



**City of Rio Communities Council Special Workshop**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday, September 16, 2024 3:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

## **Call to Order**

Mayor Ramsell called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

## **Attendees**

### **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

## **Public Comment:**

No public comments

## **Discussion/Agenda Items**

### **Revenue Planning**

City Manger Dr. Moore went over a revenue plan and discussed the need for employees in the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Department.

Police Chief Nunez talked about his need for officers and his plan to have a swing shift schedule.

City Manager Dr. Moore continued to go over his presentation and explained that the Fire Chief has a schedule he is recommending.

Fire Chief Tabet explained the 48-hour a, b shift he is looking to go to. He explained that this is a schedule that most fire departments are going to.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained how fire departments' overtime is calculated.

Police Chief Nunez explained how the Police Departments over time is calculated and stated that the City also has to be competitive with sister municipalities as far as salaries.

Councilor Marquez asked why Public Works needs two employees.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained with parks coming in, weeds and building matinees and OSA guidelines require 2 individuals out on the field at all times.

City Manager Dr. Moore continued to go over the revenue plan and explained that the increase in gross receipt tax may be increasing due to new business that may come into the city and explained other ways that can bring up gross receipt taxes. He then continued with going over Property Taxes.

Councilor Nelson suggested putting all cannabis revenue to law enforcement. He also talked about lodgers' tax and stated that tiny homes can be a part of lodger's tax. He then stated that there could be a public safety bond.

Mayor Ramsell explained that those bonds are usually used for infrastructure and stated that the City would have to increase property taxes to offset the bond because you have to have a designated amount of revenue to pay for it.

There was a discussion.

Mayor Ramsell explained as the City grows the residents are going to want more services like roads repairs, full time police and EMS services and the City is all for that at the same time if property taxes haven't increased in over 10 years and we keep increasing operations and expanding services at a certain point if you look at what the City does 84-86 percent is done with non-Rio Communities tax payers without raising property taxes the City will not be able to provide residents with the services they want and need.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that gross receipt taxes are the main type of revenue in the general fund.

The Council continued the discussion.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the need for a couple more Public Works employees.

Councilor Marquez asked why public works needs other employees.

Public Works Supervisor Andy Quintana explained right now public works has two full time employees and one temp employee. there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the field, safety issues and there is also paperwork involved. He explained that one person can't be out on the field alone and for safety reasons. He explained for the City to get all the roads done and the trash, weeds ect.

There was discussion.

### **Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)**

City Manager Dr. Moore went over the the ICIP and asked for the Councils most important topics and stated residents are looking for parks, streetlights, public safety.

There was discussion

Fire Chief Tabet explained that Public Safety equipment is one that should be looked at and explained that the fire department is looking to replace the engine apparatus, and the Police Department will need additional units. He then continued to explain the needs for replacing the fire engine apparatus.

Councilor Marquez asked what will happen to the existing engine.

Fire Chief Tabet explained that it's met its life span and no longer meets FDA standards. The City could donate it or keep it for a museum.

Councilor Gordon suggested asking for a million dollars so both the fire and police department will have enough money for the equipment they need.

The discussion continued

Chief Nunez explained that each legislator gets a certain amount of money and they also support Police and Fire and gave an example of his plan and he isn't trying to put the City in debt he explained that.

Dr. Moore stated that he has Public Safety as number 1, Street lights #2 Storm water drainage #3 Parks & Trails #4 Public Works Heavy equipment #5.

**Veterans Memorial**

City Manager Dr. Moore suggested not having it too early in the morning and not too late in the afternoon.

There was discussion

Councilor Apodaca talked about contacting Judge Chavez as a speaker.

Councilor Marquez will reach out to the Armory.

The Council discussed working with the High School for the ROTC and singing the National Anthem and discussed other speakers.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: 12/9/2024

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor



Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,  
Councilor

Thomas Nelson 12-9-24  
Thomas Nelson,  
Councilor

Matthew Marquez 12/9/24  
Matthew Marquez,  
Councilor