



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday June 22, 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 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 Cori Strife

Approval of Agenda

Councilor Marquez requested to remove item number 7 from the agenda and also requested for the minutes to be recorded Verbatim for the removal of item number 7

Councilor Marquez said verbatim : First, I would like to remove item number seven on the agenda. And I'm requesting that the minutes be recorded verbatim. Verbatim about the removing item number seven. So last meeting, during the special meeting, it was item number seven was voted on one against two for the approval of the budget to use the bill Brown fund under a Robert's rule order edition. The 12th edition, section 37. 6 states that the motion cannot be made only by that the motion can be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, which means the winning yes or no side. Does all of council understand what that means?

Mayor Ramsell: I believe during the meeting, sir, we said that that resolution did not pass.

Councilor Marquez: Yes, exactly. So you. You can't bring. It can't be brought back. Under Ordinance 20133 Section 22 Bravo 1 states Adherence to rules business with the conduct of generally following good parliamentary procedure at the SC discretion of the presiding officer. Strict adherence to the following rules will however is invoked at the request of any any member of the governing body at any time on any or all issues and Two E roles and debate. Section states issues not covered Robert Rule of order, newly revised shall be used by council in determining any issue not covered by this section. So. It means that the only person that can bring up this issue back to council is councilor Nelson because he was the one who was the revealing side.

Councilor Melendez: Mayor Ramsell

Mayor Ramsell: Hang on Councilor Melendez, I think. Corey, I was going to chime in

City Attorney Cori Strife: Sure, Mayor, members of council and councilor Marquez, just as a point of clarification. So this action item is a different action item. The action item that was before you was a budget adjustment resolution in order to be able to expend funds for the 2026 or sorry, 25-26 fiscal year, we have now rolled over into the 26-27 fiscal year. And so this is a different consideration. It's not a resolution. It is just essentially a notification that there is this monies to be spent for this budgeted item already been budgeted, approved by council, passed, voted on in prior budgetary meetings. So it's just a different action item. But the. I appreciate that the subject matter is substantially similar, so it bears clarifying that it's a different item entirely.

Councilor Melendez: Mayor Ramsell?. Yes. So the agenda has already been printed out, sent out to the public. So the items that are on there, of course, have been for the most part, approved. And when it comes to Action Item 7, either vote for it or vote against it.

Mayor Ramsell: Okay, at this time there's a motion from Councilor Marquez to remove action item number seven, amending the agenda. Was there a second?

Councilor Nelson: I'll second.

Mayor Ramsell: Okay. At this time.

Councilor Marquez: So I, I was. I didn't make a motion to remove it. I invoke Robert's rule of orders and what's. And do you understand what that means if I invoke Robert's rule of orders? It means to adhere to Robert's rule of orders, um you have to do a strict adherence to the following rules. And the only way to do it is to invoke Robert's rule of orders for that.

Councilor Gordon: And we. The. The attorney has explained why that doesn't apply. That's the attorney that just got through doing this.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Just as a point of clarification, for my own sake, do we have a motion on the table or not yet?

Mayor Ramsell: I thought there was a motion and a second.

Councilor Nelson: Actually, he said he did not make a motion, so there is not a motion.

Mayor Ramsell: Okay, so if there's not a motion, is there a motion on the agenda? For the agenda?

Councilor Melendez: Yes. I like the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Melendez to approve agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Gordon

Voting No:
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson

Motion Tied with a 2-2 Vote
Mayor Ramsell broke tie voting Yes Motion Passed

Consent Agenda

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

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

No Public Comment at this time.

Dr. Moore stated: Mayor, members of council, I'll keep item three brief since we know you've been briefed on it many times. Maverick continues to move along and appears to be on schedule.

The Don Diego update. They are on schedule, moving into phase two of construction and have been taken out and are getting ready hopefully in the next few days. Here, start setting forms and send some concrete for curves in the base two section.

Councilor Nelson: I got a quick question on that one. On other. Taking the dirt from Don Diego and moving out to other places in the city and leveling it out.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, council members, some of it, they piled on that one lot and others. Yes, they have.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. I noticed some of it on Sundial. I was just curious if that's where it's coming from.

