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Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr called to order the city council regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- RGEFD Chief Andrew Tabet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilors; Bill Brown, Joshua Ramsell and Jim Winters.
Present: Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Clerk Angela Valadez, RGEFD Andrew Tabet

Approval of Agenda

- Councilor Bill Brown moved to accept the agenda as presented. Councilor Ramsell second the motion. Vote: Councilor Winters-yes Councilor Ramsell-yes Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the regular business meeting for July 14, 2020 was approved as presented.

Approval of Workshop Minutes and City Council Regular Business Meeting Minutes

- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the Workshop Minutes and City Council Regular Business Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2020. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the workshop and city council regular business meeting held on June 23, 2020 were approved as written.

Public Comment

- No public comments

Economic Development

- Clerk Adair read Chairman Kuan Tikkun's report: attended Opportunity Zone Webinar; Vision/Mission brainstorming; good life destination as brand with focus on main asset words: affordable housing, healthy, safe, sustainable environment, spacious; discuss ways that EDC can be notified of interested new businesses; Residential Development: gather information needed for development, map of water lines; How to improve City image: annexation and home development; Valencia Partnership: July 24 Summer Teacher Academy held virtually, teachers given information on dealing with Covid-19, and virtual learning option for their subjects; Request: have discussion with Council on being fiscal agent for State funding request for 2021 legislative session.

Planning and Zoning

- Clerk Adair read Chairman Tom Scroggins's report: We discussed abatement, annexation, and neighborhoods and will meet again on July 16, 2020.

Code Enforcement /Public Works

- Clerk Adair went over Code Enforcer Reeves' Code Enforcement report: Wrote numerous weed, health and safety violation, RV and boat violations, began criminal complaint filings, filling citations and back log of illegal dumpings, business license compliance, towing notices for abandoned vehicles, title research on burnt house at 503 Hermosa, received demo bid for same house, which was \$3,200 if it goes that far.
- Clerk Adair went over Code Enforcer Reeves' Public works report: Complete ordering of library construction materials and began work on library; Completing sneeze guards; rekeyed exterior door on City Hall; Completing solution for protective fence around the washout on Chamartín Ave and propose to return rented fencing; Public workers clearing gutter weeds on roadways; Called DOT to clear weeds on Highways 47 and 304; resolved power source to light pole in parking lot; flag pole is ready, waiting for go ahead from finance; painting curb blue on handicap spots.

Rio Grande Estates Fire Department

- RGEFD Chief Andrew Tabet read his report: Month of June: 17 Fire calls, 28 EMS calls, 10 mutual aid calls; Month of July: 5 Fire calls, 17EMS calls, 10 mutual aid calls; 4h of July weekend: drove around ensuring public safety; 1 fire related to fireworks , a yucca tree, which we were able to save; we had 8 fire fighters on duty July 4th and 5th, staying overnight at the firehouse; we are hopeful to 2 new brush trucks in by next month; also hope to have tanker 1-6 back from shop in the next few days; He thanked Council, City Hall, and Treasury Department for continued support

Municipal Court

- Court Clerk Lisa Adair gave the court report for the month of June, 2020: 0 code violation(s), 0 non-traffic violation(s) and 0 traffic violation(s) were filled in the courts; amounts collected are: Correction fees \$260; Court Automation fees \$78; Judicial Education fees \$39; Court Fines of \$506 giving a total of \$883 was collected in the courts for the month of June, 2020.

Municipal Judge Noelle Chavez recommendation to Council for the Appointment of Judge Pro tem

- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr explained the reason to have a pro tem appointed.
- Municipal Judge Noelle Chavez recommends appointing Michael Vallejos as Judge Pro tem; he is ready and excited to train.
- Councilor Brown moved to accept the recommendation of Judge Noelle Chavez to appoint Michael Vallejos as Judge Pro temp. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. Vote: Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Michael Vallejos was appointed as the Judge Pro tem.
- Michael Vallejos thanked for being given the opportunity and looks forward to serving the City of Rio Communities and help enforce the City Ordinances.

Appointment of the Volunteer Fire Chief

- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr explained on July 1, she and Councilor Ramsell attended the monthly Fire Department meeting where there was a vote to approve the Fire Chief Andrew Tabet, who won the vote with the majority of the Fire Department, and would like to commend him for the great job he has done since he has taken the reigns.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve of the volunteer Fire Chief Andrew Tabet. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Winters-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Andrew Tabet was appointed as the Rio Grande Estates fire Department Volunteer Fire Chief until the full-time Fire/EMS Chief is hired.
- Chief Andrew Tabet said he is the Chief of the fire department, he has been in the Fire Department, beginning as a Junior at 16 and went to Belen at 18 and in Rio Communities for the past two and a half years; his plan is to continue to get his crew certified in both fire and medical and continue to get new equipment or upgrade existing equipment.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said she is looking forward to seeing his plan for the next five years at the next meeting.
- Chief Tabet said he has a 5-year plan which includes more licensures, replacing units and moving forward to purchasing items we need, and working with membership and the State Fire Marshal to make that happen.

Accounts Payable approval

- Finance Clerk Valadez said they went over the at the workshop and ask for any questions.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said we have a new vendor Quill for our office supplies.
- Councilor Brown moved to approve Accounts Payable form June 24, 2020 to July 8, 2020. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the accounts payable was approved to be paid.

Council Reports

- Councilor Brown had no report.
- Councilor Ramsell gave a census update: Rio Communities is still number two in the State as far as response at 69.2% and Bosque Farms is number one.
- Councilor Winters had no report.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said we know that there were several sites resistance to the fireworks; cleanup on the 18th, City Hall is not going to change their response to COVID; open house to urgent care next door; regarding rumors regarding Belen officer going to take over, not the case we are very happy with the contract with the County and our Deputy and we are still working on getting a second officer.

Adjourn

- Councilor B moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor R. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(transcribed by Amy L. Lopez, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor