

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes
Regular Business Meeting
October 8, 2019

Call to Order

- Mayor Gwinn called to order the city council regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Claudine Montano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn, Councilors; Bill Brown, Arturo Sais and Joshua Ramsell.
Absent: Councilor Peggy Gutjahr.
Present: City Manager Leisa Haynes, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Officer/Treasurer Stephanie Finch, Finance Clerk Angela Valadez, Code Enforcement Officer Gordon Reeves, EDC Vice-Chairman Kuan Tikkun, P&Z Chairman Thomas Scroggins, RGEFD Fire Chief Nathan Gonzales and Court Clerk Lisa Adair

Approval of Agenda

- Mayor Gwinn added Code Enforcer Gordon Reeves to the agenda under the department reports.
- Councilor Sais moved to accept the agenda as written with the prudent change of adding the code enforcer. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 3-0 vote the agenda for the regular business meeting of October 8, 2019 was approved as amended.

Approval of Workshop Minutes

- Councilor Brown moved for the approval of the workshop minutes of September 10th, 2019. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 3-0 vote the minutes for the workshop held on September 10, 2019 was approved as written.

Approval of City Council Minutes

- Councilor Sais moved to approve the city council minutes of 9/10/2019. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 3-0 vote the minutes for the city council meeting held on September 10, 2019 was approved as written.

Mayoral Proclamations

- Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair read into the minutes the Mayoral Proclamations: Fire Prevention Week and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Public Comment

- Angie Madrid asked for a follow-up on the neighborhood watch signs and the watch for children sign.
- City Manager Haynes said it is on her list of projects.

City Manager

- City Manager Leisa Haynes explained we have ordered a sharp server to get our new financial package in and so that we are more accountable, organized and transparent to the public. She further explained she attended the Governor's conference on economic development and rural strategies last week.
- Manager Haynes said Christmas decorations have been ordered and explained the RFP for the solid waste and the engineer is almost complete.

- Manager Haynes explained Garth Tolman who owns Pecos homes has bought 14 lots on Nancy Lopez and he will be building custom homes. She further explained that the test LED lights on Golf Course road looked great, so we are going to install the rest of the remaining lights on that road with LED lights.
- Manager Haynes said there was a rumor that the water department did not have the capacity for us to grow, she met with them and they stated they have enough sewer and water capacity to double the size of the town and add shopping center.
- Manager Haynes said our super cop Cole has made 6 felony arrests.
- Manager Haynes said the landscape architect will be presenting the park study results here on November 12. She then explained she is on the Census count committee, and then said every person counted is \$3,000 - \$4,000 and explained the importance to filling it out.
- Manager Haynes said our fire department is needing more space and council is looking at some land choices.
- Manager Haynes said we are ordering signs watch for deaf children playing or special needs children playing and neighborhood watch signs. She then said that Clariant Corporation is having trunk or treat event in our front parking lot on October 26 from 1 – 3 pm.
- Councilor Sais asked about the funding for streetlights.
- Manager Haynes explained we are waiting for the funding from the State so that we can write one RFP.

Code Enforcement

- Code Enforcement Officer Gordon Reeves explained 62 violations had been sent out and have been resolved an additional 40 this past week, 2 line of sight issues had been brought up and resolved. He further explained we are starting a new pothole list.
- Code Enforcer Reeves said he met with a roofing contractor and received some bids and with the Manager's advice they have put the contractor to repair several areas on the roof, this is the best option and said the cost to replace would cost the City a lot more. He further explained that he met with 6 different contractors to do the renovation of the inside of the building.
- Code Enforcer Reeves said he met with workforce and they have completed the packet for the City and now we will be able to have them come on board and explained we will have up to 400 hours of service. He further explained that we have purchased some equipment and have some on order for the public works department.
 - Resident asked about getting a part-time officer.
- Manager Haynes explained the County does not have the manpower to get us a part-time officer.
- Code Enforcement Officer Reeves explained his driving around with Officer Cole Knight.
- Councilor Sais said he also went on a ride along and explained that during the holidays they put up some administrative overtime and we need to apply for it.

Economic Development

- EDC Vice-Chairman Kuan Tikkun is working on supporting on looking into getting the website out of Word Press and moving with another company and another thing EDC is looking at is getting a budget on paper, so they know how much they can spend.
- Councilor Sais asked about the big sign. Council began a discussion regarding the signs, and the electronic signs.
- Vice-Chairman Tikkun explained the meeting of the non-profit economic development organization.
- Manager Haynes asked about the grant that is available through Albuquerque Economic Development for websites.

