



City of Rio Communities Council Special Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, April 21, 2025 5:00 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 5:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Marquez 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
Finance Officer Roy Hubbard

Approval of Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision - Resolution 2025-14 Annual Budget Adjustment for the Clean & Beautiful Grant

City Manager Dr. Moore explained this is a housekeeping thing and stated that Department of Finance Authorities wants to know where the city is with this grant.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve resolution 2025-14 annual budget adjustment for the clean and beautiful grant. 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 - Resolution 2025-15 BAR #5 for Clean & Beautiful Grant

City Manager Dr. Moore stated this a housekeeping issue to follow up with the grant and recommend approval.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson, Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion - Budget Revenue for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the budget and went over a presentation. He explained the factors of staff and stated that every year it is challenging to balance the budget and went over to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. He stated this is an estimate before tariffs and stated that it is looking at 2.2 percent in adjustment in cost. He stated that if the Council wants to budget for higher that is fine, or the city can keep an eye on it and see what we need to change. He went over the projected general fund budget with the 2.2% inflation. He stated what you are seeing is current staffing issues and talked about the step-down grants and explained that the fire department step down grant the legislation took it from a 3-year grant to a 2 year and explained that possibly there will be some money for recruitment and stated that they haven't heard if there will be any more recruitment grants for law enforcement. Dr. Moore went over the Police department and fire department expenses. He explained that the city will be looking at \$500,000 for the police department to get 2 new staff members. He continued to go over the expense with expansion and expense with no expansion. He talked about the revenue with a 5% conservative and stated that there is reserve money, and the city can't touch that money. He stated the revenue total is about \$1,714,550.00.

Councilor Nelson asked about the Veterans tax exemption.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated the governor vetoed the veterans tax exempt. He went over the gross receipts the city has received and stated that April was a little higher than last year and that March was a little bit lower.

Councilor Marquez asked if the city is tracking the road construction and if it is projecting the new Mavrick.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they are tracking the road construction, and he is not projecting them in the budget at this time, especially with the Maverik due to not hearing anything about when construction is going to begin. He continued to explain the 455 reports. He stated he could provide council with a what if and suggested that they don't project the budget with that and explained that if it does go though then the council can adjust the budget. Dr. Moore continued to explain capital outlay projects that were approved for Public works and public safety. He pointed out the small cities assistance and stated that it was 20k higher than projected and it is unknown what it will be next year. He went over the desired additions that came from department heads and stated that even with a 5 or 10 percent there is a 1,197,338.23 gap and stated that the legislation did pass the police recruitment and retention, and the city will be applying for those funds and if they are granted this gap will change.

He talked about the projected current level of expenses and stated that the regional dispatch center will go up in cost due to the numbers of calls they have received in the city and talked about the health insurance and stated that the staff will get 20% on health care with this expense there is a 372,338.23 gap.

Councilor Gordon asked if the city could look into the increase in health care, so it won't affect the staff as much.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained they are looking into that. He went over the spending and stated we can reduce the spending by freezing vacant positions, freezing discretionary travel, implement conservation measures electric, water, fuel, supplies, reduce capital spending to grants only, reduce consulting contracts to grant funded or essential need only, reduce staffing levels. He went over ways to increase revenue and went over obtaining new no match grants, obtain additional recruitment grant funds for vacant positions, increase GRT by .25 at mid-year (referendum is required), increase property taxes and stated that the city is 4.5 and the maximum is 7.5, auction excess capital assets (furniture, equipment, vehicles, ect).

Councilor Apodaca stated that the council needs to talk about and move forward to increase property taxes, especially with police and medical services.

Councilor Gordon asked if the city did raise the property taxes what would that do.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that it would level out the gap.

Councilor Marquez stated that there needs to be adjustments, it is just how fast the city wants to make them.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Motion carried at 6:21pm

Respectfully submitted,



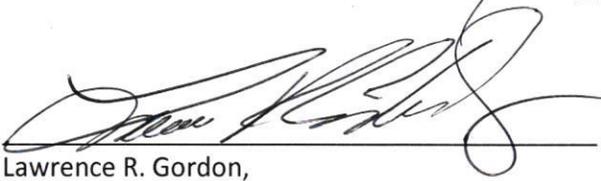
Roy Hubbard, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 8/27/2025

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

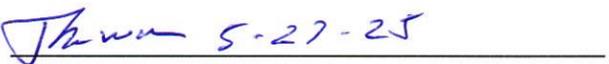


Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor

Thomas Nelson 5-27-25



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



5/27/25

Matthew Marquez,
Councilor