



City of Rio Communities Council Special Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Wednesday, July 30, 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 (Via phone)

Councilor Thomas Nelson

Councilor Matthew Marquez

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore

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.

Swearing in of Victor Williams as Municipal Judge

City Manager Dr. Martin Moore Swore in Victor Williams as Municipal Judge.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Nelson stated that there needs to be an adjustment made to the agenda for accounts payable something was coded incorrect

Dr. Moore stated that the object code for supplies is coded as training, and we will make that correction with a journal entry. He recommends approval on the condition of correcting this item to the correct code.

Councilor Marquez had a question about the accounts payables NM GRT and asked why we are paying GRT.

Dr. Moore explained that we are not paying GRT, but we do have administrative fees that go to the state.

Councilor Marquez stated that this specifically says NM GRT and how can we reword the description for it not to show GRT.

Dr. Moore stated he will talk to the accountants and make the adjustments.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve the consent agenda with the amended item on the accounts payable. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Gordon
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment: No Public comment currently.

Manager Report

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that we received a request for KRQE news about the anonymous email complaint we all had received. That was public record, so we did provide them with that information. We also received a second request for the confidential report we let them know the confidentiality of the report and got that information to them and they thanked us for giving the report to them.

Councilor Nelson stated that it was said prior we would be having a meeting regarding Goodman Ave.

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that he has spoken to the contractors, and they will be starting construction in September. We will be having a pre-construction meeting then.

Councilor Nelson asked if there was any word on Maverick.

Dr. Moore stated that they are going with the hundred percent offsite design plan we have drawn up with the department of transportation.

Councilor Marquez stated that it was previously stated that we will be getting a new computer for city council and has that been purchased yet.

Dr. Moore stated that it has not. As soon as the final budget is approved, it will be purchased.

Councilor Marquez asked which budget it will be coming out of.

Dr. Moore explained that it will come out of general administration.

Councilor Marquez asked about transferring the live video from Facebook to YouTube and has that moved forward.

Dr. Moore stated no that it has not been moved forward, Once the final budget is in and we order the new computer we can move forward on that.

Councilor Marquez asked about the Police Chiefs equipment. Did the Bernalillo County Sheriff's department take possession of all the items.

Dr. Moore stated no they did not. We had our mayor pro tem, a police officer, and the city attorney. As far as the vehicle that was inoperable and was towed by NM towing. He stated the staff is making an in-depth inventory list of the items recovered.

Councilor Marquez asked what vehicle was taken to retrieve the equipment.

Councilor Gordon stated it was his vehicle that was used.

Councilor Marquez stated the reason for asking is because the equipment should have been brought back in a city vehicle and not a personal vehicle.

Dr. Moore explained they did have certified law enforcement officer that did take possession of the items recovered and maintained possession of them as they were coming back.

Action Items

Resolution 2025-22 Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025

Councilor Nelson made a motion to table this item as they didn't have enough time to review it.

City Manager Dr. Moore explained this item cannot be tabled.

Councilor Marquez seconded the motion to table this item stating we can't approve something we have not reviewed.

Dr. Moore explained these numbers were provided to council in previous final budget packets of previous meetings. He stated council is correct and that the final report with additions from Beasley Mitchel was not included in this. He explained by state law the City of Rio Communities cannot operate without this end of year final budget being approved.

Councilor Nelson made a motion to table **Resolution 2025-22 Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025**, seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Voting No:

Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon

Motion Tied with a 2-2 vote.

Mayor breaks tie voting No to tabling the resolution.

Dr. Moore explained the Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025 to council.

There was a discussion about Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025

Councilor Gordon made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-22 Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025**, seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Apodaca

Voting No:

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Councilor Marquez

Motion Tied with a 2-2 vote.

Mayor breaks tie voting Yes to approve the resolution.

Resolution 2025-23 Approval of Fourth Quarter Financial Report FY 2024-2025

City Manager Dr. Moore explained the same document you have reviewed for the Budget adjustment includes the revenues and expenses in relation to the fourth-quarter financial report we recommend approval.

Councilor Gordon made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-23 Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment FY 2024-2025**, seconded by Councilor Apodaca.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Nelson

Voting No:

Councilor Marquez

Motion Tied with a 3-1 vote.

Resolution 2025-23 has been approved.

Resolution 2025-24 Approval FY Final 2025-2026 Budget

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that one of the things requested was to come back to council with the lump sum cost for base pay increase for employees including three different rate amounts, we also included the cost for increase of health insurance premium, and the police chief recruitment cost not to exceed \$30,000.00. Dr. Moore explained the breakdown of the pay increase for employees. These pay increases do not include vacant positions.

