



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, July 08, 2024 6:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

**Mayor - Joshua Ramsell**  
**Mayor Pro Tem - Lawrence R. Gordon**  
**Council - Arthur Apodaca, Thomas Nelson, Matthew Marquez**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Ramsell called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilor Marquez led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call**

**Governing Body**

Mayor Joshua Ramsell  
Councilor Lawrence Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Apodaca  
Councilor Marquez

**Staff**

Manager Dr. Martin Moore  
Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon  
Police Chief Felix Nunez  
Fire Chief Andrew Tabet  
City Attorney Cori Striffer

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

**Voting Yea:**

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Approval Of Consent Agenda**

**Accounts Payable**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

**Voting Yea:**

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Public Comment:**

Dick Irvin: Thanked the Fire Chief for doughnuts with Veterans. He then talked about the City having something on Veterans Day. He talked about his concern about the parking on the side of the street on Western Drive. He stated that it isn't a very wide road and when the residents try to leave it's hard to see.

**Manager Report**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that the City is working on the street light issues and stated that it will be about \$41,000 to repair them. He talked about the light on the bridge and explained that there are some short underground that are being repaired. He explained that the City is working with the insurance to help pay some of the expense. He then talked about funding from Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for streetlights. He also talked about the Horner project moving forward with the planning stage.

Councilor Apodaca asked if the City had the same insurance as last time. City Manager Dr. Moore explained that they were not insured last time.

Councilor Nelson asked about the lights on the bridge and stated since the bridge doesn't belong to the City will Department of Transportation reimburse the City. City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they will not.

Councilor Gordon stated he is glad to hear Horner is moving forward with the planning stage.

Councilor Marquez asked about the ICIP on the wastewater drainage and stated that the numbers have fluctuated. City Manager Dr. Moore explained that in some parts of town the water systems are not part of NM Water. He stated that the City has a nonexclusive franchise agreement with NM water and if they are unable to do provide the area with sewer and water, we will have to get those areas covered and explained the process. The City will need to go to the State Legislator to sustain parts of the City in the future.

Councilor Marquez asked if all Council will be attending that meeting for the ICIP. City Manager Dr. Moore stated that Council will be having a meeting next Monday at 3pm.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Administrative Services Consultant Contract**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that Gayle Jones has been a supportive part of the administration part of the City. He explained that she is retired as the Clerk administrator in Bosque Farms. She is assisting with getting things in order. He explained that Gayle Jones is Mayor Pro tem in Mountainair, He has heard there is concerns about an issue with the Hatch Act. He explained that an Elected official can enter contract with another Municipality. It is legal as long as they are not a part of a decision-making role. This is a supportive role.

Gayle Jones stated that she has enjoyed working with the City and she does have a contract with Bosque Farms. They are the only two contracts she has right now. She explained that she will be helping with the NMML Clerks institute in the fall.

Councilor Marquez asked what kind of experience she has in finance.

Gayle Jones explained that she has done budgets and quarterly reports and that she was the CPO for the Village of Bosque Farms for 17 years. She stated she was also the Clerk Tresure in Willard and also in Mountainair as well.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve Administrative Services Consultant Contract. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

**Voting Yea:**

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3220 Public Safety Vehicles & Equipment**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that this goes with the Resolution you approved at the last meeting on the grant. He explained that it would be appropriate to have the procurement officer to be the signer instead of the City Manager's Department. This is \$500,000 to be split between the Police Department and the Fire Department. He stated that the only change would be the sign off of the Procurement Officer.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3220 Public Safety Vehicles & Equipment with the one change stated by Dr. Moore. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

**Voting Yea:**

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision– Approval of Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3201 Public Works Equipment and Heavy Equipment**

Dr. Moore explained that this is for the Public Works Department. They have a lot of need for equipment and that the Legislature has worked very hard to get them funding to get good quality equipment that will last. He stated that the Public Works Supervisor, Andy Quintana has already been looking at prices on street sweepers and other equipment. He then stated that it will have the same change for the Procurement officer signer as the other one.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3201 Public Works Equipment and Heavy Equipment with the one change stated by Dr. Moore. Seconded By Councilor Apodaca.

