

City of Rio Communities Workshop Minutes  
Monday, May 8, 2017

- Mayor Gwinn called to order the workshop at 10:00 am.
- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn; Councilors Bill Brown, Peggy Gutjahr, Arturo Sais and Thomas Scroggins.  
Also Present: City Manager Bob Skerry, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair and Finance Clerk Marsha Walton.
- **Council reports & agenda items – 30 minutes**
  - Councilor Scroggins said he went to Judge the science fair at La Merced, had a good time and met a few really smart kids.
  - Councilor Sais would like to have more discussion on stipends for P&Z, EDC and future Mayor and Councilors.
  - Mayor Gwinn stated we are budgeting for EDC and P&Z stipends and explained the governing body is based on the residents voting for pay according to our ordinance.
  - Councilor Sais said he understands this but feels we would have more people running for office if there was compensation.
  - Councilor Sais said there are concerns regarding pay scales whether it be staff or the governing body and then asked what is the coconscious of the council to put the stipend on the ballot and began a discussion.
  - Councilor Sais said he would like to see 2-hour maximum time frame for all workshops.
  - Councilor Brown asked regarding VALEO is there an official that orchestrates the meetings.
  - Manager Skerry said it has been going through him and Greg Martin from Los Lunas and began a discussion on the reason the last meeting was canceled, the discontent from all municipalities and county to be involved in VALEO.
  - Councilor Brown said he has concern over the viability of VALEO and feels it has been confirmed.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked do you get a sense from Greg that Los Lunas in general would like to do things together or are they stepping back because of the lawsuit.
  - Manager Skerry said yes and then started a discussion on how we are still working with Los Lunas on the incubator program and having regular luncheons with Ralph Mimes regarding economic growth.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said it is very difficult to get people to see the bigger picture.
  - Mayor Gwinn said the down fall is how difficult it is to get people talking to each other and continued the discussion.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said up in her area there were 3 houses sold and explained she developed a 1 page sheet and took to the new home owners with magnets with the basic information for the City.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked if people that have home business are aware they need to get a business license from the City and began a discussion.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said in today's journal there was an article on how strip malls are going away.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said Ray Vigil has been tracking the burnt homes and one of them has been paid out and began a discussion.
  - Councilor Gutjahr went over a list of conversation items she has put together and would like to put them on a future agenda and began a discussion.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said regarding our building usage policy she recently learned if it's a government agency in any way they should be free and everyone else would have to pay the fee.
  - Manager Skerry explained what his issue is getting other entities to get liability insurance when using the building and continued the discussion.

- Councilor Gutjahr said another conversation brought up at MOLI is how they measure a timeline of things that need to be completed and said maybe putting this as a discussion at a future workshop.
- Mayor Gwinn said advanced MOLI was great and he was able to talk to many different Mayors. He then explained that Tasha from NMML has asked everyone to talk to their neighboring officials to further their education and began a discussion.
- Mayor Gwinn reminded the cleanup will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Gwinn explained that Bob, Jim and himself went to a census class and are starting to work on the 2020 census and began a discussion.
- Mayor Gwinn explained we had the best representation at MOLI having 4 of them there and feels they all took information away from the training.
- Mayor Gwinn said the new manager of New Mexico water company is now in office.
- **Restructuring City Council Workshop or Regular business meeting to include public input**
  - Councilor Brown explained he has sent out a new embellished structure on the concerns.
  - Councilor Scroggins said he talked with Kathy and she suggested instead of the public just talking during the workshop have a written question regarding their concerns on an agenda item.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said she has spoken to several people and they had concerns about it occurring at a workshop and felt this was the time for council to get their information and then said her thoughts was to be able to have 24 hours after the workshop to review everything and having a time for the public to ask questions at the council meeting.
  - Councilor Sais said he has talked to a couple of councilor from other municipalities and they feel workshops are primarily for council and they do not have participation. He then feels there might be cost of staff working longer hours and then said there needs to be time limits on the workshop itself.
  - Mayor Gwinn said he spoke with people from Clovis, Eunice and Forte Sumner and said the drawback is that people come in with their own agenda items not the items on the agenda and continued the discussion.
  - Mayor Gwinn said at the last workshop Lisa eluded to the format regarding public hearings and then said we need to think about making changes to the format.
  - Councilor Sais explained we need to have our own decision not what other municipalities are doing and said he would strongly support a pilot for maybe 6 workshops and see how it enhances participation.
  - Mayor Gwinn said Councilor Sais is already wanting to have a maximum of 2 hour workshops and if you have too many agenda items or the right topic where you would have a lot of discussion this will take you over the 2-hour time frame and continued the discussion.
  - Mayor Gwinn said look at today's agenda we haven't even looked at the MOA and council doesn't even know what it is about how can we have public input if Council doesn't even know what is in the agreement.
  - Councilor Brown said what he outlined was Council would go through the agenda items, have our discussions, then once that discussion stopped open it up to the public for their input. He then suggested instead of having a certain number of workshops to determine the trial period how about having a certain number of speakers to see how it works and said he feels 12 speakers would be a good study.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked are we only talking about workshop or council meetings also discussion.
  - Councilor Brown said what he proposed was this should start off at the workshop only for the trial period starting with 12 speakers.

