



City of Rio Communities Council Regular Business Meeting
City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002
Monday July 13 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 6:01pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Marquez led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell
Councilor Matthew Marquez
Councilor Lawrence Gordon (Via Phone)
Councilor Thomas Nelson
Councilor Michael Melendez

Staff

Manager Dr. Martin Moore
City Attorney Cori Strife

Approval of Agenda

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

Voting Yea:

Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Gordon

Motion Passed with a 4-0 Vote

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Nelson 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

Action Items

Discussion only –About Waterflow Study with Goodman Avenue Engineer

Antonio with HDR answered questions members of council had for him in regard to Waterflow Study with Goodman Avenue Engineer

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Appointment of Tommy Westmoreland to the Position Municipal Judge

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to approve Appointment of Tommy Westmoreland to the Position Municipal Judge. 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 Resolution 2026-11; Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve of Resolution 2026-11; Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. 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 – Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Resolution 2026-12 Entering into a Local Government Road Fund Cooperative Agreement for Project Control Number L300396; Hillandale Avenue

Motion made by Councilor Nelson to approve of Resolution 2026-12 Entering into a Local Government Road Fund Cooperative Agreement for Project Control Number L300396; Hillandale Avenue. 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 Detention Center Agreement with Valencia County.

Motion made by Councilor Marquez to Approve Detention Center Agreement with Valencia County. Seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Voting Yea:

Councilor Melendez

Councilor Marquez

Councilor Nelson

Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Executive Session - For the Purpose of Candidate Review for the Position of Chief of Police Limited Personnel Matters NMSA 1978 §10-15-1. (H)(2); and for the purpose of a matter subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation 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 7:41 pm

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 Melendez.

Voting Yea:
Councilor Melendez
Councilor Marquez
Councilor Nelson
Councilor Gordon

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote at 8:13 pm

Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor:

Mayor Ramsell Stated that on Monday July 13, 2026, City of Rio Communities City Council did hold an Executive Session - For the Purpose of Candidate Review for the Position of Chief of Police Limited Personnel Matters NMSA 1978 §10-15-1. (H)(2); and for the purpose of a matter subject to attorney-client privilege, for the limited purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(8). No Action was taken and no other items were discussed at this time.

Motion made by Councilor Melendez 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 Melendez So I just wanted to bring up a topic that was discussed in the past there on 407 Horner Street. It's been a portable building that has been put out there on that lot does not have any clearance or zoning or application for planning and zoning that we know of. And the concern is what's going on with that? It's the latest on that. And the owner is a Lodesta Silva.

Councilor Nelson: This was a. I brought it. You brought it up. I answered your question. It is still involved in legal case. So that is where that property is at right now. No other improvements can be made until the title clears.

Councilor Melendez: So that's the status of it. There's no planning zoning issue.

Councilor Nelson: Planning zoning has nothing to do with it.

Councilor Melendez: Proper permits.

Councilor Melendez: The owner is Lodesta Silva.

Councilor Nelson: Yes.

Councilor Melendez: So you might be talking about a different piece of property

Councilor Nelson: No.

Councilor Nelson: That is my girlfriend. It's been explained to you before. That property is involved in legal pursuit. To explain you in that meeting. If you want to bring it up again, bring it up to me or her. This is not the place to address it.

Councilor Melendez: So planning and zoning has not been made aware of.

Councilor Nelson: Planning, planning, zoning has nothing to do with any of that?

Councilor Melendez: No.

Councilor Melendez: Anytime you move a building.

Councilor Nelson: No. Plenty. All the proper permits for moving that building were done. There was no permits. The city of Rio Community is required.

Councilor Melendez: So the state.

Councilor Nelson: Yes.

Councilor Melendez: Has the permitting.

Councilor Nelson: Yes. The only thing was needed was the transportation. That was it.

Councilor Melendez: Transportation.

Councilor Melendez: So

Councilor Melendez: this is not your property.

Councilor Nelson: So I can speak on. You already have that property. But because that is my property. Me and her are joined. That is.

