



**City of Rio Communities Council Joint Special Workshop with Planning
and Zoning Commission**

City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd

Rio Communities, NM 87002

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6:30 PM

Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Mayor - Joshua Ramsell

Mayor Pro Tem - Margaret R. Gutjahr

Council - Arthur Apodaca, Lawrence R. Gordon, Jimmie Winters

Call to Order

Mayor Ramsell called the meeting to order at 6:50pm.

Roll Call

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell

Mayor Pro-tem Margaret R. Gutjahr

Councilor Arthur Apodaca

Councilor Lawrence Gordon (virtual)

Councilor Jimmie Winters

Staff

City Manager Dr. Martin Moore

Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon

Fire Chief Andrew Tabet

Attorney Randy Van Vleck

Planning and Zoning Commission

Vice Chairman Scott Adair

Secretary Melodie Good

Commissioner Chad Good

Discussion – Rezoning Process

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the issues with the rezoning process.

City Attorney Van Vleck reviewed the rezoning process in detail, explaining that any decision made in a rezoning process and that it needs to be defensible in court, he continued to explain why there is a public hearing process.

Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr asked what the difference between the open discussion rules and guidelines is.

City Attorney Van Vleck explained that he came up with those so that the public can feel that they are being heard, the city can tailor the rules and guidelines to what is needed, but the rules and guidelines would be there to keep the process flowing smoothly and be productive. He continued the discussion.

Vice Chair Adair asked if the public forum would have documentation, such as minutes, like meetings and hearing have.

City Attorney Van Vleck explained there would be documentation and that documentation would be considered in the public hearing.

Vice Chair Adair asked what ordinance the public forum falls under.

City Attorney Van Vleck explained there is no ordinance that requires a public forum, just a public hearing. He continued to explain what types of hearings are heard at the Planning and Zoning level and which would fall under City Council, where the Council would consider the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning.

Secretary Melody Good asked if a motion needed to be made to go into a public forum, is there a public forum for every type of permit that comes before Planning and zoning, and what is the difference between a public forum and the hearing process currently in place.

City Attorney Van Vleck explained a public forum would need to be held when there is a lot of controversy around a subject, but if the subject of the permit is not particularly troublesome it can be discussed within a regular planning and zoning meeting. He continued the discussion with Council and Planning and Zoning.

Discussion – Zoning Code Revisions

City Attorney Van Vleck explained the zoning reversion in detail.

Mayor Ramsell recommended having a presentation at a meeting before the public forum meeting. A discussion began regarding having a presentation by the applicant during a public forum.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the taskforce that will be working on the zoning code revisions, including what changes will be made, and that the revisions will include public forums. The discussion continued.

Discussion – Annexation Process

City Manager Dr. Moore went over the process of applying for annexation.

Public Comment:

Dick Irvin, from 607 Western Drive, said in the many meetings he feels like the he and the public are not being listened to, and he appreciated the idea of the city being more transparent. He then spoke about the traffic on Highway 304 and first amendment rights.

Adjourn

The Special workshop with Planning and Zoning commission was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



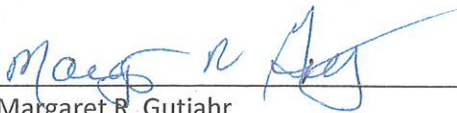
Martin D. Moore, Acting Municipal Clerk
(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 12/28/23

Approved:



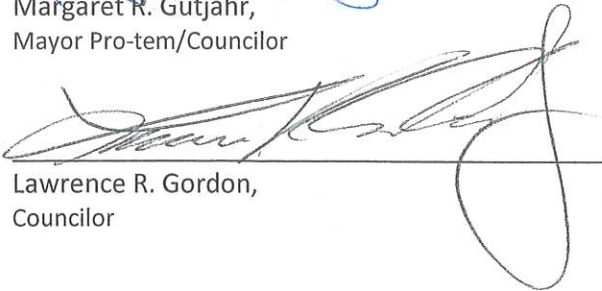
Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor



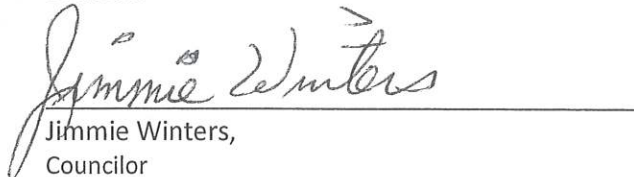
Margaret R. Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor



Lawrence R. Gordon,
Councilor



Jimmie Winters,
Councilor