

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF RIO HONDO
COUNTY OF CAMERON**

Juan Garza, Commissioner, Place 1
Diana Jean Bustamante - Zavala Place 3
Jose S. Cavazos, Commissioner Place 5

Esteban Bocanegra, Place 2
Olga Gallegos, Commissioner Place 4

Gustavo Olivares
Mayor

**City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo
August 26, 2025**

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Tittle 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meetings Act, notice is hereby given that the governing body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas will convene for a Regular Meeting, at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at the City Commission Chambers on the Second Floor of the **Rio Hondo Municipal Building Civic Center** located at 121 N. Arroyo Blvd., Rio Hondo, Texas 78583.

Call meeting to Order (City Commission)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION:

Regular Agenda:

- 1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports**
- 2. Reports: Administrator**
3. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0415, the City Commission, without having provided notice, may make reports about items of community interest if no action is taken and possible action is not discussed regarding the information provided in the report. "Items of community interest" include: (1) expressions thanks, congratulations or condolence; (2) information regarding holiday schedules; (3) an honorary or salutatory recognition of a public official, public employee or other citizen, except the discussions regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutatory recognition for the purposes of the City of Rio Hondo; (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the City of Rio Hondo that was attend or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the City of Rio Hondo; and (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the political subdivision that has arisen after the posting of the agenda

4. **Public Comment Period:** *Please Note- The Public Comment Period is designated for hearing concerns regarding City of Rio Hondo Public Policy or City of Rio Hondo business that is or is not on the agenda or items listed on the agenda.*
5. Consideration and Action to approve the August 12, 2025 City Commission Minutes.
6. Presentation and Oath of Office of five new Rio Hondo Police Officers and one Reserve Officer.
7. Consideration and Action accepting the Annexation Petition requesting annexation on one acre of Block 35 and four acres of Block 35 of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision.
8. Public Hearing and Action Annexation and on the Service Plan for one acre of Block 35 and four acres of Block 35 of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision.
9. Budget Workshop on October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, City Budget.
10. Public Hearing on the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year budget from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.
11. Consideration and Action approving the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026 City of Rio Hondo annual budget.
12. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2025-12 ratifying the property tax rate reflected in the City's Fiscal Year October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026 operating budget.
13. Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-03 of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, levying ad valorem taxes for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; providing for the apportioning each levy for specific purposes; providing a deadline; and providing for a lien on real and personal property to secure the payment of taxes assessed.
14. Consideration and Action approving Ordinance 2025-03 of the City of Rio Hondo, which approves a real and personal property rate of 0.804012 per \$100 valuation from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.
15. Consideration and Action name Julian Longoria, Public Safety Director as the City of Rio Hondo, Emergency Operations Center Lead Officer, and Ben Medina, Jr., as the Assistant Emergency Operations Officer in case of a natural disaster or other emergency.
16. Adjournment

Note: The City Commission for the City of Rio Hondo the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during this meeting to discuss any matters, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.087 (Economic Development).

Note: The Meeting is accessible to Americans with Disabilities. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, please call the City Secretary at (956) 748-2102, with at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.



Gustavo Olivares
Mayor of the City of Rio Hondo

Posted: Friday, August 22, 2025, at 5:30p.m.

I, City Secretary for the City of Rio Hondo, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting is a true and correct record and was posted in the bulletin board outside City Hall, and the bulletin board in the City Hall lobby, at 121 N. Arroyo Blvd, Rio Hondo, Texas 78583 and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time

Item #5

MINUTES FROM A SPECIAL MEETING ON August 12, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Special Meeting on August 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor, Present and Commissioners, Juan Garza- ABSENT, Diana Bustamante-Zavala – Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Chief Longoria, Officer Perez, Assistant Fire Chief Arnold, Parks Supervisor – Aaron Martinez, Jarrod Garza, PW Director – Murl Kemmerling, Osvaldo Garcia, Mr. Michael Betancourt for Wrecking Crew Jams, Mr .Noe Alaniz, Mr. Juan Bujanos

Call meeting to Order (Mayor) at 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION: led by Commissioner Bustamante

Regular Agenda:

