

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes
Regular Business Meeting
May 14, 2019

Call to Order

- Mayor Gwinn called to order the city council regular business meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Dennis Kintzler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: Mayor Mark Gwinn, Councilors; Bill Brown, Peggy Gutjahr, Arturo Sais, Joshua Ramsell. Present: City Manager Leisa Haynes, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Officer/Treasure Celina Benavidez, EDC Chairman Frank Logan, P&Z member Dennis Kintzler, RGEFD Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Tabot, Code Enforcer Gordon Reeves and Court Clerk Lisa Adair.

Approval of Agenda

- Councilor Sais moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 4-0 vote the agenda for the City Council regular business meeting was approved as presented

Approval of Workshop Minutes

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve the workshop minutes of March 26, 2019. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 the workshop minutes of March 26, 2019 was approved as written.

Approval of City Council Minutes

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to approve the city council minutes of March 26, 2019. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 vote the City Council Regular business meeting minutes was approved as written.

Public Comment:

- Gary Nordell, Chamesa sub-division in Rio Communities; said he is specifically here to be sure that the matter of recycling is covered in the solid waste on what the people will bid on and said he has lived here 14 years this summer and has never had trash pickup because he recycles everything, therefore he doesn't think he should have to pay for pickup.
- Jody Skelton, Rio Communities; said the weeds are getting horrible and they need to be addressed. She then said animals are running loose and people have got to be made to take care of their animals. She then asked about the building budget, have we gone over or are we under budget.
- Mayor Gwinn said we are not done with the building as of yet.

City Manager

- Manager Haynes said she has been here 2 months this week and has been working primarily on the budget since walked into these doors.

- Manager Haynes said she has been working with the Country Club trying to get their electric bill lowered and said she thinks they are an asset to the City and want them to be profitable and their bill is out-of-line.
- Manager Haynes explained Thursday she will be leaving to Taos and will be doing a presentation in front of a site selection agents that represents large retailers, restaurant and movie theaters. She then said she is meeting with some local builders and her goal is to get 40 homes built by July 2020.
- Manager Haynes said we have a new finance clerk hired and she started yesterday.

Economic Development

- EDC Chairman Frank Logan said they have been working on a 501c3 and then said there is an ad that is hopefully going into our City newsletter asking for individuals to join the new organization. He then said they are looking for some legal help just so they don't step on things that they are not supposed to like mixing private and public items seems to be a gray line. He then said the next meeting will be looking at all they have done for the last 18 months and prioritize.
- Councilor Sais asked if they would abolish the economic development commission.
- EDC Chairman Logan explained the need for the 501c3 and then said EDC will continue.

Planning and Zoning

- P&Z member Dennis Kintzler said they meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month and welcomed anyone to come and then said they began their last meeting thanking the Code Enforcer for getting the burnt and abandoned buildings under control. He then they are working on fencing issues and line of site issues for the buses. He further said they are working on zoning updates and abatement issues which is connected.

Rio Grande Estates Fire Department

- Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Tabot explained there were 47 calls for this last month; 20 fire, 20 EMS, 2 aid to Belen and 5 aid to Valencia County.
- Councilor Ramsell said as he understands they will be working more closely with Belen Fire Department and he thinks that is great to build relationships between these communities.
- Assistant Fire Chief said within the past years we hadn't had that relationship and with their new Chief we have helped in aid and vice versa.
- Councilor Gutjahr said she understood that this past weekend Chief Nate & Chief Jason they got their associates in structure fire.

Municipal Court

- Court Clerk Lisa Adair gave the court report for the month of April: 5 code violation(s) and 2 traffic citation(s) were filled in the courts; amounts collected are: Correction fees \$40; Court Automation fees \$12; Judicial Education fees \$6; Court Fines of \$25 giving a total of \$83 was collected in the courts for the month of April.

Citizens Patrol

- Councilor Gutjahr explained that it was brought up to her that the reason that the City has started this was that the City wouldn't get an Officer and further explained that this idea came from community members wanting it. She then said what we are looking for are volunteers and then said we have only had maybe 2 people sign up and then began an explanation to the program.