- Vice-Chairman Tikkun explained what resource grants were available for website and also further explained another funding for education.
- Councilor Sais explained what he had talked about at the non-profit meeting was a community garden at the meeting.
- Vice-Chairman Tikkun asked if there was a plan for parks for disabled kids.
- Manager Haynes explained the Architect is planning ADA accessibility parks.

Planning and Zoning

- P&Z Chairman Thomas Scroggins explained at the last P&Z meeting they were going to have a public hearing but it ended up being a discussion instead.
- Chairman Scroggins said at the next meeting they will be working on abatement and hearing procedures.

Rio Grande Estates Fire Department

- RGEFD Fire Chief Nathan Gonzales said they were not aware that the Mayor was going to give the Proclamation, so they were not prepared for that week. He then said on October 20, they have a pancake breakfast and November 10 a spaghetti dinner.
- Chief Gonzales explained they have a new member, new equipment, they have started a new EMT course, getting a new prop (mannequin) to help in training and new textbooks,
- Chief Gonzales gave the Fleet report and then said 7 people certified last month and now getting them field trained.
- Chief Gonzales said on October 3rd the fire department had a talk about a fire chief and the majority of RGEFD is against having a career fire chief as it is not a necessity.
- Mayor Gwinn asked if the fire depart going to have a fire detectors units that residents can get.
- Chief Gonzales said they do have about 40 or 50 at the fire station.
- Councilor Sais asked about the renovation of the old fire truck that use to be parked outside of the department.
- Chief Gonzales explained it was one of the original fire trucks.
- Councilor Sais asked if we (the City) has the title for the truck.
- Manager Haynes said yes we do.
- Councilor Ramsell asked if they will have a place to store it once it is restored.
- Chief Gonzales said yes we will.

Municipal Court

- Court Clerk Lisa Adair gave the court report for the month of September; 4 code violation(s) were filled in the courts; amounts collected are: Correction fees \$120; Court Automation fees \$30; Judicial Education fees \$15; Court Fines of \$61 giving a total of \$226 was collected in the courts for the month of September.

Accounts Payable approval

- Finance Officer/Treasurer Stephanie Finch explained Tyler Technologies and the cost for the software and the server. She then further explained there will be a cash balance report at every workshop with the accounts payable report.
- Finance Officer/Treasurer Finch respectively requested permission to pay the bills.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to pay the account payable as submitted. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. Vote: Councilor Sais-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Ramsell-yes. With a 3-0 vote the accounts payable for the Fire Department and the City were approved for payment.

Ordinance 2019 - GRT Increase – 14-day review

- Mayor Gwinn explained this is a 14-day review.
- Clerk Adair read Ordinance 2019 – xx GRT increase into the minutes.
- Councilor Sais asked how often this can be raised.
- Mayor Gwinn explained that according to DFA you can increase your sales tax every 6 months but it has been 2 years since we have increased it and began a discussion.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to move Ordinance 2019- GRT increase to a 14-day review. The motion was second by Councilor Sais. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Sais-yes and Councilor Brown-yes. With a 3-0 vote Ordinance 2019-xx GRT Increase was approved for a 14-day review.

Calming Traffic – Rio Communities Way

- Mayor Gwinn explained we are looking at Rio Communities Way as our trial road.
- Councilor Brown explained the terminology came from a study done out of El Paso TX, a very extensive examination of trying to eliminate speeders and then said it is suggested Rio Communities Way be our pilot project.
- Mayor Gwinn said if the test works out we can consider doing other areas of the City.
 - **Public input/questions (3) minutes per person to address the Council**
 - Resident asked when with this pilot project start.
- Manager Haynes said it is not in our budget this year, but we can start some of the work right now.
- Mayor Gwinn said this might also help to detour big vehicles.
- Councilor Brown said this is still in the planning stage.

Move the workshop for the October 22nd to Council Chambers – due to early voting

- Mayor Gwinn explained because of early voting we are requesting all meetings that are being held on the other side of the building to be moved to council chambers until after the election.
- Councilor Sais moved that all workshop and meeting be moved to Council Chambers due to early voting be put in place. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Sais-yes. With a 3-0 vote Council approved the moving of all meetings that are held on the Southside of city hall to be moved to Council Chambers until November 5.

Council Reports

- Councilor Ramsell said he has 2 items, the health fair will be on Friday October 18th from 10-2 and then said the Assistant fire chief was in a car accident along with 2 of the members and explained the accident and Belen fire department had a great response to that scene.
- Councilor Sais once again asked about the flag pole and talking to the County.
- Councilor Brown spoke about the grant application for the vehicle charging stations here at City hall. He further explained the software for the unit is very advanced.
- Mayor Gwinn said there will be a public forum for the candidates coming up on the 21st.

Adjourn

- Councilor Ramsell moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Sais. With a 3-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Arturo R. Sais,
Councilor