



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting

City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd

Rio Communities, NM 87002

Monday January 12, 2026, 6:00 PM

Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Mayor - Joshua Ramsell

Mayor Pro Tem - Lawrence R. Gordon

Council – Michael Melendez, Thomas Nelson, Matthew Marquez

Call to Order

Mayor Ramsell called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Melendez led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell

Councilor Matthew Marquez

Councilor Lawrence Gordon

Councilor Thomas Nelson

Councilor Michael Melendez

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore

City Attorney Randall Van Vleck

Fire Chief Andrew Tabet

Swearing in Ceremony for Mayor Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Lawrence Gordon, and Councilor Michael Melendez

Approval of Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes for Regular Business Meeting December 8, 2025, and Special Business Meeting December 15, 2025.

Approval of Accounts Payable

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

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

No Public Comment at this time.

Presentation - HDR Storm Water Drainage Plan next to Golf Course
Mayor Ramsell Suggested to move the presentation till after the Managers report.

Manager Report

Introduce Cassandra Montano as City Finance Officer.

Dr. Moore Introduced Cassandra Montano as the new City Finance Officer.

Update on Goodman Avenue and Damon Street

City Manager Dr. Moore stated that the main construction equipment has been pulled out and there is a walk-through that will be happening for Goodman Ave this week on Wednesday.

Council Nelson asked if the contractor guaranteed if the road was going to be okay where Universal waste dumped all the hydraulic fluid.

Dr Moore stated that he has heard that the road will be ok but has not received anything in writing.

Councilor Nelson stated he would like to have that in writing before we sign off on the road. He also stated that the sides of the road look unfinished.

Councilor Marquez stated he agrees with Councilor Nelson that the road looks unfinished.

Update on Don Diego Project.

Dr. Moore Stated the Don Diego Project is in the appeal period and there are five or six potential bidders. We will bring a notice of award for consideration when the appeal period is complete.

Update on upcoming Legislative Session.

Dr Moore stated that the Legislative Session will begin January 20, 2026. Valencia Day will be on February 4, 2026, as well as Municipal Day which will start on evening of February 4th to February 5, 2026, in Santa Fe, NM and also Library Day will be January 30, 2026.

Update on Maverick.

Dr. Moore Stated the unofficial date of construction is March 2026

Councilor Nelson stated that the Conditional use permit has expired, Maverick will need to reapply and come back before council to have it approved.

Presentation - HDR Storm Water Drainage Plan next to Golf Course

Lauren Rodriguez with HDR gave a presentation on HDR Storm Water Drainage Plan next to Golf Course.

Action Items

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Open Meetings Act Resolution 2026-01.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve Open Meetings Act Resolution 2026-01 with the contingency we will amend the public places to post the agenda and notices. Seconded by Councilor Melendez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Ramsell made a recommendation to appoint Councilor Gordon as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion made by Councilor Melendez to Appoint Councilor Gordon as Mayor Pro Tempore. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Appoint himself as Mayor Pro Tempore. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Council discussed the appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to postpone Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore before item 17. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision—Approval to Accept Resignation Letter from Commissioner Michael Melendez with Planning and Zoning.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approve to Accept Resignation Letter from Commissioner Michael Gordon with Planning and Zoning. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval to Amend Signers for The City’s Banking and Investment Accounts; Removing Roy Chance Hubbard and Adding Jennifer R. Gauna and Cassandra L. Montano and Retaining Lawrence Richard Gordon, Martin Dale Moore, and Joshua David Ramsell as Signers.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Move to Amend Signers for The City’s Banking and Investment Accounts; Removing Roy Chance Hubbard and Adding Jennifer R. Gauna and Cassandra L. Montano and Retaining Lawrence Richard Gordon, Martin Dale Moore, and Joshua David Ramsell as Signers. After action item 17. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Budget Adjustment Resolution 2025-32, Accepting Additional Revenue and Expenses into the Library Budget.

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to Approve of Budget Adjustment Resolution 2025-32, Accepting Additional Revenue and Expenses into the Library Budget. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Budget Adjustment Resolution 2025- 36, Creating a Veterans Memorial Fund as Other Special Revenue and Expenses.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approve of Budget Adjustment Resolution 2025- 36, Creating a Veterans Memorial Fund as Other Special Revenue and Expenses. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Resolution 2025-33 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$200,000), to Plan, Design, Construct and Equip Street Lights in Rio Communities in Valencia County.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approve of Resolution 2025-33 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$200,000), to Plan, Design, Construct and Equip Streetlights in Rio Communities in Valencia County with the contingency that former employee’s names are removed. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Resolution 2025-34 Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$700,000), to Acquire Land and to Plan, Design, Construct, Furnish and Equip a Public Works Complex in Rio Communities in Valencia County.

