



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd  
Rio Communities, NM 87002  
Monday, March 24, 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 6:00pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilor Apodaca 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  
Clerk Treasurer Roy Hubbard

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Ramsell recommended moving action item #7 to #4.

Councilor Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda with moving action item #7 to #4. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Councilor Marquez stated that on the Minutes there needed to a change on page 4 there is an action item that needed to be removed and explained it was further down. He then asked why there were 4 deductions for Sandra Shauer

Clerk-Treasurer Hubbard stated that there were missed payments for the City newsletter.

Councilor Marquez asked about Universal Waste payment for dumpsters and stated that at the last meeting he was told that the County paid for the dumpsters.

Mayor Ramsell stated that the County paid for the dumpsters for the joint clean up. This invoice is for the monthly dumpsters in front of City Hall and for the fire fuel clean up.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the consent agenda with the corrections noted.  
Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Apodaca  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

**Public Comment:**

Loedi Silva, citizen of Rio Communities, wanted to give a shout out to the Rio Communities fire department. She stated that one of her clients had a lot of brush and branches and was nervous about burning in her yard and at about 4:00pm the Fire Department showed up and gave her some education on burning and it help to put her at ease.

**Manager Report**

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that it is budget session and explained that in the next couple of weeks there will be a budget workshop and stated the city would like to have a workshop on March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Council stated either date would be fine.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they will try for March 31<sup>st</sup> if not it will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and get notices out.

**Public Hearing – For the Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES ADOPTING AN AMENDED AND RESTATED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES AND UNIVERSAL WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Motion and roll call vote to recess Regular Business Meeting session and to go into Public Hearing**

Motion with a roll call vote made by Councilor Gordon to recess the regular business meeting and go into a public hearing For the adoption of ordinance no. 2025-01, an ordinance of the city of Rio Communities adopting an amended and restated solid waste collection franchise agreement between the city of Rio Communities and Universal Waste Systems, inc. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Apodaca  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 6:15PM.

Ernie Byers from Universal Waster introduced himself.

Municipal Clerk – Treasurer Hubbard swore in representatives from Universal Waste Mr. Byers and Mis. Vaughn.

Councilor Gordon asked if the lengths and the tonnage on the roll offs had been corrected.

Councilor Marquez explained that it was corrected. He then stated that he was still adamant about having other local business being able to offer roll-off services and stated the city could charge those business 8% franchise fee.

Mr. Byers stated that there is over 100,000 in debt that is owed to Universal Waste. He stated that if they wanted to make changes they would have to go back and redo this contract, and it would raise residential rates.

Mayor Ramsell explained in the City ordinance states that unless the city offers its own trash collection that whoever the franchisee has the exclusive contract and that would be breaking our ordinance by breaking it out.

Councilor Marquez asked what Ordinance that was.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that it is ordinance 2019-69. He then read chapter 11-4-1 from ordinance 2019-69.

There was a discussion.

Mayor Ramsell stated that it would lead to more heavy trucks on residential roads.

Councilor Marquez stated that the wind turbines are on the road.

Mayor stated that the wind turbines are on State Highways not on city roads.

Mr. Byers stated that they also offer several free containers over the year and that would be something we would have to give up.

Councilor Nelson stated that he sees both points and it is a hard discussion.

City attorney Van Vleck stated that there is an amendment on the contract and stated to change the dates from January 1, 2026, to April 1, 2026 and then from January 1, 2027 to April 1, 2027.

**Motion and roll call vote to go back into Regular Business Meeting session**

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 6:28PM.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Rio Communities Spring Festival Celebration Authorization not to exceed \$8,500.**

Councilor Marquez stated at the last meeting the cost went up to 8,500 and stated that he talked to the fire department auxiliary and that she stated that the auxiliary will split the cost with the city. He stated that there will be 150 cars at \$25 and stated that there will be 5 food trucks with business license that are \$35 dollars and stated they are projecting 100 vendors, and it is not refundable, and the City will receive GRTs from the food trucks. He stated that he is requesting \$6,000 for employee overtime and insurance. He then stated that for the 10-year anniversary the city spent 28k and that is a fraction of what he is asking for.

Municipal Clerk – Treasurer Hubbard stated that the city has been talking about the event for a few months and at that time there was some available funds he stated that he was not brought in, into any conversation in regards to the actual cost and stated he estimated \$4,500. He stated that it is a projection.

Councilor Marquez stated that the city will receive money with the GRTs from the food trucks and the licenses. City will only be covering the overtime of the employees.

Clerk – Treasurer Hubbard stated that he would like to be involved in the meetings when it comes to City finances, and he would like to talk to the 5013c as well.

Fire Chief Tabet explained that if they would be willing to push this event out until July the Auxiliary could partner with the city and give the city more time to get the funding and plan the event and take it off the city.

Councilor Marquez stated that this is for the citizens not for himself.

There was a discussion

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve this event. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:                      Nay:  
Councilor Apodaca      Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 3-1 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution 2025-009 to cause in affect a 60-Day Burn Ban within the City of Rio Communities.**

Fire Chief Tabet stated that he is requesting a 60-day burn ban. He stated that he has talked to the Fire Chief of Belen and Valencia County Fire Chief, and they are all recommending this ban. He stated that there have been three fires that are extremely threatening the river and stated that he just came from an active fire on the river. He stated that every department in the County has their own fires in their county.

Councilor Nelson stated that it would cover outside of our City limits.

Fire Chief Tabet stated that District 1 our district does cover outside of city limits.

Councilor Nelson stated that the city could not enforce a burn ban outside of the city limits.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that this burn ban would cover the city limits, and we will work with the County on this ban.

Councilor Nelson talked about fire pits and propane cooking.

Chief Tabet stated that he is recommending a full burn ban.

There was a discussion.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve the 60-day burn ban. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Apodaca  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Fire Chief stated that Marquez had a recognition for one of his fire fighters and asked if he would like to do that now.

Councilor Marquez stated that he would like to acknowledge Chief Tabet, Captain Kendal Good and Fire Fighter Gabe Saiz for their quick response for a medical emergency that he had. He stated they arrived with complete professionalism. He stated he was transported to the hospital and as he was hospitalized, they asked his wife for updates on his wellbeing. He presented Chief Tabet with a coin for him and his staff that responded.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution 2025-008 to agree on first amendment to Local Government Transportation Project Fun: Amended deadline June 30, 2026.**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that the City is requesting an extension to complete this project and stated that the city is making progress and they are requesting a resolution to submit this extension.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve resolution 2025-008. 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 – Of Ordinance No. 2025-XX; An Ordinance of the City of Rio Communities adopting an Amended and Restated Solid Waste Collection Franchise Agreement Between the City of Rio Communities and Universal Waste System, Inc.**

City attorney Van Vleck stated that this has two parts one is to adopt the amendments that were made earlier in the public hearing and the next is to adopt the Ordinance and stated one more amendment stated that on page one on the title it needs to state repealing.

Councilor Marquez made a motion to adopt this ordinance with an amendment of the roll-off portion of the agreement. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Voting Nay:

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 2-02 vote Mayor breaking the tie

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-xx with stated changes from the attorney. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

### **Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Notice of Award for ITB #2025-001 Goodman Avenue Reconstruction Project.**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the City received a BID from Albuquerque Asphalt and recommends award to this Bid.

Mr. Tortelli introduced himself and stated he is with CES and is contracted to help the city with the procurement side of this grant.

There was a discussion.

Motion made by Council Nelson to approve the notice of award for IYB#2025-001 Goodman Avenue reconstruction project. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

### **Discussion – To increase Public Works Temporary/Limited Term Positions.**

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that we have two temporary public works employees, and their term is limited. He stated this is an attempt to change them to limited term the pay scale will stay the same.

Councilor Marquez asked the amount of money that is being requested for these positions.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated we are not asking for any money we are changing the status from temporary to limited term. He stated this would be an agenda item in the next meeting.

### **Council Discussion**

Councilor Marquez stated that they received the Police department policy and procedures and requested that they have a workshop on the policy and procedures to go through then and then approve the policies and procedures. He then talked about the access cards for Council into City Hall he has asked for.

Councilor Nelson stated that on Recodo and Horner there is a stop sign upside down. He stated that no police should be driving in unmarked vehicles.


Apodaca stated that there is a meeting for the Veterans Memorial on April 3 at 2:00pm and he added a new member to the committee, Mr. Bobby Caldwell.

Mayor Ramsell stated that with the weather starting to warm up people are doing more yard work and wanted to remind everyone if they want to dig to call 811 and stated there are a lot of things underground. He also explained if council sees any issues to call or email the City Manager or the Municipal Clerk or stop and speak to them.

### **Adjourn**


Motion made by Councilor Apodaca to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Motion carried at 7:43pm.

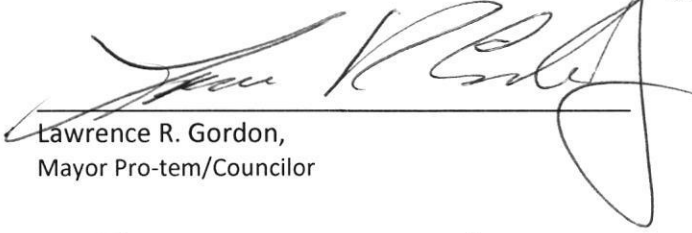
Respectfully submitted,

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

Date: 4/14/2025

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

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Arthur Apodaca,  
Councilor

Thomas 4-14-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Nelson,  
Councilor

Matthew 4/14/25  
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Matthew Marquez,  
Councilor