**Voting Yea:**

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3219 Demolition & Removal of Dangerous Buildings and Nuisances**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that this was a request to the Governor’s Office. He explained there is a difference between a nuisance and dangerous property. He stated this grant will help us start. This one with the same change of the Procurement officer as singer. Councilor Nelson asked if the City has any properties in mind. City Manager Dr. Moore explained that there are a few properties. One is County Towing and there is a property on Olson and a few others. Councilor Marquez asked if the City could use this to clean up on Sundial Loop. City Manager Dr. Moore explained he will look into it.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3219 Demolition & Removal of Dangerous Buildings and Nuisances with the one change stated by Dr. Moore. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

**Voting Yea:**

- Councilor Gordon
- Councilor Nelson
- Councilor Marquez
- Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution # 2024-06 New Mexico Department of Transportation Local Government Road Fund Agreement (LGRF)**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that at the last meeting, Council approved to continue with this project. He explained that NM DOT agreed with the improvements on Horner Street. This is a resolution to approve the portion that needs to be submitted. There is a 25% match from the City.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve Resolution # 2024-06 New Mexico Department of Transportation Local Government Road Fund Agreement (LGRF). Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

**Voting Yea:**

- Councilor Gordon
- Councilor Nelson
- Councilor Marquez
- Councilor Apodaca

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Council Discussion**

Councilor Apodaca talked about having a Veterans Memorial here in the City. He has been talking to the owner of the property and he isn't willing to sell but he will allow the City to use it with a maintenance agreement.

Councilor Nelson asked about the eviction of the homeless on the river, he asked what action the City is planning on taking to keep them from pan handling and moving on to private property.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained there are a couple of issues He and Chief Nunez sat with the Governor, and they had some ordinances that could help with this issue. He stated that the homeless

issue is connected to criminal activity and also other issues as well. He stated moving them off the Rio Grande will move them to City limits.

Police Chief Nunez stated that he is a little distraught about how other Governing Bodies made a decision with out consulting the surrounding areas on dealing with the homeless encampments on the Bosque. He explained they met with the Governor to find a quick solution but there is not quick solution. He talked about the special session the Governor has called. He stated that he will be working with the surrounding areas to see how we can help these individuals. Shuffling them around from community to community is not getting them the help they need. He talked about the encampments and how they are run. He continued to talk about coming up with proactive ideas and what is best for out community.

Councilor Nelson asked for an update on the RC assist app. City Manager Dr. Moore explained he is working with Tyler Technologies, and they are going to meet with us.

Councilor Nelson asked if he could have a table at National Night Out and give something to the kids. He then talked about the City magnets and asked if he could take on that project.

Councilor Gordon thanked Mr. Irvin for challenging the City for the Veterans and thanked the Fire Chief for answering the call.

Councilor Marquez thanked Mr. Irvin for bringing some coffee. He then asked about another event coming up. Fire Chief Tabet stated that there will be a taco night on Saturday by the Auxiliary Department. Councilor Marquez asked if there is something the City could do about the parking on Western Drive. City Manager Dr. Moore explained that there are things that can be done. Councilor Marquez asked if there was something the City can do to limit the cannabis shops that come into the City. City Attorney Stiffer explained they cannot limit the number, but we can limit the distance between them. She stated that not all cannabis business is the same. She stated that the City can address them before they become a problem. Councilor Marquez stated that the City doesn't have anything in our ordinance to regulate adult entertainment. City Manager Dr. Moore explained that they all have to get a special use permit, and they would have to go through Council. The City can only regulate time, manner and place. Mayor Ramsell agreed with the need for an ordinance in place. Councilor Marquez talked about the RC assist and asked if we could put it on the City billboard. He then asked about buying some land to build a City park and finding a good area to build a park.

Mayor Ramsell thanked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for all their hard work during Fourth of July.

### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Motion passed at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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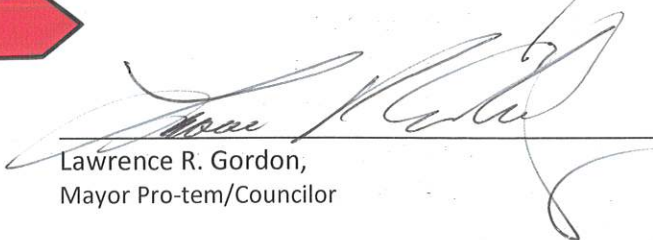
Dr. Martin Moore, (Acting) Municipal Clerk  
(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

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

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor



Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,  
Councilor

 10-15-24

Thomas Nelson,  
Councilor

 10/15/2024

Matthew Marquez,  
Councilor