

City of Rio Communities Council Minutes
Regular Business Meeting
February 9, 2021

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/riocommunities>

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr called to order the city council regular business meeting at 6:03 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Dr. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- Present: (All Virtual) Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilors; Bill Brown, Joshua Ramsell and Jim Winters.
Present: Manager Dr. Martin Moore (virtual), Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Finance Officer/Treasurer Stephanie Finch (virtual), Code Enforcer/Public Works Director Gordon Reeves (virtual), and News-bulletin Editor Clara Garcia (virtual).

Approval of Agenda

- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the agenda as presented. 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 the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes for the Special Workshop minutes of 1/20/2021 and the Workshop and City Council Regular Business Meeting of 1/26/2021

- Councilor Brown moved for the minutes from Special Workshop minutes of January 20, 2021 and the Workshop and City Council Regular Business Meeting of January 26, 2021 to be approved as written. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Winters-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the minutes for the special workshop held on 1/20/2021, the workshop and regular business meeting held on 1/26/2021 were approved as written.

Public Comment:

- No public comments

City Manager

- City Manager Dr. Martin Moore said we had as reported at the work session, an employee tested positive COVID-19 so we enacted the safety and precautionary measures and have sanitized the building, as soon as employees have tested negative, they will be allowed to come back to work at City Hall. He then said he met by zoom with the fire department last week and we had a good discussion and I met some of the volunteers. He explained we are moving forward on grants and have some follow up to do on those, we have road projects we are following up on, and are preliminary work is starting on the library.

a. Budget Calendar

- City Manager shared the budget report with the public and will place on the City website.

Economic Development

- Clerk Adair read into the minutes EDC report : EDC January 2021 report: In January EDC researched city branding and logos and submitted logos and reports on 8 different cities at the City council meeting on January 20th. Our understanding is the council would like to pursue branding by an advertising company who will help us see ourselves with “fresh eyes” and develop a city identity. As a follow-up, on the 27th we reviewed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as developed in a power point presentation by Henry Rau. We are currently planning to update the presentation and include all or part on the EDC website. We are considering using Bill Brown’s gift to EDC (\$8k in 2017) for a specific project related to branding or marketing of our choosing. Request for Council and Procurement for branding/logo advertising company: For the sake of continuity, please use the same company for marketing the city in the future as is used for branding process. Criteria: agency have experience with national campaign. Criteria: have experience with contacts and resources in central NM market (Abq and SF). Answer questions: Who makes final decision on advertising bids received? Will/can EDC have input in that decision? Submitted, Kuan Tikkun, EDC Chair, February 5, 2021
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said we will have a discussion at our workshop as an agenda item to give EDC more direction.
- Councilor Brown said he is not sure what direction we would discuss.
- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr said their request was to us was to have a timeline and a decision on what we want to do and continued the discussion.

Planning and Zoning

- Clerk Adair read the P&Z report: February 8, 2021 P&Z Report: The Planning and Zoning Commission has been working on Nuisance Abatement, Animal Welfare, and a Zoning Grid all of which are still being worked on. We have gotten a response from the attorneys on the nuisance abatement and will discuss it at our next meeting. We plan to send out a questionnaire on Animal Welfare shortly to get input from citizens of Rio Communities. We also will be studying a Zone Grid. We are scheduled for a public hearing on a variance request for fencing at our next meeting. Tom Scroggins, Chair
- Clerk Adair said regarding the variance hearing, it will have to be moved to the first meeting of March.

Code Enforcement /Public Works

- Gordon Reeves asked if Council wanted to have the report read in full.
- Councilor Brown did not have the report in front of him.
- Councilor Ramsell said it is a very detailed report and he had no questions. Code Enforcement officer/public works director Reeves gave highlights to his report: Code Enforcement Report for February 2021: Weed and some Vehicle violations; Storing of RV’s & boats violations; Mailed out cert. mailed second notice (failure to comply); City Manager and I met with Two Individual with the Sheriff Department Sargent Duran and Deputy Sandoval. Went over the actual ruling with the ATV, OHV, etc. usage. Keep in mind the Law Enforcement will not pursue a fleeing motorist. Received brochures for handouts to be given to the motorist, educating the public.; UWS Disposal: Homeowners delinquent accounts. Received the list; Finalizing the Abatement Ordinance ruling

from Attorney; Hand full of Trespassing and growing throughout the City. Citizens using vacant land to gain access to their property and same method to shortcut to public roadways; Single wide trailers Violations.

Public Works Report:

Public workers: Weed control and illegal dumping control; Street Light up grade; Location Hwy 304 LEDs light upgrade. Use the existing light fixtures from Hwy 304 to repair the lights on R C Blvd and also use the remaining fixtures at the proposed street intersections for lighting; Filled the Public Works worker position; LED lighting Rear of City Hall, Materials has arrived; Future proposal; Cost of erecting a 4 ft. fence along southside of Hwy 304, to establish the cities and residence property lines. This fence will correct any existing encroachment and eliminate any future encroaching; Regarding the removing grey electrical meter cabinet behind City Hall.

