



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, April 28, 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 6:01pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Governing Body

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

Staff

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Ralph Mimms stated that C&Cs dinner will be having ribbon cutting on May 17, 2025, and the Oasis restaurant at the Golf Course will have ribbon cutting on May 9th, 2025, at 10:00 am. He invited all Council Members to attend.

Steve Gladwell stated that he lives on Blanda Court and talked about a new neighbor that has been having amplified vibration coming from vehicles and stated that there has been 3 complaint forms turned into code enforcement on this neighbor he stated that there has also been a County sheriff on a Saturday and also the Rio Communities police department he stated that the code enforcer stated there is nothing they can do due to the noise ordinance. He suggested some ideas to help with the situation by having letter sent by the police department and stated that his complaints have fallen on deaf ears.

Manager Report

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that he has received a stack of documents containing to the bypass road and let council know the USB is available for Council to review. He thanked everyone involved in the cleanup event on Saturday.

Councilor Marquez asked why the meeting isn't being live on Facebook.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated we are ordering new computer equipment.

Councilor Marquez asked about the Judge vacancy and the court clerk vacancy.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that there are a few people showing interest.

Councilor Marquez asked about the police units not being marked. Police Chief Nunez stated that has to do with the city finances.

Councilor Marquez asked about the Police policies and procedures.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they are working on them.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Intergovernmental Agreement between Valencia County, City of Belen and City of Rio Communities for the Operation and Management of the Senator Willie Chavez Park

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that the County has been moving on getting the Willie Chavez State park up and going again.

Lena Baca Valencia County Public Works Director stated that the original agreement will be with the County and the Conservancy and stated that they are asking for assistance from Belen and Rio Communities to revamp the park and stated the County has a grant department and they have received some grants for Las Maravillas park, and this park will be a great grant opportunity for grants.

Councilor Marquez asked what the initial plan to do with the park.

Mrs. Baca stated that they are going to rehabilitate what is currently there and with grants they are going to make trails into the river and stated that is the conservancy's vision as well.

Councilor Marquez asked if there is a plan for the homeless that is currently camped out on the property.

Mrs. Baca stated that she knows they are working on a plan she isn't sure what it is but with the County, the City of Belen and Rio Communities there will be joint police services.

Councilor Marquez asked if there would be a way to keep side by side out of this area.

Mrs. Baca stated that they are looking into that.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve intergovernmental agreement between Valencia County, City of Belen and City of Rio Communities for the operation and management of the Senator Willie Chavez Park. 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 – Request for Authorization to Pursue Funding Opportunities for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Planning & Design

City Manager Dr. Moore explained due to the New Mexico Water Authorities price increase they have appealed the denial from Public Regulation Commission and resubmitted the application and stated that builders are putting a hold on development due to the price increase and talked about the number of homes on septic and stated due to the price of the hookups they are asking what the City is doing about it. He continued to explain that talking with New Mexico Finance Authority and engineers they stated the city should seek a grant for water infrastructure and he highly recommends the city does this and talked about these price increases are putting the city in a bad position with our economic development and affordable housing stand points and quality of life for our residents. He talked about seeking the funding and sending it to the Public Regulation Commission to let them know the city is looking into this and get the communications out and stated that this is going to take time, and the city needs to get this started. He then asked for a couple of members from the Governing body to sit in on this meetings.

Councilor Apodaca stated that he doesn't see PRC authorizing such a healthy increase and stated the City needs to negotiate a better level.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that they have rate increase requests and contracts, and they are continuing to use these contracts though rule 19 advise notice 3 that was approved by PRC several years ago and it is giving them the ability to charge higher than the approve rate for connections on

water and sewer. He stated that there will be a meeting with New Mexico Water Authorities and suggested that Council get involved.

Councilor Nelson stated he would like to attend that meeting and stated that he understands they are using rule 13 and then stated that the sewer is a lateral connection council needs to draft a letter voicing their concern about this increase and all Council should be involved in the hearing.

Councilor Apodaca stated that Senator Stefonics, may be a good resource to reach out to,

Councilor Nelson stated that this rate increase has nothing to do with the city, and it is his understanding it is to build another plant outside of the city.

Councilor Gordon stated he will attend the meeting with New Mexico Water Authorities.

Councilor Marquez stated that this is something that he saw coming and now the city he stated he doesn't just want to send a message. I want them to know that this is something the city is doing, and the city needs to get this done.

