

City of Rio Communities Workshop Minutes
Tuesday January 8, 2019

- Mayor Gwinn called to order the city council workshop at 10:00 am.
- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn, Councilors; Bill Brown, Arturo Sais and Joshua Ramsell.
Absent: Councilor Peggy Gutjahr.
Present: Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair.

Guest Speaker – PNM Spokesperson

- ❖ Kristen McLoughlin said last year they did the energy bonds and explained the energy policy that will be introduced at this year' legislative session, will increase more renewable energies and decrease the carbon based which will accomplish closing these plants 30 years earlier. She then explained that in 2018 there has been many closures of coal plants and mines. With the support from municipalities they can transition New Mexico to the cleaner energy future.
- ❖ Mayor Gwinn asked with the solar regulations coming to an end next year are they going to increase so it will allow PNM to be able to create more solar farms.
- ❖ Ms. McLoughlin said the solar tax credit ended in 2016 and the federal will be ending shortly and then explained PNM will be increase the renewable portfolio 20% to 50%.
- ❖ Councilor Sais asked when the proposed change would take place.
- ❖ Ms. McLoughlin explained they are in the process of working on the program and further explained this is not a PNM bill as what was last year but an energy policy to work with the State Legislators.
- ❖ Mayor Gwinn asked if they will still be using the natural gas out of the four corners.
- ❖ Ms. McLoughlin explained they will be looking all diversified mixes and natural gas is one clean cost affective energies.
- ❖ Councilor Sais asked if PNM is partnering up with some of these private electric companies and said he would like to see a lot of co-ops.
- ❖ Ms. McLoughlin explained the co-ops are privately owned and began a discussion on the locations for PNM.
- ❖ Councilor Sais asked when nuclear plants are being shut down and do we use nuclear energy in New Mexico.
- ❖ Ms. McLoughlin said the only plant she is aware of is APS (Arizona Public Service) and said New Mexico does not have nuclear plants and continued the discussion on co-ops.
- ❖ Mayor Gwinn explained that in 2018 there was 20 building permits issued in the City and 14 were for solar panels added to the homes and since 2016 there has been over 50 installed in various homes in the City.
- ❖ Mayor Gwinn said basically PNM is asking for our support as they did last year and then said we will put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Council reports & agenda items – 30 minutes

- Councilor Ramsell said welcome back and Happy New Year. He then explained that the fire department was attempting to get some pumps tested, was that accomplished.
- Mayor Gwinn said yes, and we received the bill the other day.
- Councilor Ramsell said he knows we will be working on the budget very soon and he would like to look at places that we have funded in the past but have not used to look at moving forward looking at funding a second Officer.

- Mayor Gwinn said he has looked into this and thinks there are avenues we can move into that direction.
- Councilor Ramsell said regarding the fire department, he was thinking it would be great idea if we could have a paid part-time fire chief, assistant chief along with six paid EMT's.
- Mayor Gwinn said he talked with the State Fire Marshal as well as Nate and Andrew and the suggestion was to only fund a fire chief and further explained talking with some of the EMT's they didn't want to be hired and wanted to keep it the way it is and began a discussion on the various resources to help fund the position.
- Councilor Sais said regards to hiring more people we need to get at least the City Manager and a finance clerk in place before we start the budget.
- Mayor Gwinn said he has sat down with Celina and then explained that he has contacted some of the individuals that had applied back in May and some are still interested in being part of our community.
- Councilor Sais said the demands on the Treasurer are going to be big with the budget and don't want to see burnout.
- Councilor Sais asked what our lighting situation is.
- Mayor Gwinn said Celina has a couple of bids for the solar lights and APIC is one that we are looking at closely and began on what other contracts we are going to need for lighting maintenance for not only the solar lights but also for the pre-existing light bases and poles.
- Ms. McLoughlin explained she had spoken to the department manager regarding the street lights and they wanted to do a drive around in the evening.
- Councilor Sais said that public safety is a big issue and we need to look at another officer. He then asked about the road signs from DOT, but the cement hasn't been repaired.
- Mayor Gwinn said that he has been in contact with Tammy Lovato and she explained that as soon as it gets above 40' she will send them out to pour the concrete and get that area fixed.
- Councilor Sais requested within our public-school systems we have student athletes that we should start recognizing and we should make a proclamation and would like to recognize a certain individual
- Diego Casillas a student athlete from Belen High School and gave a description of his accomplishments.
- Councilor Brown said happy New Year and may the New Year treat us all gently. He then said one of the side projects that he had been looking into is the business registration fee and business license and began a discussion on the ordinance and his opinion feels the ordinance needs to be re-written.
 - Resident said earlier you stated that there was 20 building applications for building permits and 14 were for solar panels and asked those companies that installed the panels should have purchased a business license.
- Mayor Gwinn said each company purchased a business license as well.
- Councilor Brown said he thinks we should upgrade these two ordinances.
- Councilor Brown said in regard to franchise fees we have talked about implementing but have not, some might be very minor in what they might provide in revenue and wondering if there is any possibility to expanding it to include all the other franchise fees.
- Mayor Gwinn said he will explain later to Councilor Brown what the former City Manager was working on and where they were heading with the other franchise fees.
- Councilor Brown said at the last meeting Councilor Gutjahr mentioned a crime map that was available online and there was a list of crimes reported in November and December all reporting as Belen not Rio Communities and then asked if there was a way for us to claim our own crime scenes.

