



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday, May 12, 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 6:02 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Gordon led the 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

Municipal Clerk – Treasurer Roy Hubbard

City Attorney Randy Van Vleck

Fire Chief Andrew Tabet

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.

Approval of 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.

Approval of 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.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Manager Report

Interim Budget FY 2025-2026 Recommendations

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that health care for employees will increase 20% a month and that was something they had been waiting for on the budget and he stated that the employers' share has also increased 9.15 to 9.65. He then went over unrestricted cash and stated there is some money to help with the cost to help employees with the increase on health care. He stated that he has added the request from the council on the budget. He stated that between now and the final budget there may be some minor changes on the gas tax. He explained that the final budget is due June 30th and explained that that interim budget is so the state will allow the city to continue to operate and stated that the next business meeting will be on Tuesday due to Monday being Memorial day and they will have the final third quarter report. He talked about fire recruitment and stated that the state has changed the code. He explained the changes by the legislator and stated that they are going to pay 75% instead of 50% and in year 3 the amount is zero.

Councilor Marquez stated that on the Law enforcement there were some changes.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that there was an overage in the law enforcement recruitment fund and they had to go back and change it. He then explained with the police chief's contract that it had to be counted for and that they also added overtime for the police chief.

Councilor Marquez stated that Vehicle maintenance and other things have been zeroed out.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that the money came out of the law enforcement protection fund and that is why it was zeroed out.

Public Hearing - For the purpose of – City of Rio Communities Interim Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026

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

Motion with a roll call made by Council Gordon to go into a public hearing for the City of Rio Communities Interim Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

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

City Manager Dr. Moore explained how the interim budget works and stated that there can be changes to the final budget but to do that the city has to show the revenue the city is bringing in order for the state to approve it. He stated that he needs direction on the 10,000 for the spring fiesta and the increase in health care. He then stated that the police chief salary has not been added.

Councilor Apodaca asked what the total would be for the health increase would be.

Clerk - Treasurer Hubbard - stated it will be \$304,086 for the 20% increase for the full 12 months.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained it comes out of all funds.

Councilor Marquez asked if they wanted to keep the fiesta funds at \$10,000k or lower it.

Councilor Nelson stated to keep it at \$10,000.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated we have the months of May and June to see if we can come up with some cost-of-living wages for the employees.

Mayor Ramsell asked what the Goodman and Damon Ave. match was.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated for Goodman and Damon is a 25% match. He explained after the match grant \$175,000 there is \$83,000 to deal with increase in cost with tariffs.

Councilor Marquez asked if the city is ready to utilize the grants that expires in December.

Mayor Ramsell asked if the Don Diego Match has changed.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that it has not changed and that it will expire in 2027.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated if the Council wants to include the differential for health insurance in the interim budget.

Clerk - Treasurer Hubbard stated the total cost will be \$304,543.20 for health premiums. He stated that he could break it down and have it at the next meeting.

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

Motion with a roll call vote made by Councilor Nelson to go back into regular business meeting session. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 6:50pm.

Discussion, Consideration, Decision – Purchase Agreement Contract between the City of Rio Communities and Albuquerque Asphalt, Inc. for the Goodman Ave. Reconstruction Project

City Manager Dr. Moore recommended to table this until the next business meeting.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to table this agenda item until the next regular business meeting. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Discussion, Consideration, Decision – City of Rio Communities Interim Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to approve the City of Rio Communities interim budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Discussion, Consideration, Decision – Approval of Out of State travel for Fire Chief Tabet and Capt. Good to tour the Braun ambulance factory in Fort Wayne Indiana at the end of May 2025, at no Cost to the City of Rio Communities

Fire Chief Tabet stated that this trip is to look at an ambulance and they will pay for us to see the ambulance before we spend the amount they are asking, they will pay for everything.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the out of state travel for Fire Chief and Capt. Good to tour the Braun ambulance factory in Fort Wayne Indiana at the end of May 2025, at no cost to the city. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Council Discussion

Councilor Marquez asked about the mining of the dirt that is going on south of the city and if the city has received any permits.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated if they are moving dirt on site due to the road construction they do not need a permit.

Councilor Nelson stated that they are not taking off the same plat of land as the bypass road.

Councilor Marquez asked for the Bill Brown fund total amount. He then asked about Judge candidates for City and asked if there were any new candidates.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated the city has received one resume for Judge and he will get the amount of the Bill Brown fund to Council.

Councilor Marquez talked about the police department policies and procedures and stated with Lexipol it will take up to a year.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained how Lexipol works and policies and procedures and stated that they could adopt sections of this at a time. He also explained that the City has its own policies and procedures that all City employees must follow.

Councilor Marquez asked for interim policies and procedures to have something in place.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that they do follow the personal manual, and they also have to follow state police, and he is recommending a good policy direction.

Mayor Ramsell stated that they have procedures from the Municipal League as well.

Councilor Marquez stated that there are a few things that need to be reviewed

City Manager Dr. Moore explained that the police department are city employees, and they have to follow the personal manual the city has.

Councilor Marquez asked about the EDC website and stated it has been wiped out. He then asked about the Belen High School graduation. He promoted the Spring Festival and talked about all the fun things that are going to be happening on May 31, 2025, from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Councilor Nelson congratulated Seargent Rodriquez.

Councilor Apodaca the same congratulated Seargent Rodriquez.

Mayor thanked both departments for being at the event in Rio Rancho and congratulated Seargent Rodriquez.

Executive Session - For Complaints against the Police Chief pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters

Motion and roll call vote to go into closed session

Motion with roll call vote made by Councilor Gordon to go into closed session. Seconded by Councilor Apodaca

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 7:15pm

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

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to go back into the 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 7:58pm

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor:

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Apodaca

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Gordon. Motion carried a 7:79pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy Hubbard, Municipal Clerk – Treasurer

(Taken and Transcribed by Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk)

Date:

5/27/2025

Approved:




Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor



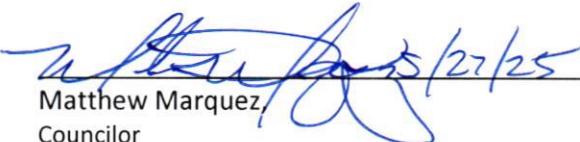
Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



Matthew Marquez,
Councilor