



**City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd**  
**Rio Communities, NM 87002**  
**Monday March 23, 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 6:03pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilor Gordon 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**

Councilor Marquez asked if there have been any changes to item 14 to bring it back to council.  
Dr. Moore stated that there was request by a council member to bring it back to council.

**Motion made by Councilor Marquez to remove item 14 and approve amended agenda. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.**

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson

Voting No:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Melendez

Motion Tied with a 2-2 Vote  
Mayor Ramsell Broke tie voting no Motion Failed

**Motion made by Councilor Gordon to approve current agenda. Seconded by Councilor Melendez.**

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Melendez

Voting No:  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson

Motion Tied with a 2-2 Vote  
Mayor Ramsell Broke tie voting Yea Motion Passed

## **Consent Agenda**

**Motion made by Councilor Marquez to approve amended consent agenda with the minutes from March 9, 2026 Tabled and the minutes from February 23, 2026, that council discussion to be included. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.**

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

## **Public Comment**

Municipal Clerk Jennifer Gauna read to council public comment from Nancy Lopez.

Robert Chavez spoke about the community and stated he would be willing to pay more in taxes and spoke about problem properties.

Ron Gentry spoke about the businesses in Rio Communities.

## **Manager Report**

### **Attorney Transition**

Dr. Moore stated that on Attorney Transition she was unable to be here tonight, but she will be attending the next meeting.

### **Local Option GRT for Economic Development.**

Grant Taylor gave a brief presentation on Local Option GRT for Economic Development.

### **LEADS Grant.**

Dr. Moore stated the LEADS grant is Local economic assistance and Development support. This is a smaller grant and it's a cost reimbursement contract with the economic development department and reimburses the city for work performed and costs incurred. The eligibility for applicants are that we are involved in economic development, public and private participation, that there is an update community economic development plan and marketing plan, and that the local economic and development ordinance has been passed and the local option gross receipts.

Councilor Nelson asked what percentage of gross receipts.

Grant Taylor stated it would be one fourth of a percent.

### **Maverick Update**

Dr. Moore stated Maverick is moving along and a lot of the old structure and debris is gone.

### **Upcoming proposals to City Council**

#### **Uniform Traffic Code Fees and Fines**

Dr. Moore stated we would like to bring a clean copy back to council possibly in April.

### **Municipal Code Update.**

Dr. Moore stated we are working on codifying the ordinances.

### **Lexipol**

Dr. Moore stated we would like to bring in someone from NMML to do a presentation on Lexipol

### **Update on Road Projects.**

Dr. Moore stated that lights have been put on Goodman. There was a neighborhood meeting for Don Diego and a lot of community members showed up and expressed their opinions and questions. He also stated that on the Damon project there is enough still in the grant to put a seal over the road to help it last longer.

### **IPRA and Burn Permit Fees**

Dr. Moore stated the clerk's office is putting together a list of fees to be=ring to council.

### **Joint Meeting with Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Dr. Moore stated planning and zoning would like to have a joint meeting with council.

Councilor Nelson stated for the joint meeting that it should be done on a regular council meeting day in midafternoon, possibly around 3:00pm.

Councilor Nelson asked if there is currently a burn permit.

Dr. Moore answered no, we do not.

Councilor Nelson stated we should have that before we plan on charging any fees for burn permits.

Councilor Marquez stated the IPRA requests need to be tracked.

Jennifer Gauna stated that we are implementing a new program for IPRA requests and we are just waiting for fees to be approved by council

Councilor Marquez stated the City limits signs need to be moved back to Founders way.

Dr. Moore stated he will bring that up for NM DOT.

### **Action Items**

#### **Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Declare State of Emergency due to Severe Drought and High Fire Risk.**

Fire Chief Tabet spoke about declaring state of emergency due to severe drought and high fire risk.

#### **Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approve Resolution 2026-06 Declare State of Emergency due to Severe Drought and High Fire Risk be read into record. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.**

Jennifer Gauna read Resolution 2026-06 in to record.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion Passed with a 4-0 vote

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Appointment of Ronald McCormick for Planning and Zoning.**

**Motion made by Councilor Gordon to Approve Appointment of Ronald McCormick for Planning and Zoning. 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 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Calendar.**

Dr. Moore advised council of budget workshops that will be scheduled. He also advised council that the deadline to submit the final budget is the end of June.

**Motion made by Councilor Marquez to Approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Calendar. 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 Lease for Exclusive Retail use to Dough Daddy’s Delights, 639 Sq Feet of Space inside the City Complex Building Located at 360 Rio Communities Blvd.**

Councilor Nelson asked if there is an amount that will be charged for leasing the space.

Dr. Moore stated no there hasn’t been an amount set.

Councilor Melendez discussed supporting businesses in the city.