Preconstruction cost for budgeting; UWS hired contractor, remodeling the inside. Still in the remodel state; Potholes: Making a list for the next go around of repairs; Working on 2021-2022 budget for the Public Works / Code Enforcement Departments.

Project Managing Report:

Paving: Cities roads; 80% of the cut & replacement is completed. Contractor is working around the weather. The chip & seal is on hold till springtime. Contractors contract has been extended to May 2021. Library: New Library started back up. There will be a new completion date issued.

City or Rio Communities/RGEFD

- Dr. Moore gave the report: The Fire Chief was not able to be on the meeting, but they are moving forward with their certifications; they are hoping the vehicle that is being worked on will be home soon, a couple of tires on their engines are being replaced; they are working in tandem with us on safety requirements for COVID at the State and County Level.

Municipal Court

- Court Clerk Adair gave her report:
- For the month of January:
- 4 traffic violation(s) were filed
- Amounts collected are: Correction fees \$120; Court Automation Fees \$36; Judicial Education fees \$18; Court Fines \$125; giving a total of \$299 were collected in the courts.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Approval of Accounts Payable

- Finance Officer/treasurer went over the accounts payable payments above \$500: Animal Control \$817.80; Uline for fire cabinet for \$1,024.86; J-H Supply for ATV signs for \$750.00; Boundtree Medical for medical supplies for the Fire Department for \$954.36; HRD Engineering for \$6,817.49 for the drainage plan.
- Councilor Ramsell said thank you for the clarification.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr the fire department doors are already in, but we have not been billed yet.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to approve the accounts payable as written. 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 accounts payable was approved to be paid.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Re-appoint EDC member(s) Loedi Silva & Thomas Zanotti

- Councilor Winters asked if they are on 2-year terms.

- Councilor Brown moved to reappoint EDC members Loedi Silva and Thomas Zanotti. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Ramsell-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Brown-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Economic Development Commission members Loedi Silva and Thomas Zanotti were reappointed for a 2-year term.

Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Re-appoint P&Z member(s) L.E Rubin & Scott Adair

- Councilor Winters moved to reappoint Planning and Zoning Commission members L. E. Rubin and Scott Adair. The motion was second by Councilor Ramsell. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Planning and Zoning Commission members L.E. Rubin and Scott Adair were reappointed for a 2-year term.

Council Reports

- Councilor Winters wished to thank Loedi Silva, Thomas Zanotti, L .E. Rubin and Scott Adair for their service in the last two years and appreciate them staying with us.
- Councilor Ramsell agreed with Councilor Winters, commissioners do spend a lot of time and effort researching and looking up definitions, it is not only going to meetings, and he appreciates their hard work.
- Councilor Ramsell said thank you to finance department regarding GRT and Mil levy, it helps Council and hopefully the community know what is going on.
- Councilor Brown had no report.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr also would like to say thank you to the reappointed commissioners. Also echo to finance and City Manager kudos to the City Manager and the finance team for getting information out able GRT and the Mil Levy, helping people see what they are contributing to the City.
- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said Universal had a soft opening for their office here in Rio Communities and is looking to have a grand opening, their hours will be 8-5, Monday through Friday with a lunch hour of 11:30 -12: 30, and people will be able to go pay there should they want to.

Executive session for the purpose of discussing the City Manager’s Contract pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters.

- **Motion and roll call vote to go into close session**
 - Councilor Ramsell with a roll call vote moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the City Manager’s contract pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) – limited personnel matters. 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 at 6:38 pm.
- **Motion and roll call vote to go back into regular business meeting session**
 - Councilor Ramsell moved with a roll call vote to go back into regular business meeting session. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote Council was back in regular business session at 7.15 pm.
- **Welcome everyone back and statement by the Mayor Pro-tem**

Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr stated she would like to welcome everyone back, nothing else was discussed other than what was stated before, the City Manager’s Contract pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) - Limited Personnel Matters.

Action Item – Consideration & Decision – Mayor Pro-tem recommendation regarding the City Manager’s Contract.

- Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr explained that they were in conversation regarding the situation about out City Manager not being able to find a place to rent within our area as the rates are extremely high and we are offering as part of his compensation package is \$300 a month for 6 months and then the Council will reevaluate that at the end of 6 months and to see whether they would need to go to a year.
- Councilor Ramsell moved to accept the recommendation from the Mayor Pro tem. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. Vote: Councilor Brown-yes; Councilor Winters-yes; Councilor Ramsell-yes and Councilor Gutjahr-yes. With a 4-0 vote the recommendation regarding the offer for the City Manager’s higher compensation for a temporary basis in the amount of \$300 a month for six months with a reevaluation at the end of that period.

Adjourn

- Councilor Ramsell moved to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilor Winters. With a 4-0 vote the City Council regular business meeting was adjourned at 7: 18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem/Councilor

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor