

RICO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 15, 2023

Trustees Present: Mayor Nicole Pieterse
Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon
Trustee Joe Dillsworth
Trustee Benn Vernadakis
Trustee Jordan Carr
Trustee Joe Croke
Trustee Chris Condon (7:05PM)

Trustees Absent:

Staff Present. Chauncey McCarthy, Wilton Anderson

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Motion

To approve the agenda.

Moved by Trustee Benn Vernadakis, seconded by Trustee Jordan Carr.

Vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 6-0.

Consent Agenda

Payment of the Bills

Motion

To approve the payment of the bills.

Moved by Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Trustee Benn Vernadakis.

Vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Public Comment:

Gerrish Willis: The court room is very hard to hear in. Please consider taking care of the acoustics. Zoom is a very useful tool. Also hard to hear, please consider making changes for better audio.

Skip Zeller: Concern about the Forest Service sale. Concern about easement through the land to the other public land. Please revisit the letter to the Forest Service.

Laurie Adams: Artists or Rico and Rico Poetry collective having their first event next Friday.

Mark Eleison: Agrees with Skip regarding the Forest Service sale.

Benn and Nicole goes on record to say that a new letter has been written and sent to the Forest Service.

Benn Vernadakis the majority of the Board opposes the sale.

Pat Fallon would be happy to write a follow up letter.
 Nicole: to be discussed at the Next special meeting.
 Chauncey reads the opening sentence of the original letter opposing

Action Items

Consideration of first reading Ordinance No. 2023-02 an ordinance of the Town of Rico, Colorado, authorizing the execution and delivery of a site and improvement lease, a lease purchase agreement, and other documents incidental thereto, all for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing and equipping a public works facility located at 101 Picker Street; and authorizing and approving the taking of all other actions necessary or appropriate for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this ordinance.

Chauncey McCarthy gives summary of the Ordinance.
 Troy Bernberg talked over the bid process.

Motion

To approve the first reading of ordinance No. 2023-02.
Moved by Trustee Joe Dillsworth, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke.

Vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Consideration of a partnership between the Town of Rico and the Colorado Non-Profit Corporation Rico Frequency (EIN 84-4539493)

Town Manager gave a summary.
 Clay Hall gives summary of Rico Frequency.

Public Comment:

Teal Stetson Lee: supports the Rico Frequency event
 Skip Zeller: This is so important to give back to the community. In full support.

Board Discussion:

Provide an MOU for this event. To be presented to the Town at a future meeting.

Consideration of a letter of support for San Miguel Power Association, microgrid for the Town of Rico planning grant application

Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy gives summary. Necessary for San Miguel Powers grant application process. No financial obligation to the Town.

Public Comment:

Allyn Svoboda give explanation of grant process.

Motion

To authorize execution of the letter
Moved by Trustee Jordan Carr, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke.

Vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Approval of DOLA EIAF Cycle 2023-07 grant application

Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy gives summary regarding the grant that the Town could apply for.

Discussion was had regarding the financing as well as the current Town finances.

Motion

To approve of DOLA EIAF Cycle 2023-07 grant application

Moved by Trustee Joe Croke, seconded by Mayor Nicole Pieterse.

Vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Staff ReportManager's Report

Anna will write the minutes after she is back from maternity leave.

Anna will come in to reconcile the accounts the first week of March.

The Parks engagement team met tonight. The survey is live. Targeting all groups. Saturday 25th a public meeting at the Town Hall.

Planning Commission met last week and started the new LUC revision process.

Working on a Zoom resolution to put in place.

Pilot project of transportation to Cortez. Nominal cost for the transport. IGA to be available in May.

Working on getting a new patrol vehicle from Cortez. \$5000-\$6000 cost which is half what is budgeted.

Need to start thinking about a new small loader in the next year or two.

Discussion ItemsRegional broadband and readiness

Chauncey gives intro summary.

Shak Powers gives presentation.

Mayor Nicole Pieterse gives summary of the Rico Broad Band project.

Introduction to Rico Land Collaborative

Chauncey gives introduction.

Skip Zeller explains the purpose of the collective.

Teal Stetson Lee officially formed the Rico Land Collaborative in March 2022. Reads the mission statement.

Inventory of Town owned parcels

Chauncey gives summary. This has been talked about in the last meeting. Potential for future discussion. Potential housing project study. Structure and prioritize Rico local needs. Potential work session in the future.

Snow Removal and Street Fund


Chauncey gives update on current snow removal situation and needs. Need to be proactive for future snow storage. Need of a parking ordinance. Potential winter contract snow shuttle employee.

The street fund is underfunded. Pursuing a mil levy increase that is passable in the community.


Voluntary lead soils townsite clean up ("VCUP") agreement status

Nicole gives update on the agreement.

The meeting adjourned.



Anna Wolf
Rico Town Clerk



Nicole Pieterse
Mayor