



City of Rio Communities Council Workshop
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, February 10, 2025 5:00 PM

Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

Mayor Ramsell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Attendees

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell
Councilor Lawrence Gordon
Councilor Thomas Nelson
Councilor Art Apodaca (Via phone)
Councilor Matthew Marquez

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore
Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon
City Attorney VanVleck
Finance Officer Roy Hubbard

Public Comment:

No public comments.

Discussion – Universal Waster Franchise Agreement

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the current Universal Waste contract.

Councilor Marquez stated that under term and renewals it is a 10-year contract. He stated he went over some contracts from other Municipalities and they are only 5 or 6 years. He stated he believes 10 years is too long.

City Attorney VanVleck stated that the city isn't purchasing anything, so this doesn't fall under state procurement. He explained that this is a franchise agreement, and it is up to the Council how long they want the contract to be; It is a time intensive process that the City would have to go through every 4 or 6 years.

Universal Waste Manager Mr. Byers explained that in the last contract the City was responsible for past debt and in this contract, Universal Waste will take care of past debt.

Councilor Nelson stated they were asking for 20 years, and the city negotiated it for 10 years.

City Attorney VanVleck stated that this is a standard contract.

Councilor Marquez stated the city should start the fees at five (5%) percent.

Mayor Ramsell explained that it is a gradual increase over the years.

Councilor Marquez stated that the language in the contract was changed.

City Attorney VanVleck stated that he changed the language to protect the city from any form of litigation.

Councilor Marquez went over Collection and Enforcement. He stated that if a customer is delinquent over 30 days they should be given more time to pay the reminder of their late balance.

Regan Vaughn explained that there is software they are working on to send emails and other reminders of billing.

Councilor Marquez asked how many bad debts are tied to the City of Rio Communities.

Mrs. Vaughn stated that 140 accounts for a total of \$97,858.73 over the past 4 years.

City Attorney stated that the detail is how the city enforces it which is through court and stated that it could take a long time. Suspending services is a better option.

There was discussion over the rate increase over time.

Councilor Apodaca stated that he feels Universal Waste is doing everything they can to help the city.

Councilor Marquez talked about roll-off containers and the contract states that only Universal Waste can provide roll-offs and no one else. He stated that if a trailer has a company logo on it, they can't dump at the transfer station. He talked about helping the small businesses in the city and giving them a chance.

City Attorney VanVleck explained that Universal Waste Services could subcontract roll-off services, which means anyone that wants to provide roll off services would have to go through UWS.

Mr. Byers stated that the city gets the franchise fee.

Councilor Marquez stated that if we let another company come in then they would have to pay the same franchise fee.

Mr. Byers stated that Universal Waste Services gives the city 16 free roll-offs a year. He stated that if that service is open, they will have to raise the rates.

Marquez asked about the increase.

Ms. Vaughn stated that they are starting out at \$2 dollars the first year and then \$1 every year after to pay back the past debt and not hit the residents too hard.

Councilor Marquez stated he didn't see the \$2.00.

Ms. Vaughn explained the contract and stated that it was added in 2025 and was negotiated in the meetings with Councilor Nelson and Councilor Gordon.

Mayor Ramsell talked about the monthly price.

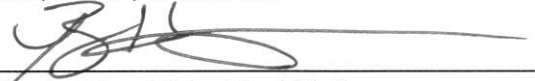
Ms. Vaughn stated that 453 of the accounts in the city are under the Veteran, Senior Citizen or low-income discount.

Councilor Marquez asked about the roll off prices and asked if there shouldn't be an adjustment between a 10 yard and a 40 yard roll off.

Mr. Byers stated that it's for every 10 yards and yes, the numbers will change. They will need to address that.

Mayor Ramsell stated it is 6:00pm and the Council will need to adjourn this meeting.


Respectfully submitted,



Roy Hubbard, Municipal Clerk
(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 2/24/2025

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

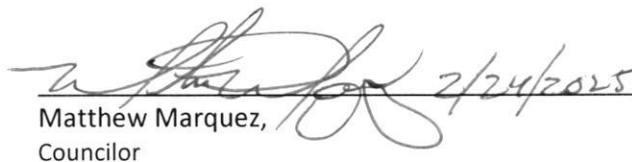


Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor

Mark 2-24-25

Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



Matthew Marquez,
Councilor