- Mayor Gwinn explained that we have our own UN number and when it goes to the 911 call center they send it to the responding agency.
- Councilor Brown encouraged the Mayor to look at the list and said every report is marked as Belen and then said he feels that it is not the fault of the people reporting it but is the fault of the Sheriff department and something is wrong with the system and began a discussion on the disconnect between the 911 call center and the crime map site.
- Councilor Brown said he has a concern regarding the attorney's response time and especially regarding the solid waste and the Padilla's situation and began a discussion on should we deal with another attorney because he feels this is not getting done.
- Mayor Gwinn said in the newspaper a couple of pit bulls got out of a residence house and attacked and killed another dog that was walking with the owner. He then said that he made a call to the County Manager regarding our ordinance and the County's ordinance on vicious animals and said those two pit bulls should have been picked up and euthanized and said he (the County Manager) will be following up with Animal Control. He further said he was told yesterday by another individual that had called animal control they told this individual we (the City) does not have a contract. He then spoke again to the County Manager and he will take care of it and remind animal control that we do have a contract with them.
- Mayor Gwinn said that he and the Finance Officer met with the auditor and we only had one audit finding, not making deposits on a timely manner.
- Councilor Brown asked if this was a one-time deal or showing of a pattern.
- Mayor Gwinn said it was showing a pattern and continued with his report from the auditor and further said that all last year' findings have all been corrected.
- Mayor Gwinn said VRECC has approved the new cost and explained that when we joined our annual cost in 2015 was \$36k and is now down to 23,619k. He further explained that Bosque Farms has had an increase of 24.8%, Valencia County had a decrease of 8.5%, Belen had a little over 23% increase, Los Lunas had -1% decrease and Peralta had 8.5% increase, but they are at a different rate since they chose not to join the VRECC and further said that AMR had a 51% increase.
- Councilor Brown said the impact really is our call rate has gone down significantly.
- Mayor Gwinn said that Bernalillo and Sandoval County has passed a law regarding false alarm calls for home security systems the individuals will be charge \$100 after more than 3 false alarm calls within a 6-month period and continued the discussion regarding the VRECC, false alarm calls and replacing the solar speeding signs.
- Mayor Gwinn explained he and Councilor Gutjahr will start working on the Capital Outlay and the areas they will being going after grants for.

Road Cleanup after a big storm – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said this is basically the cleanup from the mud coming down after a big storm and began a discussion on getting a crew to cleanup or putting this in a road maintenance bid besides just the potholes.
- Councilor Brown said this is a flip flop of duties since filling potholes is a completely different type of work from cleaning the roads and continued the discussion.

Public input/questions (3) minutes to address the Council

- Dennis Kintzler asked who gave the road paving company to dump on the 27th acres on the eastside of town.
- Mayor Gwinn said he and the former City Manager gave the permission and explained the reason why.

- Dennis Kintzler asked could that be used to partially block some of the mud slides.
- Mayor Gwinn said we could look into it, but it would be hard to determine where the flow might happen.
- Councilor Sais asked are we getting close to needing a maintenance yard.
- Mayor Gwinn said we are getting there but as far as having a maintenance building we don't have the secured property and continued the discussion on the vacant property we own and possible future areas.