Dr. Moore: Yes.

Councilor Nelson Okay, thank you.

Dr. Moore: Yes, We made an arrangement with them because it's a lot less expensive for them to do that than to haul it out of town.

Councilor Nelson: Okay, thank you. We do realize though, that once the monsoons come, that will all be back down the arroyo, most likely.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, council members like. I'm not going to disagree or agree because we'll watch and see what happens. Second, the next one was the earthquakes. South of Rio communities, a number of individuals have felt them. We've been checked. As a city, we've been checking to see what's going on as far as earthquakes or earthquake tremors. We've had two separate incidents of multiple tremors that I'm aware of, ranging from 1.8 or 2 up to about. I think the highest one was 3.9 on the Richter scale. That happened down near the Socorro Valencia county line. We did fill them as far as up here. One of the things that was brought to my attention was the main importance for us to remind the county as we're talking to them about the preparedness plans, is that making sure that earth tremors or earthquakes are considered because we do get a number of smaller ones here and sometimes smaller ones can mean larger ones later. So it doesn't hurt for us to at least make sure that we're making the county aware and we'll be Making them aware of that in their emergency planning.

Councilor Nelson: So I got a little side on that one. Did you realize that we sit on one of the biggest manual flows in the world? 300 square mile magma flow, 12 miles down, which is about the epicenter of those earthquakes. They run from Socorro all the way up into Colorado. I don't know if most people knew that.

Speaker E: Yeah. And from distance wise, 12 miles isn't that far down. So. So yes, thank you. Thank you for the information. And those are the basic reports that I have on those. One other thing here, not on the manager's report. I'll just tell you. We did receive or the mayor received today. He hasn't even had a chance to been given a copy yet. The official notification letter that our interim budget has been approved by the state.

Mayor Ramsell: Anyone from council have any questions or comments over the Managers report?

Councilor Marquez: Yes. So, I received an email today with the resident complaining about the code enforcement. I'm not sure if anybody else received that email. I know I received it just with my name on it. I have requested from the city manager to forward it to all council members.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, council members, I'm trying to. Let me check and see if that. I did forward that.

Mayor Ramsell: I believe everyone did receive that.

Councilor Marquez: So every. Everyone received the email saying that the code enforcement.

Dr. Moore: I'm checking it. I'm checking my sent box right now.

Councilor Melendez: I did. Councilor Melendez received an email of something regarding the code enforcement. Yes, not sure if that's what you're referring to.

Councilor Marquez: Yes. So I want to talk about the issues with code enforcement.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council. The code enforcement's not on the agenda right now.

Councilor Marquez: but it's something that came up and it's something that I want to discuss under the manager report because code enforcers is under the manager. So it's something that needs to be discussed. A couple questions. How long have we had a code enforcer for? Has it been pretty much the 10 years that we've been a city

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council. The last that I recall a code enforcement officer being with the city was 2018 or to 2019.

Councilor Marquez: Okay. And prior to that was with. They were connected to the fire department, Correct?

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council. I know that it was connected to the fire department for. For a period of time after I got here in 2021. Before that I have no recollection or knowledge.

Councilor Marquez: Okay. So does the city have an off standard operating procedure Specifically for code enforcement.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Mayor, members of Council, to Dr. Moore's point, this. This item isn't on the agenda. I don't discourage asking questions. My request would be if we could hold this item until council discussion. At which point requests for. I mean, the reason I bring this up is because I think it would be more prudent to be able to request information from Dr. Moore to present at the next regular meeting so that way it can be noticed appropriately. I'm a little bit concerned that this is going to be bordering on a personnel discussion without any notice of the personnel involved. So that would be my preference. If we could just pull this in advance counsel discussion portion.

Councilor Marquez: So because legal spoke up, what did the press say to you right before you address. Okay, I'm asking the. Well, that's correct. Okay, I'm asking.

Councilor Melendez: Yes, I believe that that's the case. We need to look into this at the level

Councilor Marquez: Excuse me.

Mayor Ramsell: Everyone stop for a second. We're gonna stick to the agenda. If you'd like to talk about this at the end of your council discussion will be more than happy to.