1. Public Comment Period: Please Note – The Public Comment Period is designated for hearing concerns regarding City of Rio Hondo Public Policy or City of Rio Hondo business that is or is not on the Agenda or items listed on the agenda.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

2. Consideration and action on the May 30, 2025, July 11, 2025, July 15, 2025 and July 22, 2025 City Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to approve the Minutes from May 30, 2025, July 11, 2025, July 15, 2025 and July 22, 2025 with corrections on July 22, 2025 Item #6. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

3. Presentation on the status of the Bridge Fest Festivities,

Mr. Betancourt from Wrecking Crew Jams reported to the commission that Bridgefest will be held on November 28, 2025 (Black Friday). Bridgefest will be held on both sides of the river which will include the Spotted Sea Trout Park. Tractors & trailers will be used as a shuttle service. Festivities will begin at 11 am on both sides of the river. They will end at 7 pm on City Side and on Park side they will end at midnight. Event will be live streamed by Midnight via RGV Photo & Drones. The

Commissioner Cavazos asked if this was on a temporary trial basis because to his understanding we do not have a Public Works Director position; what we have is Water Operator and Wastewater Operator.

Mr. Medina stated that was correct but under TCEQ's recommendation we need to separate the duties from Public Works and Water & Wastewater Operations. So that is why we are doing this on a trial basis to separate the duties. Mr. Medina added also that Mr. Garcia does not hold a license for Water Operator and per TCEQ he cannot be at the Water Plant without it. This interim position will be for 90 days.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to appoint Osvaldo Garcia as interim Public Works Director. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

6. **Consideration and Action on a Proclamation celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.**

Mr. Medina stated that UTRGV reached out to City of Rio Hondo to pass this Proclamation in support of their 10th year Anniversary.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the Proclamation for the Celebration of UTRGV's 10th year anniversary. Commissioner Bustamante seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

7. **Status Report on the Public Safety Department regarding staff and equipment needs.**

Chief Longoria reported that we currently have 3 full time officers plus 2 more will be coming on board for a total of 5 which will leave 1 more position to fill. Mr. Longoria is running background check on the 6th candidate. Per Chief Longoria will should be fully staffed in one week. We have 2 reserves and 2 more will be coming soon. As far as the Fire Department goes we have 18 volunteers and half of those we have acquired in the past 2 weeks. Mr. Longoria introduced Officer Perez, Jared – top responding volunteer, and Assistant Chief Arnold.

Chief Longoria has been updating policies and obtaining some equipment that is needed. Chief Longoria has been working closely with Mr. Medina. Chief Longoria stated that he is working on getting a vehicle donated.

10. Consideration and Action to redesign the Heywood Street stormwater project to the secondary outfall.

Per Mr. Medina City was going to use the outfall from Mr. Serna's property. The City had an agreement with him but Mr. Serna wants more money which the City does not have plus he wants to change the location of the pipe, therefore this outfall is no longer feasible. City will need to use alternate route which is going North on N. Arroyo to the secondary outfall where Bates and Arroyo meet or the ditch that is East of Town through Robert Garza.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to redesign the Heywood Street stormwater project to the secondary outfall. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

11. Consideration and Action accepting the letter of voluntary annexation of Rio Hondo Park Block 35, 1 acre , and Rio Hondo Park Block 35, 4 acres, from Miguel N. Alaniz.

Mr. Medina stated that before finalizing annexation Mr. Alaniz needs to write a letter stating he is voluntarily annexing.

Per Mr. Drinkard the letter is not acceptable. The letter is not sufficient. The letter has to be in a petition format, it also needs to state if the property will be used for agricultural purpose. This is all part of a subdivision plat which is outside city limits within the ETJ. City will provide sewer service and East Rio Hondo will service the water. Per Mr. Drinkard there needs to be a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

12. Discussion and Consideration of the Property Tax Rate Worksheet required by the Property Tax Code Sec. 26.04(b).

Mr. Medina reported on past property tax values as follows:

PROPERTY TAX VALUES				
	2022	2023	2024	2025

Commissioner Cavazos stated that NINOS Headstart wants to be annexed.

