

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 4 Number 3

Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd.
P.O. Box 565
Rio Communities NM 87002
505 861-6803
Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(beginning January)
email:
admin@riocommunities.net
info@riocommunities.net
website -- riocommunities.net
Economic Development
www.riocommunitiesedc.net/

December 2021

Governing Body

Mayor Mark Gwinn

505 861-6803

mgwinn@riocommunities.net

Councilor Joshua Ramsell

Mayor Pro Tem

505 861-6803

jramsell@riocommunities.net

Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr

505 864-6908

pgutjahr@riocommunities.net

Councilor Robert Chavez

(took over remainder of Councilor

William (Bill) Brown term)

505 861-6803

rchavez@riocommunities.net

Councilor Jim Winters

505 861-6803

jwinters@riocommunities.net

Municipal Judge

Holly Noelle Chavez 505 861-6803

nchavez@riocommunities.net

Municipal Officers

Dr. Martin Moore *City Manager*

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Stephanie Finch

City Offices —

505 861-6803 505 861-6804

Breaking News

Rio Communities City Council waived Business License fees for 2022. Businesses still need to register with the city.

City of Rio Communities Officials Sworn in Dec. 29

The swearing-in ceremony for Rio Communities officials elected in the November 2021 election will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, at Rio Communities City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

Current City Councilor Joshua Ramsell will be sworn in as mayor.

Arthur Apodaca and Lawrence Gordon will be sworn in as city councilors to join Margaret “Peggy” Gutjahr and Jim Winters on the City Council.

Holly Noelle Chavez will be sworn in as Municipal Judge by Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair. Then Judge Noelle Chavez will swear in the other officials.

Public Safety in Rio Communities At Top of Priority List

The City has moved public safety to the top of its priority list for Rio Communities. As part of this effort, the following has been accomplished

- To address the continuing problem of property crimes and chronic code violations, the City is convening a Public Safety Task Force to identify and implement modern solutions to evolving patterns of criminal behavior. The first meeting of the task force will be announced shortly.

- The City is working with Valencia County on an increased law enforcement presence in Rio Communities.

- The City has completed its storm water Flood Prevention Plan in 2021 and has used that plan to receive nearly \$700,000 to repair flood damage and improve flood drainage. The plan is available at City Hall and riocommunities.gov.

- The City has established a fire administration office and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in City Hall and is upgrading equipment to 2021 standards.

- The City is replacing all street lights on Highway 47 with LED lights, and preparing a citywide street lights plan.

- A list of street signs (stop, address, children at play, etc.) that need to be replaced is being updated and will be addressed throughout the winter months.

- The City is working on a traffic calming plan for city streets expected to be completed in the summer of 2022.

City Hires Economic Development Consultant

Ralph Mims was the Economic Development Manager for the Village of Los Lunas for over ten years and was involved in attracting retail and manufacturing projects, including Facebook, to the area. He retired from the Village of Los Lunas in December, 2020, and has been hired by the City of Rio Communities to do economic development.

Originally from the Bronx, New York, Ralph moved to New Mexico in 1995 to relocate to an environment with open space, blue skies, less people, and an opportunity to apply his skills as a City Planner and Economic Developer.

Ralph sees great growth potential for Rio Communities due to the pro-business development attitude of the elected officials and the city's progressive plans for future economic development projects.

Along with his new position as the Economic Development Consultant for the City of Rio Communities, he is promoting the Rio Communities future tag line "Spectacular Views, Endless Possibilities!" His goal is to attract, retain, and expand businesses to and in Rio Communities.

Ralph says Rio Communities is poised for future economic and residential growth due to the city's close proximity to Albuquerque. Ralph holds a Bachelor's Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Master's Degree from Howard University in City Planning. He has been a resident of Valencia County since 1996.



Ralph Mims

City Offices Open More And Other News

Thanks to Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair for providing the following information.

Hiring of extra staff means Rio Communities City Hall will be open to the public Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month beginning January 2022.

City offices will be moving in City Hall. Beginning the first of 2022, the City Hall double doors will be used as the main entrance.

With 2022 approaching, it is time to send out friendly reminders to the community.

Thanks to area businesses for being in the city. Many more businesses are needed. The Clerk's Office will send business registration packets to current businesses on Dec. 15, 2021. This will be a reminder to renew business licenses beginning Jan. 1, 2022. If you are a new business or a business that did not realize you need a license in Rio Communities, January would be a great time to apply for one.

If you are thinking about building or remodeling a home or business, placing a manufactured home, or getting a shed, call City Hall to see if a permit is required. Staff is happy to answer any questions.

Business license registration and permitting forms are at City Hall or on the website: www.riocommunities.net.