- Councilor Sais asked is this how you want to define the pilot is with 12 speakers.
- Councilor Brown said yes and then once the trial period ends then further discussion can began to either continue it or not and whether we want to extend it to the business meeting.
- Councilor Gutjahr said so Councilor Sais would like to have the trial period for 6 sessions and Councilor Brown would like 12 speakers.
- Councilor Brown said if all 12 speakers come to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting then the trial period would be over, where he doesn't think that would happen. He then explained his thoughts on needing more time to get the word out and giving only 6 sessions might not be enough time.
- Councilor Sais said he does not agree on Councilor Brown's proposal and said he feels if the 12 speakers should show up for one issue that wouldn't be enough of a study and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Gwinn suggested having a trial over the summer and continued the discussion.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement – Valencia County – Road Sign Service agreement**
  - Manager Skerry explained several months ago we had agreed on the continuous of service agreement with Valencia County that included animal control and GIS. He then further explained that Lena from the county asked if we could table the agreement until another one strictly for putting up street signs.
  - Councilor Scroggins asked is this agreement be for the street signs only.
  - Manager Skerry said yes this is essentially a MOA for street signs and then explained a MOU is a memorandum of understanding but what we have is a MOA memorandum of agreement and explained the difference of the.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked for a change on the first page to read purpose of this agreement is to provide.
  - Councilor Scroggins asked if they do not install any signs we do not have to pay them anything and does the employee liability lies with the County.
  - Manager Skerry said yes and then further explained they are not City employees and are operating as a contractor and continued the discussion.
- **MOA – Valencia County – EMS Services**
  - Manager Skerry explained this is a service we sign every year and further explained here changes to this agreement were made and then said one other item will be increasing the cost of disposal of medical waste and began a discussion.
- **Resolution 2017-\_\_ Create a Local Reserve Account**
  - Manager Skerry said we have a resolution that we have in place now but would like to have a new resolution to increase the reserve to put the amounts of \$200,000, \$96,902 & \$58,526.
  - Councilor Scroggins asked are we going to put into the reserve account \$340,000 plus or minus.
  - Manager Skerry said yes, we are going to put into a new reserve account \$345,000 and explained we would like to put in 1/3 of the general fund budget into a reserve account.
  - Manager Skerry explained he, Celina and Marsha were on a conference call with the State Treasury and we can setup an account with a .69% interest rate and we put \$355,000 and open another account for \$500,000 that would be in capital projects and with both accounts totaling \$855,000 would be netting \$5,800 with the yearly interest rate of .69%.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked would these be two separate accounts.
  - Manager Skerry said yes.
  - Mayor Gwinn asked is the State FDIC insured.
  - Manager Skerry said the State is not FDIC insured.
  - Mayor Gwinn asked what was New Mexico Finance going to pay.

- Manager Skerry said the State is the better of the two and explained the reason for going with the State and continued the discussion on the differences.
- **Resolution 2017-\_\_ Create a Capital Outlay Account**
  - Councilor Scroggins asked will this be put back into the general fund at some time.
  - Manager Skerry said no it only can go to the capital projects fund not the general fund.
  - Manager Skerry went over the highlighted items on the agenda and began a discussion on the budget amounts on the capital improvement fund.
  - Manager Skerry began a discussion on the changes to the proposal budget made as of May 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Councilor Sais asked if the nominal fee for P&Z and EDC is just for the regular meetings not special meetings.
  - Manager Skerry said yes only for the regular scheduled meetings and they will be 1099's. He then continued the discussion.
- **Manager Report**
  - Manager Skerry explained the County is in real trouble regarding bad budgeting and explained they are too heavy in personnel and way off the scale on the number of employees. He then said the County Manager is to decide on layoffs and began a discussion.
  - Manager Skerry further explained he was talking with the County Fire Marshal of them cutting budget items, doing away with the nominal fee/stipend and Danny didn't know any of this. He further explained what they had suggested is the County would give the City a block grant lump sum and said we cannot have a volunteer fire department become personnel and began a discussion.
  - Manager Skerry began a discussion if the City would be interested in taking over Del Rio Senior Center, the County is looking at ways to cut funding, explained the spreadsheet from the senior center and what are advantages or disadvantages.
  - Councilor Gutjahr said she can already foresee the questions regarding how can we afford to maintain a senior center and have it sustainable but cannot afford police.
  - Manager Skerry said his thinking is trying to pull the community together, growth and coming up with extra money for a facelift of the senior center building to look like city hall and do a major downtown revitalization change and then said the argument for obtaining the center is what if the County would shut it down and continued the discussion.
  - Councilor Gutjahr asked would the facelift include the fire department.
  - Manager Skerry said yes, and then explained the only funding coming out of capital outlay this year was for senior centers and continued the discussion on funding.
  - Mayor Gwinn said all senior centers in our County are on a one year probation and began a discussion on what kind of impact that would have on funds.
  - Manager Skerry said what he is asking from the board would this be something they might be interested in pursuing.
  - Councilor Scroggins asked conceptionally if we took it over would there be something more to be done in the Senior Center that could bring in more revenue.
  - Manager Skerry said yes, it is a multi-purpose building so it can be used for other things.
  - Councilor Scroggins asked if the County wants to get rid of the Center can we also negotiate for the fire station building at the industrial park.
  - Manager Skerry said he has already put to the County of adding the industrial park building and continued the discussion.
  - Councilor Sais said in this City the two primary populations we have are seniors and youth.
  - Manager Skerry said the City has a plan and feels politically it is the position of the Council to sell the vision of how this is going to work to the public and continued the discussion.

- Councilor Brown said you asked the Governing body if we would like to pursue this, he would like to see if it is in the grass.
- Manager Skerry said there is never going to be 24 hour police protection in this City until we have a budget of \$4,000,000 revenue and continued the discussion.
- Manager Skerry said the highest cost is your sheriff and police protection and explained like with the police there are automatic agreements with the fire department that these departments will never send out an officer out on their own, they will always have backup and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Gwinn said go ahead and start with some studies so we can start having further discussions.
- The City Council workshop was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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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: \_\_\_\_\_