Mayor Ramsell stated that it was listed on our Capital Outlay request down on the priority list because the city knew New Mexico Water Authorities could only do so much and the city wants the residents to have clean healthy water and see the community grow and he agrees the city needs to move forward.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve request for authorization to pursue funding opportunities for water and wastewater infrastructure planning & design. 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 – Request to Reclassify Two (2) Public Works Positions as Limited-Term Positions through August 29, 2025Public Works

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that public works department has two individuals that are temporary, and the Public Works Supervisor Andy Quintana has done an evaluation on both, and they are hard workers. Dr. Moore explained that this will come up in the budget until then they are recommending approving them as limited term employees.

Motion made by Councilor Apodaca request to reclassify two (2) Public Works positions as limited-term positions through August 29, 2025. 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 – Resolution 2025-16 Third Quarter Financial Report

City Manager Dr. Moore stated there have been some problems with the software the city is using.

Clerk- Treasurer Hubbard stated that he has been working on LGBMS because it is due on Wednesday and explained he is working on the budget through LGBMS. He stated that he is stuck when it comes to Tyler Technologies and stated he has reached out to them numerous times and it takes days or even weeks to get a call back. He explained he has reached out to other municipalities in the state that uses Tyler, and they helped a little and suggested that at this point the city needs to look into getting another financial software and he recommends tabling this action item.

Councilor Marquez made a motion to table resolution 2025-16 third quarter financial report until May 12, 2025, regular business meeting. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Decision – City of Rio Communities Budget Review for FY26

City Manager Dr. Moore stated as mentioned we will be coming to Council progressively on the budget until we come to the point of the hearing and stated he completed a line-by-line review that was provided in the packet. He stated they were about to bring the expenses to a 134,000 gap. He then went over the Cities budget by each department.

There was a discussion

Council Discussion

Council tabled Council Discussion until the Special Meeting held on Monday May 5, 2025

- **Executive Session - For the purpose of Police Chief Evaluation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters**
- * **Motion and roll call vote to go into closed session**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to go into closed session for the purpose of Police Chief evaluation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) limited personnel matters. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 9:55pm.

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

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

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 12:43 am

*** Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor:**

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the statement by the Mayor. Seconded Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision - Amended Contract for Police Chief

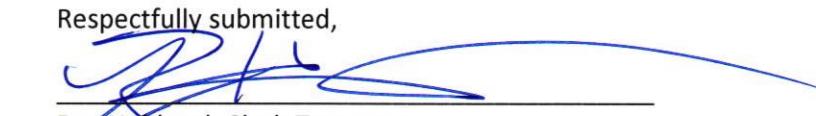
Mayor Ramsell stated that the recommendation coming out of executive session is to amend the contract to keep him as a working police chief salary of 87,000 with a 7,000 match from LEPF funds.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the recommendation stated by the Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Adjourn

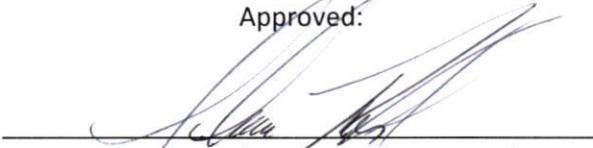
Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Motion carried at 12:45am.

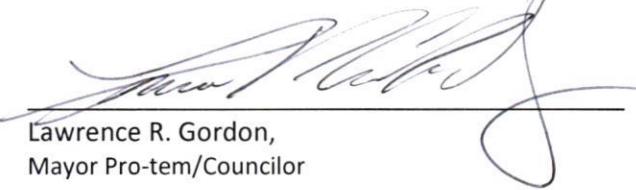
Respectfully submitted,


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

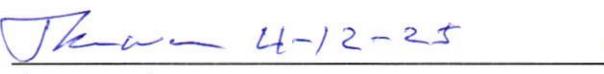
Date: 5/12/2025

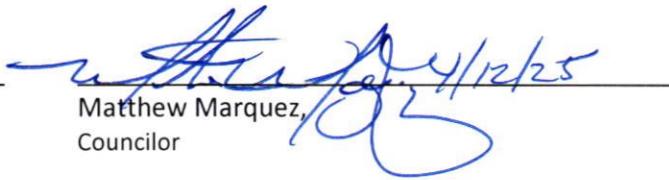
Approved:


Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor


Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor


Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor


Thomas Nelson,
Councilor


Matthew Marquez,
Councilor