Councilor Marquez:.. What I'm requesting is I'm asking our city attorney. What did the press say to you? Because she said it to us, the press said it to us, but the community didn't hear it. So I'm requesting you to repeat what she had said to you. That's all I'm requesting.

City Attorney Cori Strife: And mayor, members of council. So all she said was that this item isn't on the agenda, it shouldn't be being discussed. Which again I reiterated.

Councilor Marquez: That's all I'm asking. Thank you

Action Items

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Fireworks Ban Proclamation

Dr Moore Stated Mayor, members of council, our deputy clerk, is bringing that item up in front of you right now. We have done this in previous years. Fourth of July is coming up. We are under a currently declared drought emergency as a city. I recommend that the city move forward with your mayoral proclamation and we can read into the record.

Councilor Nelson: Well, I'll get that in a second too. I mean I totally agree with this. But fireworks are considered open flames. They are part of the statewide fire banner.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Members of council and one of the things about the proclamation that is inherently a little bit problematic, but I wanted to include on tonight's agenda regardless is that we actually have a window no fewer than 20 days prior to the holiday. I understand and acknowledge July 4th is actually 12 days away if we're counting on a calendar. So in terms of the proclamation in its strictest sense, I recommend you do not pass. However, to your point, Councilor Nelson, it is in fact already in place because we have the statewide burn ban. I wanted this on the agenda because even though the timing is not met, it allows my public to know that we have already looked at and considered this. And because of the timing, we can't sort of reinforce the proclamation, but we can at least bring it up for discussion and remind the public, please, open flames are not okay right now.

Councilor Nelson: Even without the proclamation, because there's a statewide fire ban, citizens can be cited for using these fireworks. Correct?

City Attorney Cori Strife: Correct. And fire chief is already very aware on high alert.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. I mean, I just want to get that out so the public knows, even though we didn't do a proclamation banning it, you still, if you are caught, you will be fine. Banning. Okay.

Councilor Marquez: I have a question, Dr. Moore. Will our police department be out during the afternoon nighttime hours to be patrolling for anyone breaking the law, lighting fireworks, high flyers, anything like that? Do. Do we have them on schedule to be patrolling the area at the time?

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council, I don't have them on a specified specific annual schedule. However, yes, the directions will be given. And the second thing I will tell you is that the fire department will also be out. And the fire department, under fire code problems, can also issue citation. So we will be out in force.

Councilor Marquez: Thank you

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to table of Fireworks Ban Proclamation due to not meeting the 20-day requirement. Seconded by Councilor Marquez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Voting No:

Councilor Melendez

Motion passed with a 3-1 vote

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Authorization to expend up to One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) of Bill Brown Fund for Veterans' Memorial Park Effective July 1, 2026

Motion made by Councilor Gordon to Approve to Authorize to expend up to One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) of Bill Brown Fund for Veterans' Memorial Park Effective July 1, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Melendez.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. My, my concern with this is on. 1 12, 2026 we did quarterly budget. Quarterly budget amendment for the amount of \$100,000. We moved into the Veterans Memorial Fund. Where's that money for one and what is where it came out of 29900 special other special revenues. Out of all the research I can find for that. The city does not have a 29900. DFA does have one which is wildland firefighting. So what is 29 and 129,900?

Dr. Moore: Mayor members of council under LGBMS 29900 and that is. That was the number that was given with the budget adjustment resolution because it was a resolution that would be going directly to to the state of New Mexico under. And that's where the would classify it. Under the LGBMS city has a separate fund set up called Bill Brown Fund. As you can see on the sheet, that fund number is 29 500.

Councilor Nelson: Correct. I have that also in front of me. And my other stipulation with this is where's the money coming from? Bill Brown fund Because I have documentation where there's not that much money in there from years past.

Dr. Moore: Mayor Members of Council, you were looking at a copy of the general ledger fund expenditure amounts that have been in this since the fund was placed in there. In 6 30 of 2022 it showed \$326,000. 7 31 of 22 it was down to \$275,000. On 7 1 of 2023 it was a \$280,366.41. The 7 1 of 2024 was a \$267,166.41 and it's 7 1 of 2026 upcoming here. In other words, current we are at \$267,166.41.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. From quarter fiscal year 2024. Quarter four. You gave this to us. Okay. Bill Brown Fund \$275,820 hand typed in, not off the ledger.