- Councilor Gutjahr said we will be having a public forum on June 4 at 6 pm for those that are interested in and would like to be come apart of the program.
- Councilor Gutjahr continued with the program explanation.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked if there are regular meetings on the neighborhood watch, so maybe they can recruit some of those volunteers.
 - Jody Skelton said they do not have regular meetings.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked how they could get a hold of them to see if they might be interested in volunteering.
 - Jody Skelton said to just post a notice on the website Rio Communities Crime Watch.
- Councilor Ramsell said he spoke with the undersheriff today regarding training and was told to find out from potential volunteers a schedule to have trainings and they will coordinate as well as possible.
- Councilor Gutjahr said regarding the background checks the volunteers will have to pay this themselves and further explained what the cost would be from the City regarding insurance and other conditions to be a volunteer for this program.
 - Resident asked would there by radio contact with the sheriff department.
- Councilor Gutjahr said yes they will and continued explaining the program.
 - Resident asked what the total cost for a volunteer would be.
- Councilor Gutjahr said at this time she does not know the cost, for the background check, finger printing or driving record.
 - Resident asked what type of background check they are requiring, and it also said a driving record required, do you also want something from the courts.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked Clerk Adair what is required for the City.
- Clerk Adair explained what we do for background check on potential employees.

Accounts Payable approval

- Finance Officer/Treasurer asked for payment of the following bills.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Accounts payable

Card Service Center	\$ 2,188.66	NM Gas Co	\$ 60.70
NM Water Service Company	\$ 62.51	Century Link	\$ 60.73
Boundtree Medical	\$ 5,967.48	PNM	\$ 1,460.96

CITY – Accounts payable

Card Service Center	\$ 1,483.86	Gusto (reg liabilities)	\$ 2,881.47
Gusto (regular payroll)	\$ 8,025.49	CES (building construction)	\$ 113,542.00
Bixby Electric	\$ 1,005.16	AC Disposal (city cleanup)	\$ 360.00
NM Gas Co	\$ 348.55	Quest Diagnostics	\$ 33.50
Universal Constructors (roads)	\$ 18,272.86	NM Water Service Company	\$ 255.40
Bob Garrecht (building cons.)	\$ 509.98	Number Nine Media	\$ 2.97
NMML (conferences)	\$ 970.00	Elizabeth Adair (Court Clerk)	\$ 310.78
Heather Benavidez (Judge May)	\$ 300.00	NM JEC (April)	\$ 6.00
Court Automation (April)	\$ 12.00	Century Link	\$ 84.85
Comcast	\$ 289.72	USPS (P.O. Box rental)	\$ 112.00
Alamo Transmission	\$ 2,118.00	PNM	\$ 1,183.50
PNM	\$ 665.51		

- Councilor Gutjahr moved to pay the accounts payable for the fire department as well as the City. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Gutjahr-yes; Councilor Sais-yes and Councilor Ramsell-yes. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable for the Fire Department and the City were approved for payment.

Ordinance 2019-xx Solid Waste (14-day review)

- Mayor Gwinn explained this will going to a 14-day review and then further explained this has been written and looked over by our attorney and Council went over it in our workshops.
- Mayor Gwinn thanked the P&Z group for working on the solid waste.
- Councilor Sais moved to put Ordinance 2019-Solid Waste through a 14-day review. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Sais-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Ordinance 2019- Solid Waste was approved for a 14-day review.

Council Reports

- Councilor Ramsell requested from the community if you are looking to be involved with the Citizen Patrol and get with him after the meeting so he can get an idea of what times would work best for training.
- Councilor Sais said it was brought up this morning there will be about \$20,000 for potholes and then said there is \$25,000 for a park plan, but do we have to go for a bid if we want to build pocket parks.
- Mayor Gwinn explained if it goes over a certain cost we would have to go out for bid.
- Councilor Brown had no report.
- Councilor Gutjahr said the Oasis Café is opened and is really good.
- Councilor Gutjahr said at the workshop Councilor Brown did a presentation on speed bumps and said we will have a larger workshop soon and then said that it is no longer called speed control but Traffic Calming
- Mayor Gwinn reminded the cleanup is this Saturday and then said the MOU with the County for animal control will be going in front of the Commissioners on the 22nd and then back to us on the 28th. He then explained that we have worked out a new agreement with animal control.
- Mayor Gwinn explained that we have a new Officer while Officer Knight is on medical leave.
- Mayor Gwinn said he and the City Manager went to an ICIP training.
- Manager Haynes said the State is making money more accessible to City's and looks like we might be able to take advantage of some of it.
 - Resident asked if the budget will be available for review before the meeting tomorrow.
- Mayor Gwinn said under State Statute it can only be presented at the time the hearing will take place.

Adjourn

- Councilor Brown moved . The motion was second by Councilor Sais. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Arturo R. Sais,
Councilor