarding medical waste anyone that is using needles for bona fide medical reasons; they are very diligent about disposing of them properly so any needles you might find out on the mesa are going to be for illegal usage.
- Dennis Kintzler said one of things he did not see in the ordinance that he through P&Z was adamant about, was whoever was awarded the contract as a single hauler should maintain an office in the

municipality so there would be communication between the Hauler, the customers and the City as well.

- Mayor Gwinn said he travels around NM and looks at areas for best practice and he explained that on the East side of the State he spoke with one of the Mayors and that mayor explained that the hauler is another set of eyes in their community to help prevent crime when the trucks are driving around and may notice something different in the neighborhood.
- Councilor Brown said Rio Communities said is not classified as a rich city and we do have some poor people and then explained he has two neighbors that he has allowed to use his canister because between the three of them they make just enough garbage to fill it up.
- Manager Skerry said the reason for mandatory is it is impossible to enforce.
- Clara Garcia explained that she knows of a hauler that has a low income rate for those individuals, but they would have to show proof of income.
- Dennis Kintzler said shouldn't that be between the hauler and the customer rather than the City and the Customer.
- Manager Skerry said that would be part of the procurement and RFP process.
- Ms. Moss said she feels part of the RFP should be their customer service and then explained her current hauler's driver was very rude and yelling at her.
- Mayor Gwinn explained that he wants to get together all information, have the treasurer and City Manager write-up the RFP and then it will go to the Attorney for a review of the ordinance.
- Mayor Gwinn said he would like to hear more from the community.
- Mayor Gwinn closed the Public Forum at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

Approved:

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Mark Gwinn,  
Mayor

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Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,  
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

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Bill Brown,  
Councilor

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Joshua Ramsell,  
Councilor

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Arturo R. Sais,  
Councilor