Dr. Moore: and 14 cents paper. I gave you this directly out of the general ledger.

Councilor Nelson: This one here doesn't have 14 cents. There's no cents.

Dr. Moore: This particular page I gave you today is directly

Councilor Nelson: and then you got revenue is \$37,699. Okay. Expenditures \$33,153 leaving \$280,366 and adjusted balance there \$280.

Dr. Moore: Right.

Councilor Nelson: But if you go back to. I'm sorry, I'm not as organized as I thought I was. Okay. This is from 7 25 24 29500 2588 999 other capital purchases. This is Bill Brown funds \$165,000 in year \$37,699. Okay. This is also from 7 25 contributions. It's got \$331,415 total activity \$331,420 \$412.50 estimated year year estimated year end \$37,699.27. Then we go into fiscal year 24-25 1 30 25 Bill Brown other purchases. You have total expense \$80,366 original budget current budget \$80,366 period activity 0 fiscal activity \$13,200 leaving \$67,166.

Dr. Moore: Correct. In your budget for that particular fiscal year, that was the amount of money out of the Bill Brown fund that you agreed to use for public works. And what you're reporting is the amount of money unspent out of 80,000.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. And out of that fund spent unallocated money. It shows we spent the unallocated money. And then we also now use that unallocated money for another purchase in the last

council meeting for the land. So the numbers don't add up.

Dr. Moore: I mean Mayor members of council what I'm telling you is directly from the general ledger accounting for all transactions. Your current balance is \$267,166.41 and I will stick our finance office accuracy on that number.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. To me it like the math doesn't add up. I mean it's.

Dr. Moore: And mayor council members will be happy to share with you information and walk you through any math you need to walk through.

Councilor Nelson: Well I I requested all the ledgers for that and the park grant.

Dr. Moore: Yeah. Mayor members of council that was.

Councilor Nelson: I know it was late in the day.

Dr. Moore: A full accounting was asked for that today in relationship to other grants. But this was actually prepared and ready to hand to council last week and the question didn't come up. So we had the ledger account information already ready when you asked the request today and we made sure we pulled it out.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. But I'm still asking where that hundred thousand was transferred in there came from.

DR. Moore: Mayor members of council I still don't know what 100,000 he's talking about.

Councilor Nelson: it's that Resolution that I read out from January

Dr. Moore \$80,000 was agreed to by the city council in the budget of a previous fiscal year for utilization for public works to aid in developing temporary public work Shark and we did not spend most of that amount.

Councilor Nelson: I have your accounting ledger from the meeting on January Other Special Revenue no Department 4,610 contributions donations \$100,000 other special revenues general administration buildings and structures \$100,000. The request budget adjustments to authorize the schedule of government body meeting Open Act 00000000 justification provides significant explanation of budget adjustment backed up documentation such as grant awards letter other documents requested by budget should be involved by LGBMS. But in your the other page it says these funds are used towards furnishing building equipping the new Veterans Memorial park and Rio Communities. That's why I'm asking where of that \$100,000 went

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council, that there has been no other everything that is.

Councilor Nelson: This is your account ledger from that resolution. I will happily hand it to you so you can see it along with the resolution signed resolution by all of us.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Mayor, members of council. I think just for a point of clarification, what we're discussing is a budget adjustment resolution. Am I correct?

Councilor Nelson: Then we already had a budget res adjustment resolution to move \$100,000 in there.

Dr. Moore: To move \$100,000 into where?

Councilor Nelson: Into the veterans memorial.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Okay So for the sake of the record, I just want to make sure I'm pulling up the correct documentation. So we're discussing the budget adjustment resolution. It was 2025-36 which was creating the veterans Memorial fund, other special revenue and expenses. And this was in the meeting that was August. I'm sorry, January 8th, 2026. January 12th.

Councilor Nelson: Correct. Action item number 13.