14. Adjournment.

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

Approved:

Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

Ben Medina, City Administrator

Date: _____

Item #6

Ben Medina

From: Julian Longoria
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 5:23 PM
To: Ben Medina
Subject: Re: Officers

Add

Joel Menchaca to the list of reservists

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S24 FE, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Julian Longoria
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 5:13:10 PM
To: Ben Medina <bmedina@riohondo.us>
Subject: Officers

Reservists:
Salvador Gonzalez Donato Torres

Full Time:
Juan Ortiz
Julio Olguin
Refugio Perez
Martin Muniz
Michael Ortiz

-Chief

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S24 FE, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Item #7

ANNEXATION PETITION

TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS:

The undersigned owner(s) of the hereinafter described tract of land hereby petition your Honorable City Commission to extend the present City limits so as to include as a part if the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, the following described territory, to-wit:

Block 35, one acre, and Block 35, four acres, of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision.

[Legal description of property]

And being more particularly described in the sketch and description attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.

- (1) Miguel N. Alaniz
- (2) AM/ARE THE TRUE AND ONLY OWNER(S) OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND, and
- (3) The above-described tract of land, as depicted in Exhibit "A", is contiguous and adjacent to the current city limits of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas.

[Owner's signature & printed name]

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO ME BEFORE, a notary public, by _____ this _____

_____ day of _____, 20_____, A.D.

Notary Public, State of Texas

(Seal)

Item #8

**SERVICE PLAN FOR PROPOSED AREAS TO BE ANNEXED
PARKWAY SUBDIVISION
EXHIBIT B**

**A) SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF ANNEXATION,
UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED.**

- 1. POLICE PROTECTION:** Patrolling, radio response to calls and other routine police services using present personnel and equipment will be provided on the effective date of annexation. Necessary personnel will be added as population warrants.
- 2. FIRE PROTECTION:** Fire Protection by the City's Fire Department is currently being provided under the Rural Fire Protection Contract and on the effective date of annexation, the protection will be provided as the regular fire protection of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas. Services of the Fire Marshal for fire prevention will be available upon annexation.
- 3. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** Emergency Medical Services will be provided by the Harlingen Community Emergency Care Foundation, Inc. for ambulance services as provided under the present contract or by which service provider the City of Rio Hondo has arrangements with.
- 4. CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Code Enforcement services, including the application and enforcement of zoning, Building Code, Electrical Code, Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, and other Municipal Code requirements adopted by the City of Rio Hondo shall be made available immediately upon annexation.
- 5. PARKS AND RECREATION:** Residents of the area will be entitled to *use all* City of Rio Hondo parks, playgrounds, recreational and library facilities upon annexation.
- 6. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION:** Pick up of garbage and trash through existing City of Rio Hondo services contract will be made available on the effective date of annexation.
- 7. POTABLE WATER:** Water for domestic and commercial uses will be available at City rates from any existing City lines on the effective date of annexation and, thereafter, from any new lines as extended to the area by the City and/or developers as land is developed in accordance with City Ordinances and policies. Maintenance of any public water lines will be taken over by the City after being in use one year after date of annexation, in accordance with City Ordinances and Policies.
- 8. WASTEWATER:** Wastewater service is now being provided for a portion of that area to be annexed. The remainder of the area to be annexed shall be provided with wastewater service within the required timetable at City rates.

**SERVICE PLAN FOR PROPOSED AREA
TO BE ANNEXED
PARKWAY SUBDIVISION**

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9. STREET AND ROAD MAINTENANCE: The only street or road way is FM 106 (East Colorado Avenue) is a State Farm to Market Road, a very recently reconstructed road into a four-lane highway, with curb and gutter and sidewalks. Future maintenance of this roadway will be done by the Texas Department of Transportation. Traffic signs, street markings and other traffic control devices will be installed as needed as established by appropriate study and requirements of the Texas Department of Transportation.

10. STREET LIGHTING: Street lighting will be installed as provided by City Policies and Regulations.

11. MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES: The existing public facilities in the area consist of water lines and some wastewater lines will be maintained by the City of Rio Hondo. Maintenance of public facilities will be provided in accordance with City Ordinances and policies.