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to Approve Resolution 2025-34 Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$700,000), to Acquire Land and to Plan, Design, Construct, Furnish and Equip a Public Works Complex in Rio Communities in Valencia County. Seconded by Councilor Melendez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Resolution 2025-35 Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and No cents, (\$870,000), to Purchase and Equip Vehicles and Equipment, including Ambulances for the Police and Fire Departments in Rio Communities in Valencia County.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approve Resolution 2025-35 Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and No cents, (\$870,000), to Purchase and Equip Vehicles and Equipment, including Ambulances, and equipment for the Police and Fire Departments in Rio Communities in Valencia County. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Table Approval of Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore until the next City Council meeting on Monday January 26, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Voting No:
Councilor Melendez

Motion Tabled with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval to Amend Signers for The City’s Banking and Investment Accounts; Removing Roy Chance Hubbard and Adding Jennifer R. Gauna and Cassandra L. Montano and Retaining Lawrence Richard Gordon, Martin Dale Moore, and Joshua David Ramsell as Signers.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Table to Amend Signers for The City’s Banking and Investment Accounts; Removing Roy Chance Hubbard and Adding Jennifer R. Gauna and Cassandra L. Montano and Retaining Lawrence Richard Gordon, Martin Dale Moore, and Joshua David Ramsell as Signers until the next City Council meeting on Monday January 26, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Executive Session - pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(7) and subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation., Pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1 (H)(2) and NMSA 1978 §10-15-1. (H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters, for the Purpose of Candidate Review for the Position of Chief of Police; and for the Purpose of Appointment of Municipal Clerk. Pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8) For the purpose of discussion of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body. No Action will be Taken.

Motion with a roll call to go into a closed session made by Council Nelson. Seconded by Councilor Melendez

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 7:29pm

Motion with a roll call to go into back in Regular business meeting session made by Council Gordon. Seconded by Councilor Nelson

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:17pm

Statement by the Mayor

Mayor Ramsell Stated that on Monday January 12, 2026, City of Rio Communities City Council did hold an Executive Session pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(7) and subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation., Pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1 (H)(2) and NMSA 1978 §10-15-1. (H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters, for the Purpose of Candidate Review for the Position of Chief of Police; and for the Purpose of Appointment of Municipal Clerk. Pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8) For the purpose of discussion of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body. No Action was taken and no other items were discussed at this time.

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Action Items

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Appointment of Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Ramsell made a recommendation to appoint Jenifer Gauna as Municipal Clerk of Rio Communities

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve Jennifer Gauna as Municipal Clerk of Rio Communities.
Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Regarding Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property or Water Rights as Discussed in Executive Session. Approval of Non- Franchise Access agreement with Vero Fiber Networks

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve of Non- Franchise Access agreement with Vero Fiber Networks. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Police Chief Recruitment Direction.

Motion made by Councilor Melendez to approve to reopen the application process for Police Chief Recruitment Direction. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Council Discussion


Upcoming Meetings

Mayor Ramsell stated the Next Regular Business Meeting will be held on January 26, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Adjourn. Seconded by councilor Marquez Motion carried out at 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

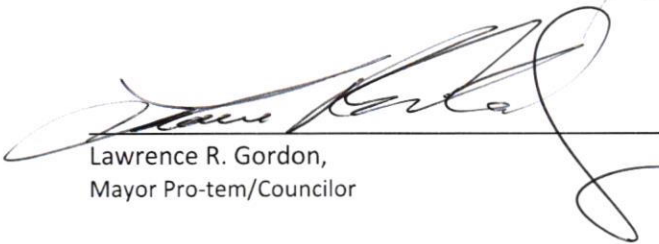



Dr. Martin Moore (acting as Municipal clerk)
(Taken and Transcribed by Patricia McCloskey, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 1-12-2024

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Michael Melendez,
Councilor

Thomas Nelson 1-26-24

Thomas Nelson,
Councilor

Matthew Marquez,
Councilor