City Attorney Cori Strife: Perfect. All right, bear with me I'm going to pull it up for you.

Dr. Moore: Yes. Okay, I see what he's talking about. This was a budget resolution to allow for the budget to reflect those amounts in revenues and to be able to expand up to that amount in revenues. If I'm taking a look here. Let's see. One is under General Administration 22002. That was to provide us

the ability to be able to to receive and expend funds. That was not the movement of Bill Brown funds.

Councilor Nelson: It says. Does it not say from the Bill Brown fund to the veterans Memorial?

Dr. Moore: No, it does not.

Councilor Nelson: That's it. Yeah. This is. This was out of the minutes. This is out of the minutes in that meeting.

Deputy Clerk Patricia: What day was the meeting?

Councilor Nelson: January 12th.

Councilor Marquez: Councilor Nelson, did you want her to pull up the minutes or

Councilor Nelson I mean just. These funds will be used to build, furnish and equip to Veteran Memorial park in our communities. It shows. I mean this states we've moved money.

Councilor Marquez: Well, it's in. So you're saying it's in the minutes.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, this does not state the movement of money.

Councilor Nelson: So states budget adjustment request to DFA showing the hundred thousand dollars. this page here. I mean you got other stuff blacked out on it in the minutes.

Councilor Marquez: Do you know when the minutes approved?

Speaker D: This is. I mean it's agenda from one from one eight twenty six. But.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, if the council member would desire research, I'll be happy to give me a recess and I'll pull the LGBMs directly up on my computer in my office.

Councilor Nelson: Or can we. I mean you first and second. Can we table this till next business meeting?

Dr. Moore: Mayor, Members of council. What he's quoting is, is irrespective the of the amount of cash available in the bill, ground funds to be able to deal with the bedroom memorial. And the other thing is this authorization is to begin 26-7-1, which is in the 26 fiscal year. Any types of budget adjustments or anything done in the 26th fiscal year or any prior years are null and void at the end. I mean, you're done. You reconcile, you do your year end, you're done on what counts as the next the new budget that has just been approved by DFA.

Councilor Nelson: So basically you're saying this \$100,000 was not moved, has not been spent.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, Members of council. That is correct.

Councilor Nelson: Okay,

Councilor Melendez: But Mayor Ramsel, this is councilor Melendez. But this GL account 29500 is what is presented before us at this on this date to cover the cost of the veterans memorial. And to that extent, understand it goes on to record that this is what we are discussing and will act on.

Mayor Ramsell: I just want to be clear. Yes, sir. I just wanted to be clear that it is up to. It does not mean that \$430,000 is going to be spent. It's just up to.

Councilor Nelson: And I want. I'm. No, I'm not against veteran Memorial. I am against where it's going. I say that when proposed there. So I mean, you know.

Councilor Marquez: Okay, I have a few things to say. I'd like the minutes to be recorded verbatim for the city clerk pertaining to the Veterans Memorial. Going further today, it's going to be a tough decision to make. There's questions that I have to ask as a council member, as a Veteran Memorial, as a Veterans Memorial committee member, and more specifically as a combat veteran. What are the benefits and what are the consequences to approval or denial? The committee has worked many hours accomplished its part by addressing the financial concerns that lay out the issues to the best of its ability and given the best ideas to council. I want to thank the volunteers that are here and also Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Dick Irvine and Mr. Art Apodaca for working so hard on the project. And the next question is, I've seen a lot of irregularities outside the committee's parameters involving the memorial project. And do I ignore them or do I address them? That's my concern and I'll address my my concerns. Dr. Moore, how much is left in the veterans' memorial or how much money is left in the

grant.

Dr. Moore: In the particular grant, I believe we. I believe we have obligated up to 388,000 out of the 390,000.

Councilor Marquez: So you obligated 388,000 out of 390.

Dr. Moore: yes, It was submitted to the state and the state approved the obligation.

Councilor Marquez: So there's only \$2,000 left.

Dr. Moore: Approximately.

