

City of Rio Communities Workshop Minutes
June 11, 2019

- Mayor Pro-tem Peggy Gutjahr called to order the city council workshop at 10:08 am.
- Present: Mayor Pro-tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilors; Bill Brown, Arturo Sais and Joshua Ramsell.
Absent: Mayor Mark Gwinn
Present: City Manager Leisa Haynes, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair and Finance Clerk Angela Valadez.

Manager Report

- Manager Leisa Haynes explained that we have approved to get the See Click Fix app so citizens can anonymously report any code violations, lights out, and other issues, it cost \$4800 and she signed the contract today.
- Manager Haynes explained the city sign is complete and we will be looking at ideas for the sign and then explained we need to spend some money of the grants on art, and asked Angela to sign up with the State and any other local artists can be told to register as well and began a discussion about public art and the city sign. She then said we need to get cost of an electronic sign.
- Manager Haynes explained the budget was put in on time, it balanced, the final budget is due July 1. She then said that she brought in a Municipal Accountant to help, and she is also training Angela.
- Manager Haynes said she had a meeting with CES regarding the building construction and CES told us to pay the bills to them and they would withhold payment from the contractor until the work is done.
- Manager Haynes explained we are having staff meetings every Thursday, so we are on the same page.
- Manager Haynes said all the bills have been paid, payroll is current, and deposits made.
- Manager Haynes said she will be meeting with DOT and also said she is putting a LEADS grant together so that when a grocery store is recruited it will be ready.
- Manager Haynes explained she and Gordon are working to complete the request for payment on the building which is due June 30.
- Manager Haynes said she attended the Census 2020 training, she then said, we have not been counted since we have become a city. She explained we get \$3000 for every person counted, and that money goes to roads, health care, and other things, the next count will start next March.
- Manager Haynes said she and Lisa will be ordering the speed signs out of the police fund and then said our police officer has asked to add signs to certain areas, and some of the existing signs will be replaced.
- Manager Haynes said we need to have a discussion and a public hearing of closing up Sundial.
- Manager Haynes explained we have been awarded money for a drainage study and streetlights. She then said we need to propose more intersections for lights.
- Manager Haynes explained she wrote a press release for the grants we have received and let people know what we are doing.

Council reports & agenda items – 30 minutes

- Councilor Ramsell said he had brought up the Olson street sign and then said he noticed people are taking care of their weeds.
- Councilor Sais said there are a couple of pit bulls running around. He then said he would like to see the review on the El Paso plan regarding slowing down speeders on various roads. He further said the Older American has two meeting this month, on the 18th and 26th.

- Councilor Brown said a year ago at this time we were deep into the most severe drought, he then said at this moment we are at a wonderful position and no need to have a restricted firework ordinance.
- Councilor Brown asked if there has been a trip made to the church property and began a discussion about the property.
- Councilor Brown said they had captured the guy on the property and then asked has he been released. He then began a discussion regarding cost of prisoners to the city.
- Councilor Brown said there was a recent article in the newspaper regarding the VW lawsuit. He then said basically the main idea was to convert from diesel to electric, and also paying for charging stations and began a discussion.
- Councilor Brown said he is trying to get new keys to the building that work.
- Councilor Brown asked on accounts payable, and asked about automatic payment, he thinks the city should have regularly schedules utilities and payroll, and standard bills and the only ones the Council should have to review is the irregular bills.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said she has had lots of compliments of the building, specifically the park areas on the sides. She then said the fire department will have a meeting on June 18th at 7 pm.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr explained that only 3 people showed up to the meeting on the Citizen Patrol on June 4th so there will be another meeting on the 26th at 6:30, she has flyers to pass out and has talked to Clara. She then said in the Albuquerque Journal there was a point of vigilante anti-justice and explained the article, saying it can portray that our city has a high crime rate, and began a discussion.

Accounts payable report

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr went over the fire department report, going over expenses and HAZMAT training.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr went over the City accounts payable and a discussion about payments of conferences began.

Ordinance 2019-xx Chapter 11; Article 4 Solid Waste (14-day review) – Discussion

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr explained the changes and began a discussion about liens against property for unpaid trash bills.
- Councilor Brown said we need to listen to the people, the elderly wanting to share a bin, recycling, and senior rates and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said some things she will plan on talking about tonight is the RFP and the ordinance to explain the differences between the two.
- Councilor Brown said even after an RFP we need to establish our criteria.

