

City of Rio Communities Budget Hearing Minutes

April 22, 2021

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/riocommunities>

- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr called to order the Budget Hearing at 6:00 pm.
- Present: Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr, Councilors; Bill Brown, Joshua Ramsell and Jim Winters (virtual).
Present: Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Elizabeth Adair, and Finance Officer Stephanie Finch (virtual).
- Mayor Pro tem Peggy Gutjahr introduced herself, Council and other participants in the room. She then explained how the hearing process will go: The City Manager Dr. Martin Moore and the Finance Officer Stephanie Finch will give a presentation on the budget. Once the presentation is done, Council will address the Manager and Finance Officer. The hearing will then open for public comments and questions.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore stated that they will get started with the power point presentation, beginning with the organizational chart, reviewed the comprehensive plan, and identified priorities: engaging and responding to Rio Communities residents; planning and developing of the community, diversifying the economy; improving infrastructure; educational opportunities, which the current project is the library; and operating costs.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained the services currently provided to public with gross receipts tax & property tax and what additional services will be provided with gross receipts tax increase, including a dedicated public works director and dedicated code enforcer.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore gave a breakdown of property tax (estimates), explained how property tax are distributed. He stated the municipality has not asked for a property tax increase this budget and gave a presentation on property tax distribution.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore went on to explain revenue generating plan, including: an investment plan with low risk; annexation; business attraction and retention, housing development, unrealized GR, unrealized property tax which would include businesses and utility lines, negotiate new & existing franchise agreements, restructuring of city fees, and zip code/postal service presence.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore reviewed the City's performance for the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget, saying we are performing very well, with an estimated generated general fund revenues of \$1.18 million and estimated expenses of \$946,000. He then explained projected cash, what funds the projected cash is divided into, and the goal is to make sure the funds are looking better at the end of the year than the beginning. He explained the local reserve that covers emergencies.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained the budget and brief on revenue, giving a revenue summary and explaining what money is put into the general fund, including, taxes: explaining local and State and distribution of each; licenses & permits; fines & forfeits; intergovernmental grants and distributions. He then said right now they are conservatively estimated at \$90,149 and continued the presentation.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained the expenditure summary for general fund, salary & wage employee benefits with comes out to nearly \$590,000; travel costs, which are being kept low this year in; contract services which would include the attorney, project engineers for projects, construction overseers; supplies which include personal protective equipment; operating costs which includes lights, internet, gas, and other monthly expenses; expenditures by department (general fund) including renting equipment and other items required for departmental needs. He then explained the departmental budgets will be adjusted to reflect a \$22,000 in cuts. He continued to explain there will be part time positions added.

- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained the transfer for capital projects in the amount of approximately \$300,000 including: NMDOT grant match, engineering, annexation, and city hall remodel. He explained that we want to follow through with things we start.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained Revenue summary for capital project fund which totaled \$1.58 million with a match of \$300,000 out of the general fund.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained expenditure summary for capital projects.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained debt service fund.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore gave a basic recap for the FY 21-22: Starting at \$2.2 million, showing that we are doing well.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained the City is trying to hire two individuals to cover daytime medical calls and continued with the recap.
- ❖ Councilor Brown said in the proposed budget there is sufficient money for one EMT, in his estimation they need \$1.3 million for all of the Capital Outlay projects, near \$750,000 in grants that are not requiring a grant, and we are expecting to have paid for the debt by the end of the year.
- ❖ Councilor Brown said in the proposed budget there is sufficient money for one EMT, but we need two because two people are required to go to a rescue or a fire.
- ❖ Manager Dr. Moore explained depending when they come on board that we might have the ability to hire two this year without increasing the budget, but we would have to commit to two full time people in the fiscal year 2022-2023.
- ❖ Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said that EMS GRT are going up, and she believes it is a reasonable assumption that by next year we would be in a better position the following year.
- ❖ Councilor Brown said can you make it two EMT's in the paperwork.
- ❖ Councilor Ramsell agreed with Councilor Brown that we need two EMTs and we know that we are getting funding come in through the State we just do not have a date or an amount.
- ❖ Councilor Ramsell said we spent on road striping maybe we can get that in the budget and began a discussion.
- ❖ Councilor Brown said if there would be an opportunity to have contingency plan such as traffic calming and began a discussion.
- ❖ Councilor Winters said there are a very large projects happening this summer and he does not think we would be able to do striping until the other projects are finished and began a discussion.
- ❖ Mayor Pro tem Gutjahr said she liked the presentation, how it really explained what property tax covered, and explained to the public that when we talk about the renovations in City Hall one of the goals indoor recreation, including the library, and for that to happen we need to move the staff to the other side. She then stated looking through the capital projects funded we might want to expand what we are asking for so that we can push for more projects to be done.
- ❖ Municipal Clerk Adair said she is happy with the presentation, we are looking forward to areas being expanded, and is looking forward to the next fiscal year.
- ❖ Finance Officer Finch explained that she is very appreciative that she was pushed out of her comfort zone, she has never done a presentation for a budget like that before and it was not all that bad. She then said Dr. Moore spent a lot of time finding out what every department needed, met with me to put it all together, and after all our meetings we have come up with a budget that is doable and began a discussion.

Adjourn

- The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date: _____

Approved:

Mark Gwinn,
Mayor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Mayor Pro-tem

Bill Brown,
Councilor

Joshua Ramsell,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor