



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd  
Rio Communities, NM 87002  
Monday, April 14, 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 Gordon led the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call**

**Governing Body**

Mayor Joshua Ramsell  
Councilor Lawrence Gordon  
Councilor Arthur Apodaca (Absent)  
Councilor Thomas Nelson  
Councilor Matthew Marquez

**Staff**

Manager Dr. Martin Moore  
Deputy Clerk Lalena Aragon  
Finance Officer Roy Hubbard  
City Attorney Randy Van Vleck

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the agenda tabling the executive session and action item #6 contact of the police chief until the next regular business meeting. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Chavez Calle De Valle stated he wanted to give a shout out to the City and stated over the 5 years he has been in the city it has exploded with positive stuff. He thanked the police chief and the police department for patrolling highway 304. He gave a shout out to Andy from public works and his crew are also doing a wonderful job and are working hard. He talked about the fire department always working hard and training hard. He talked about the code enforcement working hard on the vacant properties. He talked about the new homes under construction and said that he feels it is because people see we are a growing city that takes care of itself. He talked about the administration and the administrative staff and said they work hard and deserve a shout-out as well. He then talked about elected officials and stated that it is not about personal agendas, it is about what is good for the community and sometimes they have to leave stuff out and think what is best for the entire community.

**Manager Report**

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that PNM has contacted his office and stated that they are here to talk about the local option gross receipts tax for local economic development act.

Grant Taylor for PNM stated that he has worked in economic development for over 20 years and stated that the economic development program is to improve the quality of life and create jobs. He stated that he has been working on this project to create jobs and attract business to the community. He stated with the approval of its voters a municipality can enact an increment of one-fourth percent or .25 cents per \$100 provided the revenue generated by the increment is dedicated to furthering or implementing economic development plans and projects.

Councilor Marquez asked Dr. Moore why the temporary positions for Public works were not on this agenda. He stated that he went back to the minutes from November 21, 2024 and that it was on the agenda. He then talked about police policies and procedures and wants to have a timeline and asked if they would go with the Lexi Pol or with the Chiefs policy and procedures. He talked about 303 Horner, which is a nuisance and stated that the wind blew the roof, and he then talked about the zip code and stated that he talked to Senator Stefanics about the zip code.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that he has talked with Senator Stefanics.

Councilor Marquez asked about Beasly and Micthell and asked for a timeline on when the city will stop working with them.

Clerk-Treasurer Hubbard stated that the city has not utilized Beasley and Mitchell since December of 2024, and they have not invoiced the city either.

Councilor Marquez asked about the Beasly and Mitchell contract.

Mayor Ramsell talked about the public works position and stated that it was a presentation for the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> fiscal year.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Business Licenses for Spring Festival Food Vendors**

Councilor Marquez stated that they talked about having vendors permits be for this calendar year and all next calendar year as an incentive.

Councilor Gordon asked if it was for anyone or just for the food trucks that are participating in the event.

Councilor Marquez stated just the ones that will be attending the event.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve action item #3 food vendors only. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Resolution 2025-13: Authorizing and Approving submission of completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the purchase of a Fire Department Engine**

Fire Chief Tabet stated that the current engine 109 is a 30-year-old truck and is out of date and explained that the replacement will be 2025 Peirce 1000-gallon truck with a 200-gpm pump and the money will come out of fire funds and have a zero impact on the general fund.

Mayor Ramsell stated that the Fire Department has a split district and stated that both fire departments must be ISO approved.

Chief Tabet stated that with this engine it will give the City a better ISO rating and it will bring down insurance policy and qualify the City for more funding.

Councilor Gordon stated he wanted it to be clear that this would not come out of the general fund.

Chief Tabet explained that increments would come out of three different funds that the fire protection has and stated that the lifeline of an engine is 20 years, and they stated the State extended it to 25 years and this one is 30 years.

There was a discussion about the percentage of the loan.

Councilor Marquez asked if the City would have to do any outfitting.

Chief Tabet stated there may be some stuff that the city would have to purchase and explained that it would come out of the Fire protection funds.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson resolution 2025-13: authorizing and approving submission of completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the purchase of a Fire Department Engine. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

**Discussion- Budget Review**

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that starting next week we will be having session every week until the final budget is due and go over the revenues and the projected revenue.

## Council Discussion

Councilor Nelson talked about documents for the bypass road. He asked who scavenging soil out of the Mesa.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they are purchasing soil for landowners.

Councilor Nelson stated that the soil needs to be tested.

Councilor Marquez asked if the Council could get the testing results of the Soil.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated he would ask for the data.

Councilor Nelson then asked about a boat in the desert off highway 47.

Councilor Gordon wished Public Works director a speedy recovery.

Councilor Marquez talked about a previous agenda where the action item for the Judge was removed and never brought back up and asked if the City is still looking for a Judge.

Mayor Ramsell stated that he had residents come to him with interest in being the Municipal Judge.

Councilor Marquez requested in the future budget he would like to add a 10k in the budget for an annual event every year for the city. He requested an update from Ralph Mimms, the economic developer, and to see where the city is going. He thanked Public workers for cleaning up Sundial loop. He then talked about the groundbreaking for Mavrik and asked for an update.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated the engineers are working on the streetlights and the city has not received a timeline.

Councilor Marquez talked about the City still needing to discuss the tax increase.

Mayor Ramsell stated that he would like to talk about the fire department and explained that since 2019 there have been a lot of changes. He talked about the truck replacement schedule and explained that they need to work on that to ensure it will not take a hard hit on the city financially. He talked about the police and fire department being out patrolling around the city and thanked them for all their support and hard work. He then thanked Public Works for all their hard work.

Fire Chief Tabet talked about the post the fire department would be at during Good Friday events.

Mayor Ramsell reminded everyone of the Easter event the Optimist Club is having at the Tierra Del Sol Golf Course this Saturday at 11:00am.

## Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Marquez. Motion carried at 7:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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


Date: 4/28/2025


Approved:

  
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Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor

  
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Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

  
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Arthur Apodaca,  
Councilor

 4-28-25  
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Thomas Nelson,  
Councilor

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Matthew Marquez,  
Councilor