Councilor Melendez: But I mean you. Because you're not on the property there. I'm just saying that the property owner needs to be the person responding to it. Not necessarily you as the. As a city councilman, you're speaking on behalf of an owner.

Councilor Nelson: So do you want her to come back distance do you want to come back legally back against you for harassment?

Councilor Melendez: We just want to know what's going on there.

Councilor Nelson: You were informed what's going on councilor Was informed a long time ago was going on. It's an illegal what's what's illegal about it?

Councilor Melendez: Well I'm saying you're you're saying it's in a legal dispute. What's the legal dispute? And but we need to get with the owner on it because we're waiting

Councilor Nelson: on title for the property.

Dr. Moore: Mayor members of council we'd be happy to we would happy to do any follow up with you Councilor Melendez.

Councilor Nelson: Okay I'm done with him bringing it up when he was explained to him then and I'd bring it up again when

Dr. Moore: I was just saying after council meeting or would be happy to visit go over with whatever permits and stuff

Councilor Melendez: for yeah my our last discussion was that it was Councilman it was never

Councilor Nelson: Nelson I never stated it was my property. Right Property.

Councilor Melendez: But I got it.

Councilor Nelson: I never stated I physically okay. But I physically know what is going on.

Councilor Melendez: Clarify that now.

Councilor Melendez: It's not your property.

Councilor Nelson: Okay so your wife's property is not your property.

Councilor Melendez: It is both our names are on it. They don't but that's what I'm saying. This is not doesn't show your name. So that's all I'm just clarifying.

Councilor Nelson: That's beside I've been I've been clarified.

Councilor Melendez: I just let you know I'm clarified on it and it's not your property. So we'll leave that and the reason being because anytime in in the city here we want to know what's going on to stimulate business, improve the character of the city. We're always going on that and that's the whole purpose of bringing this up. What's happening on various properties are they going to be developed, are they abandoned for whatever reason? We just need to be aware of what's going on and hopefully improve on it. So long where I'm coming from on it is the property fenced and secured? Is it you just is it you're bringing it up. I don't know.

Councilor Melendez: It's not my property.

Councilor Nelson: Is there a fence all the way around it?

Councilor Melendez: It's not my property. So I'm you know I just know that it's there in the city limits and it's a concern about what's going on there especially in light when we

Councilor Melendez: know that there was a business looking

Councilor Melendez: for A place to operate out of. And if this is commercial property, was it ever offered, was it ever made available, things like that.

Councilor Nelson: It is not up to council to make it available.

Councilor Melendez: It's up to is it available is what I'm saying.

Councilor Melendez: You know, we're looking at development and stuff like that, but we'll get back to it a little later. As Dr. Moore, the city manager, says he can clarify what's going on.

Dr. Moore: Mayor, members of council appoint one of that's, that's more or less we're talking about administrative type questions that would be happy to address.

Councilor Melendez: Very well, thank you.

Councilor Melendez: Appreciate it. So that's my concern there is that we be aware of what's going on with various properties. We stay on top of it. I know that we work on abandoned properties, demolishing, going to that extent, demolishing properties. And we're just always working on, you know, city being presented in a good, good light. And that's, that's what my concern is. And that's all I have for my discussion.

Mayor Ramsell: Thank you very much, Councillor Nelson.

Councilor Nelson: So I don't hardly anything. Once we decide what we're gonna do with the building, you will be the last to know. It does not have to be made public. It is still even commercial. It's private property.

Dr. Moore: Council, point of order.

Councilor Nelson: Yeah, I'll move on. I'll let it go.

Mayor Ramsell: If you guys have any comments or concerns that you need to hash out at after the meeting, you're more than welcome to, but we'll go ahead and move on.

Councilor Nelson: I'm done.

Mayor Ramsell: Okay, we'll join the meeting after here in just a couple of minutes. Councilor Marquez, did you have anything that you wanted to bring up, sir?