Remember your furry friends. Dog registration and breeder's permits are due in January. Current vaccination records are needed for registration, along with a fee of \$5 per spayed/neutered dog or \$25 for those who have not been. As



Firefighters on Halloween

City of Rio Communities volunteer firefighters participate in Halloween community safety monitoring and "treats" on Halloween night 2021. Gave out candy too!

it gets colder, please make sure your pets have a warm shelter.

Thank you for being part of Rio Communities.

City Library and Library Board

The City of Rio Communities now has a library board to go with the library which will be in City Hall.

Elected library board chairman has been Bobby Caldwell with Merita Wilson as vice chairman and Lisa Tabet-Chavez as secretary. Other board members are Deborah Benavidez, Rita White, and Lisa LaManna.

The library board has been meeting twice a month in preparation for the library opening.

Trash in the City of Rio Communities

In December, 2021 the City plans a joint effort with Valencia County to do a major cleanup of illegally dumped trash in the undeveloped areas of Rio Communities. Stay tuned for details.

The Nov. 20, 2021 trash disposal day was a success. Thanks to Universal Waste for large containers which were rapidly filled

Support Rio Communities Businesses

\$3 Million in Improvement Projects

The City of Rio Communities is currently working on or completing over \$3 million dollars in capital improvement projects. Here's a summary of the projects and their status.

Active City of Rio Communities Project Grants			
PROJECT	APPROPRIATION YEAR	APPROPRIATION/GRANT AMOUNT	STATUS
STORMWATER DRAIN PLAN	2019	\$ 115,000.00	Completed in 2021
ROAD REPAIRS	2018-2021	\$ 504,908.00	70% Complete
LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY	2020	\$ 10,000.00	In Progress
FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE	2020-2021	\$ 424,000.00	Awaiting grant agreements
SAFETY STREET LIGHTING	2021	\$ 60,000.00	Received Grant Agreement from NMDOT
CITY COMPLEX RENOVATION	2020-2021	\$ 650,000.00	In Progress
PARKS DESIGN/ CONSTRUCT	2021	\$ 250,000.00	Awaiting Fully Executed Grant Agreement
AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT	2021	\$ 561,096.50	Project Selection In Progress
FLOOD REPAIRS	2021	\$ 481,000.00	Awaiting Final Award Notification
TOTAL		\$ 3,056,005.00	

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New Mexico

NEWS

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Hours Change in 2022

City Council Meetings

2nd & 4th Mondays 6 p.m.

City Council Workshops

2nd & 4th Mondays 3 p.m.

Welcome to the

City of

Rio Communities

New Mexico NEWS

A digest of what is going on in the City
of Rio Communities.

Inside this Edition

\$3 Million in Projects

Economic Development

Swearing In

And Much More in This Issue

Meetings of the City of Rio

Communities Council,

Economic Development

Commission, and Planning and

Zoning Commission may be

viewed on Facebook at

the time of the meeting.

Bill Brown: Rio Communities All The Way

One of the last acts Bill Brown performed as a public servant in and for Rio Communities was serving as a city councilor for the City of Rio Communities, But Brown did much more.

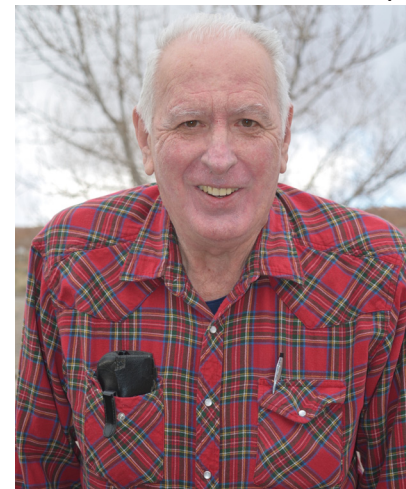
Brown was board president of Tierra Bonita, member of Habitat for Humanity of Valencia County, member of the steering committee for Valencia County's first comprehensive plan, and chairman of the board of directors of the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department.

He was instrumental in the founding of the City of Rio Communities in 2013. He was an U.S. Army veteran, enlisting at the age of eighteen and serving two tours of Vietnam.

One of his last volunteer efforts was serving as a founding board member of the Rio Communities Optimist Club.

Brown resigned from the council on Sept 12, 2021. At the Sept. 27, 2021. council meeting, the council unanimously adopted a proclamation honoring his contributions to the community.

Brown was born April 11, 1939 and died Sept. 28, 2021. He bequeathed \$332,404 to the City of Rio Communities.



Bill Brown

What's going on in Rio Communities? Read this newsletter to find out!