



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting

City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd

Rio Communities, NM 87002

Monday, February 10, 2025 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 6:03 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Nelson 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

Fire Chief Andrew Tabet

City Attorney Randy Van Vleck

Finance Officer Roy Hubbard

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Ramsell amended the agenda to remove action item #3

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the agenda with the change as stated. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to remove the minutes and stated that more discussion needs to be added to the bypass road and to approve the accounts payable. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to table the minutes and stated that there was a lot of discussion, and he thinks the discussion needs to be in the minutes and is tabling the minutes until he can review the audio, and he can see what needs to be in the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment:

Dick Irvin Western Drive: Talked about adopting a dog from the Valencia County animal shelter and stated that 43 percent of cats and dogs are euthanized and suggests that the city hold an adoption event. He stated that Valencia County Animal Shelter could use some donations of food and supplies. He then talked about a reception he went to at the VA hospital and how phenomenal the staff is. He then talked about a Valentines craft fair and talked about small business not getting enough support.

Manager Report

City Manager Dr. Moore talked about streetlight repairs that will be happening around the City. He then talked about having park dedication of Chamesa park on Saturday March 1st, 2025; weather permitting.

Councilor Marquez asked if the City would designate a name for that park.

Mayor Ramsell stated that there is a process, and the city will have to look into it. He stated as of right now it is called Chamesa Park

Councilor Nelson stated that he will not be available on that date.

Action Items

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution 2025-04 Budget Adjustment

Finance Officer Hubbard stated that with this budget adjustment it is \$70,000 from DOH for the EMS Fund that needs to be approved for quarterly LGBMS reporting and to add account codes to the financial software.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve resolution 2025-04 Budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Appoint a Spring Event Committee

Mayor Ramsell stated that he talked to Dr. Moore and Finance officer Hubbard about the cost the City would have to front a head of time.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that the city would need to have about \$6,000 in overtime that includes PERA, common deductions and taxes.

Finance Officer Hubbard stated that he believes that \$6,000 would not hinder the city.

Councilor Marquez stated that the committee would be Himself, Monique Marquez, Andrew Tabet Fire Chief, Amanda Carasco Library pending, City Manager Dr. Moore, Randy Gettings, Loedi Silva and possibly another member of the Fire Departments auxiliary.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to appoint a Committee with the members that Councilor Marquez has been working with, the City Manager and an additional Council Member.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Valencia County Sheriff Department Update

Police Chief Nunez stated that the city had received a letter from Valencia County Sheriff's Office stating that they would suspend services to the city. He stated that he met with the Sherriff, and she explained that with limited personnel it is hard for them to cover the city and the whole county. Chief Nunez stated that as of right now it is only me, Seargeant Rodriguez and Officer Mendoza. He explained that the city cannot offer a 24/7 police department at this time. He stated he talked to the Sherriff about the staffing issues Rio Communities' is facing. He talked about having to find money for the city to be self-sufficient and explained that the city needs to find a way to bring in more funding.

Councilor Apodaca stated that the city has more than one issue and stated that even with full funding it will be a challenge to recruit officers. Apodaca stated that Council needs to work on getting some tax increases to get the funds they need.

Councilor Marquez asked what time the bulk of call volume is.

Police Chief Nunez stated that it depends on what is going on and explained in the summer months there will be more calls in the late evenings.

Councilor Nelson stated that if Council would have known about the letter earlier, they could have offered assistance.

Council Discussion

Mayor Ramsell stated that Seargent Rodrigez was told by a resident thank you for being out there and giving out speeding tickets; thanked the police department for doing a great job.

Councilor Nelson asked about the bypass road documents he requested and asked Dr. Moore if the city has them on hand. He then asked if the City has reviewed them.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that the city does not have them on hand, and he has been working on getting them. He thanked everyone that went to Santa Fe for representing the County.

Councilor Apodaca stated he wants to start discussions as soon as possible to raise taxes for our Police Department and stated that even when the tax increase is passed there is a time delay, and this is a critical issue, and the City needs to fund the Police and Fire Department.

Councilor Marquez requested that Council receive key access to the building during business hours; he stated that there have been multiple times he needed access to the common area and as a Council member he needs to be able to do business during regular business hours. He talked about small businesses not having enough support from the city and asked about the EDC website and asked if the website goes to Dr. Moore.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that small business can go to the Valencia Chambers of Commerce or the business incubator and stated that as a city to directly support a private business is a violation of the State Constitution.

Councilor Marquez asked if the EDC website is there to support small business.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the city is working on combining the website and stated that it is very important to the city to have small business.

Councilor Marquez asked for more information about Public Works having more dumpsters for the City Clean up. He then thanked the Police and Fire Department for all the good things they do for the city.

Councilor Gordon stated he wanted to address a Facebook post he saw and stated that it made it seem like the City Council does not do things for the city, he explained that Councilors are getting grants, going to Santa Fe and are part of committees and are working hard to promote the city. The post made it seem like only one member of Council is working hard to do those things and he stated all of Council is working hard to promote the City.

Mayor Ramsell stated that all of Council and staff and our elected officials in Santa Fe are working hard to promote the city. He then explained that City Cleanup is on the third Saturdays and stated that if residents see trash on the side of the road to contact City Hall and let them know. He then talked about the Incubator and stated that they are running off Volunteers and they are facing some staffing issues. He then thanked all small business and the home businesses in the city for their business.

Executive Session - For the purpose of Appointment of Clerk Treasurer pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters

Motion and roll call vote to go into close session

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to go into closed session for the purpose of appointment of Clerk Treasurer pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:00 pm.

Motion and roll call vote to go back into the regular business meeting session

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to go back into regular business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:35pm

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor:

Motion made by Councilor Gordon the approve the Statement by the Mayor. 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 - Appointment of Clerk Treasurer

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the appointment of Roy Hubbard as the Clerk/Treasurer. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson


Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon motion caried at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,




Roy Hubbard, Municipal Clerk


(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 2/24/2025

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

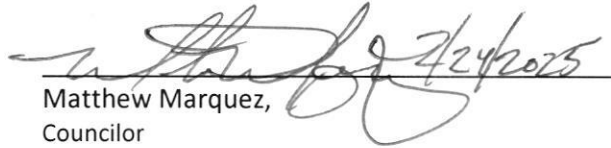


Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor

 2-24-25

Thomas Nelson,
Councilor

 2/24/2025

Matthew Marquez,
Councilor