

## **MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON August 26, 2025**

**The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for a Regular Meeting on August 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Rio Hondo Municipal Building Civic Center, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- 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, Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Carolyn Dawson – Library Director, Chief Longoria, Officer Perez, Assistant Fire Chief Arnold, Parks Supervisor – Aaron Martinez, PW Director – Osvaldo Garcia, Ramon Muniz, Pablo Gonzalez, Celia Gonzalez, Anna Menchaca, Analicia Zarate Eric Lopez, Sofia N. Hernandez**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION: led by Commissioner Bustamante

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioner's Reports.

**Commissioner Cavazos noted that there are no trash cans at park. Commissioner Bustamante asked about signs for visually impaired children can be placed. Mayor welcomed back Ms. Ana Hernandez.**

2. Administrator Report:

**Mr. Medina reported to the commission that the arm at Spotted Sea Trout is now in place and we will go live on September 1, 2025. Mayor asked for this to be advertised on all of the City's forums.**

**Commissioner Cavazos stated that exit gate had fallen off the rail. Per Mr. Medina it has been fixed.**

**Mayor asked to look into issuing yearly passes to the commission.**

**Mayor mentioned that Mike's would have ribbon cutting ceremony on September 27, 2025.**

**Fire Department is having a BBQ Fundraiser on October 28, 2025. All monies will go directly to Fire Department.**

3. 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 on the agenda.*

### **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

4. Consideration and action to approve the August 12, 2025 City Commission Minutes.

**Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 City Commission Minutes. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.**

5. Presentation and Oath of Office of five new Rio Hondo Police Officers and one Reserve Officer.

**Chief Longoria stated there was a change there will be swearing in of three (3) officers and three (3) reserve officers.**

**Mr Medina stated that we only need 1 more officer to be fully staffed.**

**The following officers were sworn in by Chief Longoria & the Mayor each officer introduced themselves to the council.**

**Salvador Gonzalez (Reserve), Joel Menchaca (Reserve), Donato Torres (Reserve), Martin Muniz (full time), Refugio Perez (full time), , Julio Olguin (full time), and Juan Ortiz (full time) NOT PRESENT, Michael Martinez (full time) NOT PRESENT.**

**Mayor welcomed the newly sworn officers.**

**Mr. Medina stated that Ms. Olga Maldonado could not be present but congratulates the newly sworn officers and welcomes them.**

**Chief Longoria prayed over the newly sworn officers.**

6. Consideration and Action accepting the Annexation Petition requesting annexation on one acre o Block 35 and four acres of Block 35 of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision.

**Mr. Medina stated that this is the 1<sup>st</sup> step for Mr. Alaniz request for annexation. This petition was approved by City Attorney Drinkard.**

**Mr. Drinkard added that he needs to submit exhibit A but can proceed with taking action on approving.**

**Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to accept the annexation petition requesting annexation on one acre of Block 35 and four acres of Block 35 of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve the motion carried**

7. Public Hearing and Action on Annexation and on the Service Plan for one acre of Block 35 and four acres of Block 35 of the Rio Hondo Park Subdivision.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 6:51 PM**

**Mr. Medina addressed the Council stating that the following services would be available once annexed, Police Protection, Fire Protection, Emergency Services, Code Enforcement, Republic Services (solid waste).**

**Mayor asked what the fee for annexation was. Mr. Medina replied that it is 5% of the value of the subdivision. This is a one time fee.**

**Mr. Drinkard stated this is just a public hearing no action needs to be taken.**

**Per Mr. Medina wastewater services will be provided by the City. A line will run a line all the way to the liftstation on the corner of South Reynolds and Parkway. Once the final plat is accepted the City will take responsibility of the public right of ways.**

**The Mayor asked if there will be a street down the middle; Mr. Medina replied that yes eventually there will be one.**

**Commissioner Cavazos asked about item 9 – Street & Road Maintenance. Mr. Medina replied that once final plat is approved then**

**the City is responsible for maintaining the streets.**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 6:58 PM**

8. Budget workshop for October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026, City Budget.

**Mr. Medina presented Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to the Commission. He stated that we have a balanced budget of \$1,687,188.03. Our biggest revenue is sales tax and property taxes. On the expenditures our highest expense is the Police Department. He covered each line item and answered any questions. He also gave the numbers on wages considering a 3% increase to all City Employees.**

9. Public Hearing on the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year Budget from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 8:18 PM.**

**Citizen Analicia Zarate introduced herself to the City Council. She then began to question the commission regarding Fred's Drugstore and why is the city now selling. She went back that she had previously presented and idea for that property. She then started asking what the city's vision for Rio Hondo for 5 years from now. She then asked about how realtors get selected.**

**Mayor replied to Ms. Zarate that if she wanted to "buy the building let's do it."**

**Mr. Drinkard immediately interrupted and stopped the conversation as the sale of this building it had nothing to do with the Agenda item. He stated that if Mayor continue this conversation he'd be in violation of the Open Meetings Act.**

**The mayor told Ms. Zarate to contact City Administrator for any questions she might have.**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 8:38 PM**

10. Consideration and Action on approving the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

**Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the City of Rio Hondo Budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 with amendments.**

**Commissioner Bustamante seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve motion carried.**

11. 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.

**Mr. Medina explained to the council that the budget as adopted requires more from property taxes than in the previous year and includes a same in the property tax rate of 0.0804012 generating \$656,820.97 last year. This year we will generate \$766,132.12 which is an increase of \$109,311.15 per \$100 valuation. According to state we need to post as increase in taxes because the appraised value went up.**

**Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 the property tax rate reflected in the City’s Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 operating budget. Commissioner Bustamante seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

12. Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-03A 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.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 8:44 PM**

**Mr. Medina stated that this ordinance is basically stating we are keeping the tax rate at 0.804012 per \$100 dollar valuation. Part of the rate is 0.624182 for maintenance and operations of the general government (general fund) and we also need to allocate money for the debt. The debt rate is 0.179830 and these two together make the rate of 0.804012**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 8:45 PM**

13. Consideration and Action to approving Ordinance 2025-03A of the City of Rio Hondo which approves a real and persoanl property rate of 0.804012 per \$100 valuation from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

**Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03A of the City of Rio Hondo which approves a real and personal property rate of 0.804012 per 100 valuation from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026. Commissioner Bustamante seconded the motion;**

<b>Commissioner Bocanegra</b>	<b>VOTED</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Commissioner Bustamante</b>	<b>VOTED</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Commissioner Cavazos</b>	<b>VOTED</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Commissioner Gallegos</b>	<b>VOTED</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Commissioner Garza</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	

**Motion carried.**

14. Consideration and Action to appoint 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.

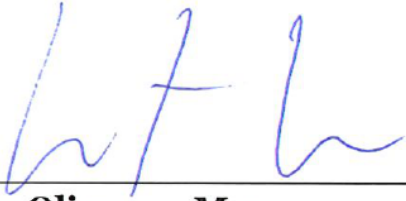
**The Mayor stated he met with TDEM and he needed to submit names for leadership in case of an emergency. Mayor submitted Mr. Longoria's name along with Mr. Medina.**

**Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to name Julian Longoria, Public Safety Director as the City of Rio Hondo, Emergency Operations Lead Officer and Ben Medina Jr. as the Assistant Emergency Operations Officer in case of a natural disaster or other emergency. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.**

15. Adjournment

**Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.**

**Approved:**



**Gustavo Olivares, Mayor**

**Date:**

10/28/25

**Attest:**



**Ben Medina, City Administrator**

**Date:**

11/04/25