B] Capital Improvements to be initiated within the two (2) years of the effective date of the annexation in order to provide municipal services, adequate to serve the particular area and to be substantially completed within four and one half (4V2) years of the effective date of the annexation.

Item #12

2025- 12

Resolution No. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS

**ADOPTING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE REFLECTED IN THE CITY'S
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET**

WHEREAS, as per Local Government Code Sec. 102.007(c), the adoption of a budget that will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year requires a separate vote of the governing body to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, as adopted, requires raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year and includes a same in the property tax rate of 0.0408012; \$656,820.97 to \$766,132.12 which is an increase of \$109,311.15 per \$100.00 valuation; and

WHEREAS, this ratification vote is in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or a vote to set the tax rate required by Chapter 26, Tax Code, or other law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS:**

Section 1. The City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, hereby ratifies the property tax increase reflected in this year's City budget, as adopted by this City Commission, which will raise total property tax revenue to last year's City budget by \$109,311.15 or 0.8573% and, of that amount \$109,311.15 is tax revenue to be raised from annexations and new property added to the tax roll this year.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption and is accordingly resolved.

APPROVED this _____ day of August 2025

CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS

By: _____
GUSTAVO OLIVARES, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator/ Secretary

Item #14

ORDINANCE NO 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS, LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR A DEADLINE; PROVIDING FOR A LIEN ON REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF TAXES ASSESSED; AND DEALING WITH RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the City Commission approved the municipal budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, the City Commission ratified the property tax revenue increase reflected in the fiscal year 2025-2026 approved budget; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that an ordinance be passed levying an ad valorem tax on all property, both real and personal, within the corporate limits of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas in accordance with such budget and the Texas Tax Code;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS.

Section 1. That there is hereby levied and there shall be collected for the maintenance and operation of the municipal government of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year upon all property, real, personal and mixed, within the corporate limits of said City subject to taxation, a tax of \$0.804012 cents on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100) valuation on property.

THIS TAX RATE IS THE SAME PERCENTAGE TAX RATE AS FY 2024-2025.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE.

THE TAX RATE WILL BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$812.00

Section 2. That there is hereby levied and there shall be collected for the City of Rio Hondo, Texas as follows:

SUMMARY

The following ad valorem tax rate is adopted per \$100.00 valuation.

1. Maintenance and operations of the general government (General Fund)	\$0.624182
2. Interest and Sinking fund (Debt Rate)	\$0.179830
Total Tax 0.8040127 per \$100 of valuation	\$0.804012

Section 3. That all monies collected under this Ordinance for the specific items herein named, be and the same hereby appropriated and set apart for the specific purposes indicated in each item and the Assessor/Collector of Taxes, and the City Administrator shall keep these accounts so as to readily and distinctly show the amount collected, the amount expended and the amount on hand at any time belonging, to such funds. All receipts for the City not specifically apportioned are hereby made payable to the General fund.

Taxes levied under this Ordinance shall be due October 1, 2025 and if not paid on or before January 31, 2026 shall immediately become delinquent.

Section 4. All taxes shall become a lien upon the property against which assessed, and the tax assessor and collector for the City of Rio Hondo is hereby authorized and empowered to enforce the collection of such taxes according to the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and Ordinances of the City of Rio Hondo shall, by virtue of the tax rolls, fix and establish a lien by levying upon such property, whether real or personal, for the payment of said taxes, penalty and interest, and the interest and penalty collected from such delinquent taxes shall be appropriated to the General Fund of the City of Rio Hondo. All delinquent taxes shall bear interest from date of delinquency at the rate prescribed by state law.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force on October 1, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 26th of AUGUST 2025.

APPROVED:

MAYOR: Gustavo Olivares

ATTEST:

City Administrator: Ben Medina, Jr.

City of Rio Hondo

Proposed Tax Rate

2025-2026

Previous Year 2024

Valuation \$81,629,932

Tax Rate 0.804012

Tax Revenue \$656,820.97

Year 2025

Valuation \$95,290,314

Tax Rate 0.804012

Tax Revenue \$766,132.12

Difference (Increase) \$109,311.15

A home valued at \$150,000 tax rate 0.804012 = 1,206.01