Councilor Marquez: Okay. All right. On June 6, June 14 and June 17 and today you have yet to provide the documentation I've requested. I'm going to read the last email request that I had sent with no response. This is the following email. My request is for a detailed accounting of the grant fundings that were originally designated for the veterinary veterans memorial project. Not only for the veterans memorial project. Specifically, I am requesting documentation showing the date and amount of expenditure made, the total amount spent on each project funded through the grant, including the veterans memorial project, the total amount expended from the grant fund to date, and the remaining balance of the grant funds, which I have never received from June 17. The information is necessary to fully understand how the grant funds have been allocated and expended since their original designation for the grant memorial project. So council was under the impression that \$150,000 out of the grant fund was going to go to the veterans memorial project. On June 17, I received an email with only a portion of what was requested. My concern is not about the veterans project, but the funds that were supposed to be in be tied tied to the project. Council was under the impression, like I said, 150,000 was supposed to be spent on the project. A detailed accounting funds for veterans memorial which we sent was that was the portion was \$757,500 for preliminary plans and cost estimate, \$25,000 approximately for the construction, design and management and \$28,000 was for Three Flags Poles which this purchase was discussed during the committee meeting and only purchased after the committee discussion. \$119,000 which you had said is in the email was for construction of memorial unable to submit due to construction completion time expending beyond the expiration date of the Grant. Grant expiration date 6:30, 2026 Request to extend the grant to 2028 approved by the legislature but vote vetoed by the governor. Written in bold letters and highlighted in text. So that portion is misleading. The the grant did not have \$119,000 in it to expand. There's only two \$2,000 left.

Dr. Moore: Mayor members of council Councilor Marquez is mischaracterizing

Councilor Marquez: Im not this is verbatim from your email.

Dr. Moore:: Mayor members of council Mayor, may I Continue with my comments.

Mayor Ramsell: I'd like to hear what the city manager has to say.

Councilor Marquez: Okay. He could say it after I'm done. I'm still. I'm still.

Mayor Ramsell: Can we follow the rules?

Councilor Marquez: Say that again.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, I request the floor.

Mayor Ramsell: Will you yield the floor, sir?

Councilor Marquez: uh I will go ahead.

Mayor Ramsell: Thank you. Go ahead, Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of the of counsel and clarification. The 110,000 approximately that was talked about that was not submitted was an issue because there was not enough time to complete construction. We would have gladly submitted the amounts for notice of obligation. However, the city would not have been reimbursed for those expenses. Do not feel that that was a wise business decision on the part of the city to try to. To commit to something again an obligation on something we knew that could not be completed and a check could not be cut and reimbursement could not be

submitted to the state. As a reminder the council several times that we did request an extension on this grant to 2028. That extension was adopted and passed by the legislature but vetoed by the governor because of that at the put us in a situation of constraint where we went back to our architects and said what can we do? They said well this is how. This is what we can do. We'll get as much out of this as possible. However, it's not going to be possible to get the construction completed. That was discussed in the committee meeting because of the fact that that was not able to be put in there and submitted. The discussion was brought up to come and talk about Bill Brown funds which he asked. He used to work recreation and parks and he by the way military was very close to his heart as well. And so that was where the. The genesis was born of this. To be able to come forward and say council, are you willing to put forward. I'm not telling council what to do. I'm simply suggesting to you that because of the issue that we had it would be we want to complete things one of the veterans memorial. It would be wise to go ahead and utilize portions up to portions of Bill Brown funds. By the way, I believe there's at least a ten to twelve thousand dollar contingency built into the amount that is in the request before you.

Councilor Marquez: Are you willing to yield back?

Dr. Moore: And members of council? That's my explanation. I yield back.

Councilor Marquez: Okay, back to what I was saying. Oh, sorry Mayor, go ahead.

Mayor Ramsell: I was just gonna say if you'd like to continue, counselor.

Councilor Marquez: Yes. So back to what I was saying. During the last committee meeting you had mentioned that there was \$33,000 left in the the that fund after the committee meeting. There's \$28,000 that was spent on the three polls, which leads to that that 2,000 left in the account. Okay, so from this email which was after the committee meeting and shows that \$28,000 spent, it shows that the city manager's office is is trying to say that unable to submit due to construction completion time, strengths, constraints, we couldn't out. We couldn't pull \$119,000 out of it. There was not \$119,000 in the account to pull out.