Councilor Marquez: I know everybody wants to hear me speak, but I'm not going to bring anything up.

Mayor Ramsell: I look forward to it every two weeks.

Mayor Ramsell: Counselor Gordon, anything, sir?

Councilor Melendez: No, not really. But I want to thank Councilman Nelson

Councilor Melendez: for explaining what's going on in the

Councilor Nelson property, because I've have got. I have gotten calls about it. Thank you for addressing it. So now people know what's going on. No problem. All he would have to do is ask. He didn't have to bring it up in this manner. I did not bring it up. No, no, not you. Thanking you for addressing it. Yeah, no, no, no problem. And all I'll say is enjoy your vacation.

Mayor Ramsell: Thank you, Dr. Moore, you know, concerning dangerous, dilapidated, nuisance properties. Is there a current status update on the three or three Horner and the one that's on Norma or Nash? I keep Getting that one?

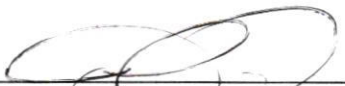
Dr. Moore: Yes, sir. Two. Two issues on status updates on the one on Norma and an issue with New Mexico Gas Company. They've got a lot of lane that goes all the way up and runs right up against the side of that building that's supposed to be demoed. And they're complaining. Their concern is we are not owners of record, therefore, how can we ask for them to come and cut? And we have explained to them. So the upshot of it is we're going to have to have a meeting with New Mexico Gas Company. The second piece of property, there has been a name, individual. There has been an individual's name come up that hasn't been. But I don't remember the name of it right now. I don't have it in front of me, but. And we have to make sure that that's cleared up because anyone who could have a potential claim on that, on any piece of property, that's got to be cleared up. So just wanted to let you know that that's where that one stands. As far as the contractor, as soon as we say go, they're ready, so.

Councilor Melendez: All right.

Mayor Ramsell: Just wanted to. Because I know I've had a couple of people ask me about that, so I wanted to, you know, ask to make sure it's, you know, it's on Paul's record. I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July. Looks like we all made it through nice and safe there. You know, I just wanted to address real quick in the newsletter that came out, there was a misprint in there concerning the city council. Council approving the fireworks ordinance ban or, excuse me, the resolution. So I just wanted to clarify that that was not approved by council. We still follow under the state statewide burn ban. But I hope everyone stays safe. You know, it's still hot. You know, make sure you're drinking plenty of fluids. Be careful around your property. Please not be burning trash or having open flames. We want to make sure everyone stays safe. As we get closer to the school you're starting, it's going to be happening very fast. We'll see students here at bus stops that we haven't seen for approximately 90 days. So do be cautious because you're still out there playing. I hope everyone has a wonderful two weeks. Look forward to seeing you next month. Monday, Tuesday, I believe. Actually, we'll see you all then.

Adjourn at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,



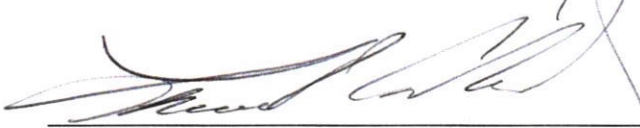
Jennifer Gauna Municipal clerk
(Taken and Transcribed by Patricia McCloskey, Deputy Clerk)

Date: 8/10/26

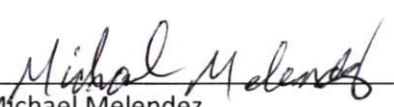
Approved:



Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor



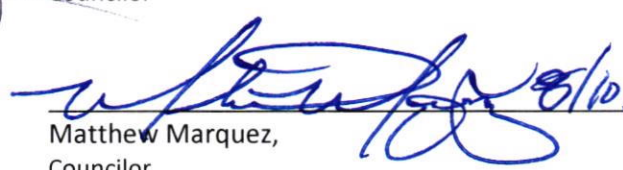
Lawrence R. Gordon,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor



Michael Melendez,
Councilor



Thomas Nelson,
Councilor



Matthew Marquez,
Councilor