2019 Administrative List – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn explained that the Clerk put together a calendar of upcoming events and started a discussion on the administrative list.
- Clerk Adair asked if there was any information on Valencia Day in Santa Fe.
- Mayor Gwinn said he thinks it is on the 22nd of February and continued the discussion on the administrative list.
- Councilor Brown asked regarding the capital outlay request needing to be concurrence with the ICIP, does that mean it has to be exactly the same as what was submitted in September.
- Mayor Gwinn said yes there can not be any deviation from the ICIP and continued the discussion.

Ordinance 2019-XX Uniform Traffic Ordinance – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said this is the changes that the State made to the traffic ordinance and began a discussion.
- Councilor Brown asked if we can make any changes to the ordinance.
- Mayor Gwinn said no we can not this is State statute and only the home ruled municipalities it doesn't pertain to them.
- Councilor Brown asked about page 2, regarding signs who is the administrator of these laws, also since we do not deal with drunk drivers how is this enforced.
- Clerk Adair explained that we enforce what we have in law for our City such as signs, that would be a code violation, other things we do not have we can't enforce but we have to keep it on the books because it is a State statute and continued the discussion.

Ordinance 2019-XX UTO Penalty Assessment Program - Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said this ordinance is the for the fines that will be assessed at a traffic stop and began a discussion on the amounts, what has been increased and decreased.
- Clerk Adair explained that in the past there was not a uniform fine schedule, so all the municipalities were charging what they felt needed to be charged and continued the discussion.

Resignation of Personnel Board Member - Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said that Clyde Shue is resigning from the personnel board.

Resignation of Planning and Zoning Member – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said Robert Teague is resigning from Planning and Zoning commission.

Council Priority List – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said since Councilor Gutjahr isn't present we will add it to the next workshop for further discussion.

Public input/questions (3) minutes to address the Council

- No questions from the public.

Website update – Discussion

- Clerk Adair explained we will be doing a virtual test on the 30th of January and said that we need to do some fine tuning and began a discussion on what we are finishing up.
- Mayor Gwinn asked on the website will businesses be able to put community events coming up.
- Clerk Adair said she will ask Municode on how we can do this and continued the discussion.

Ordinance 2019-__ Regular Local Election

- Mayor Gwinn asked if there are any further changes before we go to the public hearing tonight and said the one thing that he likes about having the election in November is that the newly election official will not take office until January 1st, so they have time to come in and learn about the City and have an easier transition.
- Councilor Sais said he would like to see that transition period to identify projects that are ongoing.
- Clerk Adair asked if anyone has heard of during this transition if the League will have a newly elected training before the individual takes office.
- Mayor Gwinn said he will look into that and continued with the discussion.

Change Workshop back to Monday – Discussion

- Mayor Gwinn said the only time he would like to switch to a Monday workshop is when we are dealing with budgets, money transfers or major finance situations to ask the Treasurer before taking it to a council meeting.
- Councilor Sais asked what is wrong with going back to Mondays as we had before.
- Councilor Brown said his recollection was it would be better for the staff and getting material together for a Monday morning was very difficult.
- Mayor Gwinn said Monday is also a payroll day.
- Councilor Brown said if we do have something special we can always change the workshop to a Monday morning or a special meeting such as for budgets or an overburden on the agenda.
- Councilor Sais said in his situation it takes him time to process and began a conversation on the need to understand all issues before bringing in front of the public and having a workshop on Monday would give him that opportunity to digest things.
- Councilor Sais asked if VIA is moving out.
- Mayor Gwinn said he heard the building has been sold.
- Councilor Sais continued the discussion on the changing of the Workshop stating that some may have adjusted to the change, but he has not.

Public input/questions (3) minutes to address the Council

- Dennis Kintzler asked regarding the message board to keep the community informed.
- Mayor Gwinn explained it is still there and the wiring has been added.
 - Dennis Kintzler asked about the electrical sign already there
- Mayor Gwinn said it will be going away and it never was approved through DOT.
- Councilor Ramsell said Tuesday workshops work for him.

- Mayor Gwinn said if we think there is something that we really need to talk about we will have a special workshop.
- The City Council workshop was adjourned at 12:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Adair, Municipal Clerk

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Arturo R. Sais,
Councilor