Councilor Marquez discussed the issues of renting the city building to Dough Daddys Delights.

**Motion made by Councilor Melendez to Approve to Lease for Exclusive Retail use to Dough Daddy’s Delights, 639 Sq Feet of Space inside the City Complex Building Located at 360 Rio Communities Blvd. including the lease to meet all regulatory standards and permits before anything moves forward and that they would also be responsible for paying for the re-key for said leased area and that the lease would include fair market value under state law. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.**

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Gordon  
Councilor Melendez

Voting No:  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson

Motion Tied with a 2-2 Vote  
Mayor Ramsell Broke tie voting Yea Motion Passed

**Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval to Replace Four (4) Light Poles and Lights on or Near Highway 304 Using Insurance Payments and Budgeted Funds.**

Dr. Moore advised council of the proposal that was tabled in a previous meeting on August 19, 2026 and he recommended this item be approved.

Councilor Nelson asked are these DOT approved lights.

Dr. Moore stated yes, they are.

**Motion made by Councilor Nelson to Approval to Replace Four (4) Light Poles and Lights on or Near Highway 304 Using Insurance Payments and Budgeted Funds. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.**

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Melendez  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

**Executive Session -for the discussion of the purchase, addition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8)**

**Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**

**Motion made by Councilor Nelson to go into close session. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.**

Voting Yea:  
Councilor Melendez  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:25pm

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

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

Councilor Melendez  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:38pm

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

Mayor Ramsell Stated that on Monday March 23, 2026, City of Rio Communities City Council did hold an Executive Session -for the discussion of the 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 Gordon to approve the statement by the mayor. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.**

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez  
Councilor Marquez  
Councilor Nelson  
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

**Council Discussion**

Councilor Gordon thanked the Police department, Fire Department and City staff for all their hard work.

Councilor Nelson spoke about Art in Public Places (AIPP) committee. Councilor Nelson requested recordings and YouTube videos from March 9, 2026, and March 23, 2026, meetings. Councilor Nelson also spoke about Nuisance and dangerous properties.

Councilor Marquez requested to cancel Rio Communities Spring Fest. He also asked about the Part time finance position. Councilor Marquez asked about the Police Chief Position. He also asked about the Municipal Judge vacancy. Councilor Marquez asked if there is an update on the parks.

Councilor Melendez asked if he could receive more information on the Water resource committee that he is on. Councilor Melendez spoke about the VALEO meeting. Councilor Melendez also spoke about the flood control.

**Our Next Scheduled meeting will be April 13, 2026, at 6:00pm**

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to Adjourn. Seconded by councilor Melendez Motion carried out at 9:16pm

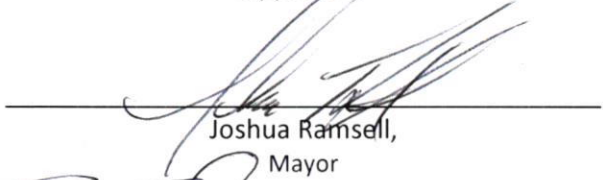
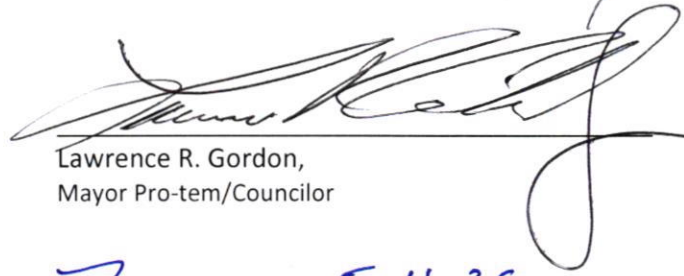
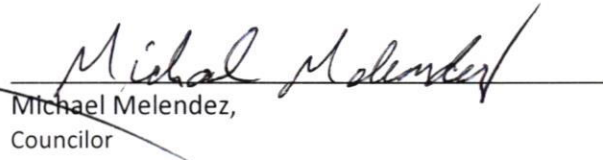
Respectfully submitted,



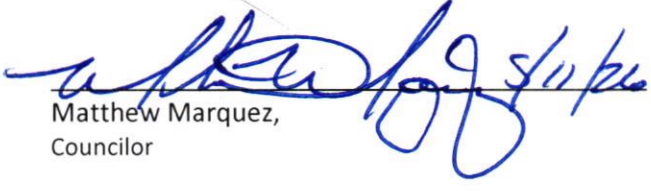
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Gauna Municipal clerk  
(Taken and Transcribed by Patricia McCloskey, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 5/13/26

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Ramsell,  
Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence R. Gordon,  
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Melendez,  
Councilor

Thomas Nelson 5-11-26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Nelson,  
Councilor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Marquez,  
Councilor