

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes  
Regular Business Meeting  
Tuesday February 11, 2020

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- Claudine Montano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

- Present: Mayor Pro-tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilors; Bill Brown, Joshua Ramsell and Jim Winters.  
Present: Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Clerk Angela Valadez, EDC Chairman Frank Logan, RGEFD Mike Scales and Court Clerk Lisa Adair

**Approval of Agenda**

- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the agenda for February 11, 2020 meeting. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 vote the agenda for the meeting of February 11, 2020 was approved as presented.

**Approval of Workshop Minutes**

- Councilor Brown moved for the approval of December 10, 2019 workshop minutes as presented. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 4-0 vote workshop minutes of December 10, 2019 was approved as written.

**Approval of City Council Minutes**

- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the city council minutes from December 10, 2019. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the city council meeting held on December 10, 2019 was approved as written.

**Approval of Special Business meeting and Workshop Minutes**

- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the special business and workshop minutes of December 18, 2019. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the city council special business meeting held on December 18, 2019 was approved as written.

**Public Comment**

- Robert Fuller Rio Communities resident: stated that there is a lack of transparency and communication going on with the City Government, and gave examples of Belen City Council using Facebook live for their council meeting.
- Tommy Westmoreland Rio Communities resident: said he has been an employee/employer and stated that anybody can fire an employee, but it takes someone special to save them. He then asked if you have done everything you can to save that person/save that job, hope you sleep well. He then said he doesn't believe council has been transparent, then asked from everyone, has anyone spoken to any future employee to be hired as a City Manager, has anybody conferred, met with, called, wrote with any individual to be a prospective employee as the City Manager for this City.
- Councilor Brown – I have not; Councilor Ramsell – nope, not even smoke signals; Councilor Winters nodded no; Mayor Pro-tem – neither have I.
- Mr. Westmoreland said has anyone conferred away from City Hall, called each other on the phone, have you visited at a bingo party.

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr stated some of these issues that Mr. Westmoreland is bringing up is personnel issues and further said we can have a conversation afterwards regarding this matter.
- Mr. Westmoreland said are you changeling him and this is the transparency they are talking about and continued to say, he is a former Mayor and then said if you are going to do, you are putting a lot of people in stress and if you have done everything you have, you will have to live with it.

### **Economic Development**

- EDC Chairman Frank Logan said they are about 2 weeks away from finalizing their website; said they will be starting the mailers and have a stuffing party; they are starting a couple of new projects, one working with social media and how they can get Rio Communities out in that arena and reopening the branding discussion.

### **Planning and Zoning**

- P&Z had no report.

### **Code Enforcement**

- Code Enforcer had no report.

### **Rio Grande Estates Fire Department**

- RGEFD Mike Scales; said for the month of January the fire department had 63 calls; 8 mutual aid for Valencia County, 2 for Belen, 11 fire calls Rio Communities area and 52 EMS calls. For the month of February so far; 23 calls; 6 fire calls and 17 EMS. Six members have passed the class and completed the EMT basic class; PR's have been submitted for the brand new brush trucks through the ICIP; have obtained 3 quotes for new fencing for the substation; 3 quotes for 2 brand new doors at the main station.
- Councilor Brown asked regarding the 2 brush trucks the understanding the chassis are old ones but you are getting brand new trucks.
- Mike Scales explained they were permitted to purchase brand new trucks and they will be transferring the majority of the equipment of the old ones to the new trucks.

### **Municipal Court**

- Court Clerk Lisa Adair gave the court report for the month of January: 10 traffic citation(s) were filled in the courts; amounts collected are: Correction fees \$80; Court Automation fees \$24; Judicial Education fees \$12; Court Fines of \$121 giving a total of \$237 was collected in the courts for the month of January.

### **Accounts Payable approval**

- Finance Clerk Valadez said we went over accounts payable this morning, and regarding the Artesia fire equipment, they wanted a description on that; the bill was for \$20,418 and explained they was a quad-gas detector, LED lights, stream survival lights, gloves, power flair lighting zone kit and ladders; she then went over the bill for the City's server this bill is the first bill from the Server for Sharp and explained the charges.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr explained that another larger item for the City was the repair on the roof and paying for a park study.
- Councilor Brown moved to approve the accounts payable for January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 10 as presented. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote accounts payable for the Fire Department and the City were approved for payment.

### **Ordinance 2020-xx Chapter 2 Article 11 Municipal Library & Library Board (14-day review)**

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr stated we were allocated \$50,000.00 on a junior bill presented from Matthew McQueen to start our library and further explained the first thing needed was to pass the ordinance to have a library and form a library.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve ordinance 2020-xx Chapter 2 Article 11 municipal library & library board for a 14-day review. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Winters-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Ordinance 2020-xx Chapter 2 Article 11 Municipal Library & Library Board was approved for a 14-day review.

### **Council Reports**

- Councilor Brown said on Saturday there will be the cleanup for the community; reminded that the Senior Olympics sign-ups are now, sign-up from February 2 – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilor Ramsell said that Mr. Fuller had brought up Facebook live and said we and staff are looking at ways to get more information to the public, whether it is during a meeting, before meetings, ways to vote electronically and minutes taken electronically.
- Councilor Winters said that today we were discussing ways to put things in their hands and in print before the meetings.
- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr said we are going to be doing joint meetings with EDC and P&Z; we are needing more volunteers in the City, please participate.

### **Executive Session limited personnel matters. NM Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) – City Manager Position**

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr asked for the pleasure of the Council.
  - **Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**
    - Councilor Ramsell moved to go into executive session limited personnel matters according to NM section 10-15-1 (H)(2) City Manager position. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. Vote: Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Council went into executive session limited personnel matters. NM Section 10-15-1(B)(H)(2) – City Manager Position at 6:39 pm.
  - **Motion and roll call to go back into regular business meeting session**
    - Councilor Ramsell moved to go back into regular business meeting session by roll call vote. The motion was second by Councilor Brown. Vote: Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Ramsell-yes. With a 4-0 vote Council went back into the regular business meeting session at 7:06 pm
  - **Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem**
    - Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr stated: The Governing Body of the city of Rio Communities, New Mexico, hereby states that on February 11, 2020 an executive session was held, and the matters discussed were limited only to the limited personnel matters NM Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) – City Manager Position as posted on the agenda.

### **Action Item – Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding City Manager Position**

- Mayor Pro-tem Gutjahr stated there is no new action on the City Manager position.

## Adjourn

- Councilor Brown moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

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Mark Gwinn,  
Mayor

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Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,  
Mayor Pro-tem

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Bill Brown,  
Councilor

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Joshua Ramsell,  
Councilor

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Jim Winters,  
Councilor