



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday January 26, 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 Nelson 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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Ramsell made a recommendation to move item one before the swearing in Ceremony, Also, removing action item three from the agenda.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to move organizational item number one to before the swearing in ceremony and remove organizational item three from the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve amended agenda. 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 – Bi-Annual Approval of Executive Municipal Officers (Dr. Martin Moore City Manager, Andrew Tabet Fire Chief, Jennifer Gauna Municipal Clerk)

**Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve Bi-Annual Approval of Executive Municipal Officers (Dr. Martin Moore City Manager, Andrew Tabet Fire Chief, Jennifer Gauna Municipal Clerk).
Seconded by Councilor Nelson.**

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

SWEARING IN OF MUNICIPAL CLERK JENNIFER GAUNA, FINANCE OFFICER CASSANDRA MONTANO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR AMANDA CARRASCO.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Councilor Nelson Nominated himself as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to approve Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson

Voting No:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Gordon
Motion tied with a 2-2 vote
Mayor broke tie voting No. Motion failed.

Councilor Melendez Nominated Councilor Gordon.

Motion made by Councilor Melendez to approve Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Gordon

Voting No:
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Marquez
Motion tied with a 2-2 vote
Mayor broke tie voting Yes. Motion Passed

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 Melendez 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. 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

Approval of Accounts Payable

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

No Public Comment at this time.

Manager Report

Winter Weather Update.

Update of City Road Projects.

Fire Hazard Reduction.

Legislative Update.

Update on Public Works Signs Replacement and Pothole Repair Activities.

Update on Police Chief Recruitment.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing For the purpose of Consideration of Roadrunner Organics Special Use Permit for Cannabis retail sale Legal description UPC 100902830605500000 Tract: UNNUMBERED S: 16 T: 5N R: 2E 0.48 ACRE PLAT N-663, 2350 HIGHWAY 47 Rio Communities NM, 87002

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

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to recess Regular Business Meeting session and to go into Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 6:31pm

Consideration of Roadrunner Organics Special Use Permit for Cannabis retail sale Legal description UPC 100902830605500000 Tract: UNNUMBERED S: 16 T: 5N R: 2E 0.48 ACRE PLAT N-663, 2350 HIGHWAY 47 Rio Communities NM, 87002

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

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to go back to Regular Business Meeting session. 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 Roadrunner Organics Special Use Permit for Cannabis retail sale Legal description UPC 100902830605500000 Tract: UNNUMBERED S: 16 T: 5N R: 2E 0.48 ACRE PLAT N-663, 2350 HIGHWAY 47 Rio Communities NM, 87002

Motion made by Councilor Melendez to approve Roadrunner Organics Special Use Permit for Cannabis retail sale Legal description UPC 100902830605500000 Tract: UNNUMBERED S: 16 T: 5N R: 2E 0.48 ACRE PLAT N-663, 2350 HIGHWAY 47 Rio Communities NM, 87002. 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 to purchase 2 Police Officer Vehicles Utilizing Appropriation Grant Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to postpone indefinitely to purchase 2 Police Officer Vehicles Utilizing Appropriation Grant Funds. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson

Voting No:
Councilor Gordon

Motion postponed with a 3-1 vote.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Notice of Award to Desert Fox LLC for Don Diego Road Reconstruction Project Bid #2026-0002

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve of Notice of Award to Desert Fox LLC for Don Diego Road Reconstruction Project Bid #2026-0002. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Executive Session - Executive Session - For the purpose of Discussing the Possible purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8). No Action will be Taken.

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

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 7:33pm

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

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 7:54pm

Statement by the Mayor

Mayor Ramsell Stated that on Monday January 26, 2026, City of Rio Communities City Council did hold an Executive Session - For the purpose of Discussing the Possible purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8). 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.

Council Discussion

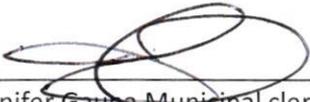
Upcoming Meetings

Mayor Ramsell stated the Next Regular Business Meeting will be held on February 9, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Adjourn. Seconded by councilor Gordon Motion carried out at 8:06pm

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Gauna Municipal clerk
(Taken and Transcribed by Patricia McCloskey, Deputy Clerk)

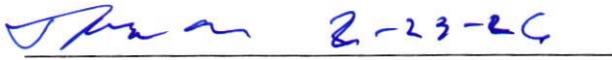
Date: 2-23-26

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Michael Melendez,
Councilor
2-23-26

Thomas Nelson,
Councilor
2/23/26

Matthew Marquez,
Councilor