Councilor Nelson stated Dr. Moore was to supply the council with number of pay increases if the city was fully staffed.

Dr. Moore explained that this is the cost-of-living amount if fully staffed. Cost-of-living does not apply to vacant positions.

Councilor Nelson asked just to verify this does not include contract employees.

Dr. Moore stated we were recommending a cost-of-living increase for all city employees.

Councilor Marquez stated at this time he feels this should not apply to contract employees. He stated that at the last council meeting it was discussed a pay increase of three percent and suggested a holiday bonus for the employees,

Dr. Moore stated that in government bonuses are not allowed.

Councilor Nelson stated that the three percent increase would be good excluding contract employees.

Councilor Gordon stated if we aren't increasing pay on contract employees then he feels we should do four percent increase.

Councilor Marquez stated that if we eliminate code enforcement from the city, he feels that's not a good idea.

Mayor Ramsell asked Dr. Moore if we could get the numbers for the pay increase without any contract employees.

Dr. Moore stated that yes he can.

Mayor Ramsell called for a ten-minute recess for Dr. Moore to get those numbers for council.

Mayor Ramsell welcomed everyone back at 7:40pm.

Dr. Moore explained the breakdown of the numbers for the increase in pay for non-contract employees.

Councilor Marquez asked Dr. Moore why are you proposing to do away with code enforcement.

Dr. Moore stated we are not recommending this due to the budget we are recommending this because of organizational needs to restructure law enforcement. Removing the code enforcement from the police department would be a good idea.

Councilor Marquez asked did we as council approve a re-organization of the city.

Dr. Moore stated that no that's why we presented ideas to you in the last meeting and the draft of the resolution. No decision has been made.

Councilor Marquez whose decision is it to re-organize the city.

Dr. Moore stated it is his job as city manager to provide proposals to council. It is then councils' job to approve them or not.

Councilor Marquez asked what's the proposal to re-organize the city.

Dr. Moore explained that the proposal is to eliminate the code enforcement position from the police department budget and a reduction in hours for the librarian.

Councilor Marquez stated he will agree to the four percent pay increase if we can keep code enforcement in the budget and move the position from the police department to the fire department.

Councilor Nelson stated he does not agree with moving the code enforcement position to the fire department. He stated in other citys code enforcement is with the police department.

Councilor Marquez stated he agrees that code enforcement should stay with the police department.

Councilor Marquez made a motion to approve the four percent increase and to leave code enforcement in the police department seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Apodaca

Voting No:

Councilor Gordon

Motion approved with a 3-1 vote.

Approve Wild Land Fire Pay

Dr. Moore stated that we have received the total costs and wages for the fire fighters that went on the wild land fires. He stated there is more than enough money in the wild land fund budget to cover this and it will be fully reimbursed by the state.

Councilor Nelson made a motion to **Approve Wild Land Fire Pay** seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon

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Motion approved with a 4-0 vote.

Approve to Commence Police Chief Recruitment Using Outside Consulting up to \$30,000.00

Councilor Nelson stated we should try to find a traveling chief that goes to a department for a couple of years and helps rebuild that department and then they move on to another department.

Councilor Marquez asked instead of hiring a recruiter why can't the city use that money to find a police chief instead of hiring an outside agency to do that.

Councilor Apodaca stated the difference in doing in with an outside source is they search on a national level. We have limited resources in terms of dealing with on a national level and having more contacts, He stated he feels hiring an outside source would be best to find the right candidates for a police chief

Councilor Nelson made a motion to **Approve to Commence Police Chief Recruitment Using Outside Consulting up to \$30,000.00**, seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Apodaca
Councilor Gordon
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez

Voting No:

Motion approved with a 4-0 vote

Council Discussion

Councilor Marquez stated the Planning and Zoning position has still not been filled and why the position has not been filled.


Mayor Ramsell stated to his knowledge we have received one application, and interviews will be taking place in the next week or two.

Councilor Nelson stated that when applications come in for the police chief position, he feels council should see every application and form a committee for the hiring.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Adjourn. Seconded by councilor Gordon Motion carried out at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Martin Moore (acting as Municipal clerk)
(Taken and Transcribed by Patricia McCloskey)

Date: 8/22/2025

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor



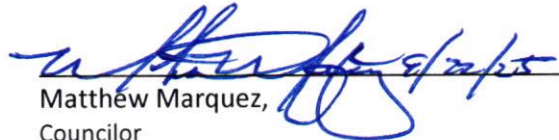
Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Arthur Apodaca,
Councilor



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



Matthew Marquez,
Councilor