Election Question – Mil Levy – Discussion

- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr started a discussion on whether to vote or pass without a vote.
- Manager Haynes explained that we would be able to have a part time officer by postponing the hiring of other position giving us the money in the budget and began a discussion.
- Councilor Sais asked what the consensus is.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr explained some individuals have said they do not want another officer and do not want to raise the tax and others have said they do want an officer and continued the discussion.
- Councilor Ramsell said he is for putting this on the ballot and further said he is not for automatically raising taxes and let the people decide. He further said if the people want the officer maybe they are willing to pass a Levy because they have the lowest property tax in the county.
- Council continued the discussion on how much money property tax generates, how much a mil levy would generate and the timeline of the dispersal of mil levy funds.

- Resident said Council has the power to pass a Levy tax without the approval of the public and then suggested, do a 1% on our own and then put on the ballot another amount for Public protection.
- Councilor Ramsell said if we approved a 1% that would put us at the threshold at 7%, which puts us even with Belen and we don't want to do that.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said if we did annex the industrial park, that property tax would be able to put us right at the amount to hire another officer and continued the discussion.
- Councilor Brown explained or we could do nothing and stay as it is.
- Manager Haynes said make the annexation the priority of the Council and asked Council for help to get contacts for the people at the Industrial Park and began a discussion on annexation.

Speed Control Methods – Councilor Brown – Discussion

- Councilor Brown give a presentation on the traffic calming measures taking this information from El Paso. He explained these are low cost traffic calming measures and they include striping, bike lanes, optical speed bars, raised markers that can be added to cross walks, delineators, high visibility crosswalks, and angled parking.
- Councilor Brown continued with his presentation on Hwy 47/Rio Communities Blvd on suggested changes to that area, which included a change to the number of lanes on the west side of Hwy 47 and restrict the size of the lane going straight, and adding 23' long parking spaces to the other side of the entrance way to our parking lot. He began to talk about line of sight issues in the rear parking lot and buffer area and adding a 20mph sign. He said on Hwy 47 he would add cross walks and have the DOT change the speed limit starting at Nancy Lopez to 35 and add a pedestrian crossing sign. He continued the presentation.
- Councilor Sais said he thinks some of this area will be taken care of by DOT if the sidewalk is approved.
- Councilor Ramsell said some of this area people will follow the new precaution but a lot of people will ignore them, a good start might be rumble strips by the apartments with all of the kids and continued the discussion.

Public input/questions (3) minutes to address the Council

- Ross Harms said the low-cost traffic calming is a good idea but has reservations with the parking on the north side of the street because there is a service station on one side and the bank on the other. He then said his other comment is he would like to see speed bumps near the apartments and liked the idea of lowering the speed limit to 35 but doesn't seem logical because the speed limit on Reinken is 40 through town.

Council Priority List update – Discussion

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said Citizen Patrol is completed, the decision on funding another officer has to be decided by June 25th and solid waste is going out for 14-day review.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr asked if the fee schedule would be ready for a July workshop and continued the discussion.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said she understand that there is a recreation program and is something we need to get information on.
- Councilor Brown said that an ICIP says there is a master plan in development and then asked if it got approved, and then said it was independent of any parks or trails, and it calls for a harder look about building space.
- Council continued the discussion about recreation space within City Hall.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said Presbyterian has a mini hospital and that is what we need here, and a discussion began about medical facility.

- A discussion about domain renew began.
- Councilor Brown began a discussion about the parks and trails study and master plan.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said we will discuss traffic calming again on July 9th, Mayor Gwinn is getting fuel cards for the fire department and then asked if automatic billing for utilities is taken care of.

Public input/questions (3) minutes to address the Council

- Ross Harms asked if we could speak to the Nazarene Property and asked what is owed on the building
- Councilor Brown explained the asking price is \$65,000 and that is what is left on their mortgage and we have not responded and plus there are other issues.
 - Ross Harms said we need to use technology that reflects this century, using solar lights, proximity controls, electric car plugins, and the future need for an IT person. He then asked if the awning issue with Ron Gentry has been handled.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr explained the situation is being handled, it is taking time and is not a simple process and continued with the discussion about having a modern city.
- The City Council workshop was adjourned at 1:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Transcribed by Amy L. Lopez, Deputy Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Arturo R. Sais,
Councilor