Dr. Moore: Mayor members of council, let me explain

Councilor Marquez: so I'm not done.

Dr. Moore: Go ahead, sir.

Councilor Marquez: It's impossible to submit \$119,000 to a grant that doesn't have it.

Dr. Moore: Mayor members of council, let me explain the the basics of obligation and de obligation

Councilor Marquez: I understand the basics of

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council, we had some areas of things that were not expended in a couple of grants and we actually did ask for a de obligation of funds in areas where they couldn't have been expended. If this project could have done speaking with the state, we could have easily he obligated that amount of money and obligated in to be able to utilize that. If it would have been able, we would have been able to do the project. So the short answer is until the pay requests go in, the city has, in every city in the state of New Mexico has the ability to de obligate and re obligate. We did have some obligation of funds because we were putting under very direct and strict guidelines that we either spend it or we put it back. Therefore, we put information in there. We did receive. We did receive. After these other obligations have been put in a cost estimate, then we'd ask then I as we call ask the questions very specifically, are we going to be able to get get this done and get this paid for? And the answer was no. So

Councilor Marquez: So on June 6, June 14 and June 17, I requested again detailed accounting for the grant funds where they're designated. The veterans Memorial project. Not only for the veterans project specifically, I'm requesting documents showing the date amounts of each expenditure made from the grant funds that project, the purpose for which each expenditure was made, the total amount

spent on each project funded through the grant, including veterans Memorial project, the total amount expended from the grant fund to date, and the remaining balance of the grant, which was never sent. And I also added into the email the information is necessary to fully understand how the grant funds have been allocated and expended since their original designation for the Grant Memorial since their original designation from the Grant Memorial Project. So I have been asking for this information so I can make a clear and precise decision of what to do and how to move forward.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, Members of council, I believe.

Councilor Marquez: Dr. Moore, I'm still trying to speak and I'm still trying to explain my reasoning of what I'm trying to do. So I want to finish without interruption. So, like I said, it's impossible to spend \$119,000 out of a fund that doesn't have \$119,000. And the only way to prove that it doesn't have 100 that that account didn't have that money, that that grant is to show the documentation. The only way to prove it that you're telling the truth is to show that documentation. You have not have yet to present that documentation to council and I requested it to go to council. You have yet to provide that documentation. And this documentation that you gave us does not explain what I'm asking for. There have been multiple documented and recent allegations in is a financial mismanagement contract.

Dr. Moore: Members of council, point of order.

Councilor Marquez: I'm trying to speak. There's been mult.

Dr. Moore: Members of council, point of order.

Councilor Marquez: There's multiple

Dr. Moore: this. He's string off topic and not general discussion.

Councilor Gordon: Point of order.

Councilor Marquez: The only information I received was a total of \$61,000 spent towards the grant and \$28,000 for the flagpole purchase. My major concern is where the money from the grant is being spent and why is the city having to use \$119,000 from the Bill Brown fund to complete the project when originally it was. It was told to council that \$150,000 was supposed to come from the Veterans Memorial. From the. From the. From the grant. Do I want to ignore it? Ignore some, but not all of the concerns I have addressed which could likely be tied to Veterans Memorial. Will there be a looming controversy over the Veterans Memorial? And would the veterans want a memorial with controversy connected to it? Can the project be postponed until the city has an independent audit through the Defense Finance and Accounting Services Office of Inspection General regarding any allegations that can be resolved? Like I said, I'm a combat veteran. I support our veterans. I support a memorial. I will always support the progress progression of the Rio Communities, but I will not be part of any alleged instances of financial mismanagement, contract irregularities, procurement concerns and more involving the City of Rio Communities.

Councilor Melendez: Mayor Ramsel, that last comment that there are improprieties of expenditures is. Well, it's not warranted Right now we're looking at documentation of how the money will be spent, who will be doing the work, and it's all there in front of me to look at and, and act on and prove. So I can understand there's been lengthy discussion as to what's going to, how it's going to be financed, how it's going to. Money's going to come in. And right now we have the solution.

