



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, September 09, 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 Gordon led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell
Councilor Lawrence Gordon
Councilor Thomas Nelson
Councilor Art Apodaca
Councilor Matthew Marquez

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore
Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon
Police Chief Felix Nunez
City Attorney Randy Van Vleck

Approval of Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – July 29, 2024, and August 26, 2024

Approval of Accounts Payable

Motion made Councilor Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the clerical corrections to the August 26, 2024 minutes. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Public Comment:

Council was introduced to the new Liberian Amanda Carrasco.

Manager Report

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that the Council wanted some prices from the SGR group he went over prices for candidate evaluation and betting and job marketing and advertising and stated it is approximately \$6,500. He then gave an update on Don Diego and that the City will have a town hall meeting on Tuesday September 17 at 6:00pm. Dr. Moore requested to have a revenue workshop on September 16th at 3:00pm. City Manager Dr. Moore talked about ownership of streets, right of ways and alleyways and stated that they belong to the City and the City maintains them. He then went over properties that the City owns.

Councilor Marquez talked about putting a Veterans Memorial and a micro park behind City Hall.

Councilor Marquez stated that he talked to Randy Getting's and working with him to plan an event for the City in the month of May and went over some ideas.

Councilor Gordon suggested checking the surrounding areas to make sure there isn't any other events going on.

Councilor Marquez asked for an update from Ralph Mims on Economic Development. Dr. Moore stated that we can ask him to do a quarterly report and have him come in October, January and April.

Councilor Nelson requested Ralph Mimms be in person and not over zoom.

Action Items

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

Police Chief Nunez explained that he had received \$250,000 and is requesting to buy a Ford pickup truck that meets police specs. He then talked about the next vehicle that will be for code enforcement and stated it will be outfitted. He then stated that with the left-over money he will look into buying another vehicle in the next couple of years.

Mayor Ramsell asked if the cost he provided of the vehicle included the outfitting.

There was a discussion.

Councilor Marquez asked if the Police Department will have a swing shift.

Police Chief Nunez stated that he is working on a plan, and they can discuss some ideas in the workshop.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the purchase of Police Vehicles using Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3220 Public Safety Vehicles & Equipment. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Purchasing Fire Vehicles Using Capitol Appropriation Grant Agreement 24-I 3220 Public Safety Vehicles & Equipment

Fire Chief Tabet talked about the vehicles the fire department is looking to purchase he stated that the Fire Chiefs vehicle will be electric.

Councilor Nelson talked about his concerns of the vehicle and stated that he doesn't think that engine on the pursuit vehicle will be the best engine.

There was a discussion.

Councilor Marquez asked if it is 100% refunded, he then asked about the EV charger and asked if the City can provide two EV chargers for the public to use.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that is it a 100% refund and the City is working on having EV charging stations.

Councilor Gordon asked what will happen with the old Fire Chief Vehicle.

Fire Chief Tabet explained it will be used as admin vehicle.

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to approve the purchasing of fire vehicles using Capitol Appropriation grant agreement 24-I 3220 Public Safety Vehicles & Equipment. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Dates for City Council Revenue Planning Workshops

City Manager Dr. Moore recommended to Council to look at their Calanders to set dates for workshops to go over the revenue planning.

There was a discussion.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Mid-Region Council of Governments GRO Grant for Public Safety Equipment and Vehicles

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the grant process and the changes that have been made and talked about the agreement timeline. He stated that it is about \$200,000 for the Fire Chief to get vehicles he needs and get them outfitted.

Motion made Councilor Nelson to approve the – Mid-Region Council of Governments GRO Grant for Public Safety Equipment and Vehicles and the signing of the intergovernmental agreement.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Council Discussion

Councilor Marquez asked about Judge Smith and her process with the Courts.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that she has had some health issues, and the City has scheduled some training for the Judge and her Clerk.

Councilor Marquez stated that he just wanted to let everyone know our Fire Department will be participating in the celebration in Belen and he thanked Chief Tabet and Chief Nunez for all they do. He then talked about Horner road and asked if there is anything the City is going to do about that road. Mayor Ramsell explained that it is part of phase the City has been working on and it will be redesigned. Councilor Marquez talked about including a walking path. Mayor Ramsell explained that is part of the design. Councilor Marquez then stated he thinks the City needs to have an Economic Development Commission. Mayor Ramsell explained that the Commission was suspended during covid he explained the limitations that the EDC has to follow, and the City was looking into a 501c6. Councilor Marquez asked if the City has any plans to go back to having a EDC or working on a 501c6. Mayor Ramsell stated that the Council can discuss it. Councilor Marquez asked about the Planning and Zoning commission seat and if there have been any applications. Mayor Ramsell explained that he has received an application today and he will have to sit down and talk to the applicants. Councilor Marquez then talked about the META data grant and stated that he would be sharing it on Facebook and next-door app.

Councilor Apodaca wanted to get the Council to get together to plan something for Veterans Day to celebrate as a City and talked about developing a tutorial of the City.

Councilor Gordon talked about October 14 and November 11 being a holiday and would like to change the City Council meetings to Tuesday.

Councilor Nelson requested the Universal Waste contract to be on the next agenda as a discussion. Mayor Ramsell stated that they could put it in the October agenda. Councilor Nelson then thanked the Police Chief for keeping the City safe.

Mayor Ramsell thanked the Fire and Police chief for saving the taxpayers money by finding money through other sources. He then thanked Andy from Public works for keeping the City beautiful and saving the City money. He then talked about setting up a Veterans Memorial on City property and stated that if the Council has any questions, they can reach out to him at any time.

Adjourn

Councilor Marquez Motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Nelson. Motion carried at 7:20pm


Respectfully submitted,




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

Date: 11-12-2024

Approved:




Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor



Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor

Matthew Marquez,
Councilor