Councilor Marquez: So the impropriety.

Councilor Melendez: On that note, I am ready to motion so that we.

Mayor Ramsell: There was already a motion.

Councilor Marquez: So the improprieties and mismanagement comes from our recent incident that happened with our financial contract for services with Beasley Mitchell. \$40,000 over expenditure when.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council, point of order

Councilor Marquez: So he. I'm explaining to Councilor Melendez, Council, I

Dr. Moore: recommend that someone make a motion to call the question.

Councilor Nelson: So. Well,

Councilor Marquez: go ahead.

Councilor Nelson: I do have one more question concerning the planning of this. Okay. And you and Mr. Answer it. Did anybody reach out to the building next to us is getting ready to do major renovations to see if this affects their architectural plans for that side of the building?

Dr. Moore : Mayor, members of council yes, we did.

Councilor Nelson: Okay. Do you have something signed off from them, stating it?

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members, Council, we do not require to have something signed off from them.

Councilor Nelson: But no, I mean, as good neighbors. As good neighbors, we should have something verbally.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council will be happy, feel happy to be. Get something from down saying, I mean, it's okay, but verbally we have the. Okay.

Councilor Nelson: I mean, it's just that's a good neighbor thing. So that's where I'm going with that because I've, I've seen the plans for next door and they're quite elaborate and it doesn't, you know, this was not shouldered in theirs at all. It's just showing the way it is.

Dr. Moore: Correct. It should not be in their plans if it's not on their property.

Councilor Nelson: Correct. I mean, as a good neighbors, you kind of like to make sure everything's copacetic with each other. That's all I was asking.

Dr. Moore: Sure.

Speaker D: Okay.

Councilor Gordon: Okay. Call the question.

Mayor Ramsell: All right. This time there's been a motion and a second considering the authorization to expand up to \$130,000 of Bill Brown funds for Veterans Memorial park effective July 1, 2020. 26.

Motion was made by Councilor Gordon, seconded by Councilor Melendez.

Mayor Ramsell: Councilor Nelson

Councilor Nelson: at this time: No.

Mayor Ramsell: Councilor Marquez?

Councilor Marquez: No.

Mayor Ramsell: Councilor Melendez?

Councilor Melendez: Yes.

Mayor Ramsell: Councilor Gordon,

Councilor Gordon: Yes.

Mayor Ramsell: At this time there is a 2, 2 vote. The mayor breaks a tie. I vote yes. As well, Councilor Marquez, I know you said you wanted the minutes to be verbatim. If you'd please make sure to get with Patricia. That way she has exactly what you read off there for the minutes.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Gordon

Voting No:

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Motion tie with a 2-2 vote

Mayor breaks tie voting Yes Motion Passed.

Executive Session -For the purpose of a matter subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation (Felix Nunez v. City of Rio Communities, et. al.) pursuant to §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 Melendez.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 6:59pm

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.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 7:31pm

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor:

Mayor Ramsell Stated that on Monday June 22, 2026, City of Rio Communities City Council did hold an Executive Session - For the purpose of a matter subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation (Felix Nunez v. City of Rio Communities, et. al.) pursuant to §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

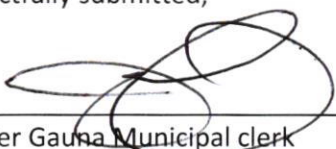
Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Council Discussion

Our Next Regular Scheduled Meeting will be Monday July 13, 2026, at 6:00pm

Adjourn at 7:55pm

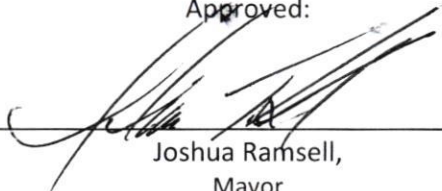
Respectfully submitted,



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

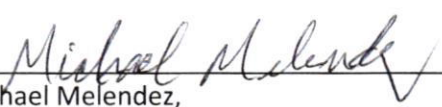
Date: 7/13/26

Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Michael Melendez,
Councilor



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



Matthew Marquez,
Councilor