

## **MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 10, 2024**

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Regular Meeting on December 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor Pro-Tem- Margaret Perez - Present, Commissioners, Juan Garza - Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Lucia Garza, Finance Director, William Bilokury, Police Chief Robert Drinkard, City Attorney, Carolyn Dawson, Library Director, Eric Lopez, Headed South Construction, Analicia Zarate from RGV Cleaning Solutions

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Gus Olivares**

### **INVOCATION: Led by Commissioner Margaret Perez**

### **Regular Agenda:**

#### **1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports**

- Mayor Olivares reported to the commission about Pictures with Santa event to be held on December 15, 2025 at Fred's Drug Store sponsored by Cameron County. This will be a free event. Fred's Drug Store is being painted and decorated. Mayor stated we will have a similar event after the parade which is scheduled for December 21, 2025.

#### **2. Reports: Administrator**

##### **Mr. Medina:**

- Mr. Medina reported to the commission the submission of 2025-2026 CDBG application.
- He also reported regarding The Tijerina Foundation granted \$15,000 to fix the Library roof along with a Dollar General Grant
- Mr. Medina stated he is working on the Stone Garden Program
- Currently interviewing for Greens Division
- Preparing for Pictures with Santa and the Parade
- Met with School District to work on MOU
- Meeting and Inspection with Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Preparing a recruitment flyer for Police Department

##### **Library Report**

##### **Ms. Dawson:**

- Saturday Classes Continue: Art Classes for Adult & Children
- Teen Cooking Club
- Friends of the Library will hold a Chalupa Fund Raiser on December 7
- Alex from Library will be running the Angel Tree Program
- The Library is partnering with Rio Hondo High School to have a cloth drive
- Was notified of grant to be used to repair library roof

### **Police Report** **Chief Bilokury**

Chief reported they are currently running department with 3 Full time Officers and 3 Reserve Officer; lost several officers to Primera.

Mayor asked what is being done to recruit Chief replied that he has been posting from his personal page and so are the officers. Ads have been placed on website and on indeed.

### **Senior Center Report** **Mr. Medina presented for Susana**

- Currently have 25 participants
  - Year-to-date 1,021 meals have been served
  - Monthly meals to date 25
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 listed on the agenda.*
    - **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**
  4. Consideration and Action accepting the Kroger Texas Settlement Subdivision Participation Agreement and Full Release of all claims dated October 30, 2024.
    - Mr. Medina stated that this is a settlement with Kroger regarding the opioid abuse. The settlement amount can be from \$1,000 - \$2,000. The settlement agreement has been reviewed by city attorney. Funds should be used for drug counseling.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approved the Kroger Texas Settlement Subdivision Participation Agreement and Full Release of all claims dated October 30,

2024. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve motion carried.

5. **Consideration and Action approving Resolution 2024-10 authorizing the submittal of the 2025-2026 CDBG application for the street and sewer reconstruction.**

- Mr. Medina explained the state develops these rules. The resolution is like our letter of intent; this will review our history with program. It will be a grant for \$750,000; focused on Streets, Water, Sewer, and Parks. Mr. Medina stated that if awarded he would like to use funds on South Arroyo and FM 106 for some residents that need sewer.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve 2024-10 authorizing the submittal of the 2025-2026 CDBG application for the street and sewer reconstruction.

Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

6. **Resolution 2024-11 designating five (5) City of Rio Hondo votes to one candidate or several candidates not exceeding five (5) votes on the official ballot of the Cameron County Appraisal District.**

Commissioner Perez made a motion designate five (5) City of Rio Hondo votes to Jessica Gonzalez. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted “aye) to approve, motion carried.

7. **Consideration and Action accepting the Raul Tijerina Foundation Grant for the roof reconstructin at the Rio Hondo Library.**

- Mr. Medina explained that the Raul Tijerina Foundation would like us to sign off on accepting the grant; needs Mayor and City Administrator signatures.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to accept The Raul Tijerina Foundation Grant for the roof reconstructin at the Rio Hondo Library. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

8. **Consideration and Action accepting the windstorm policies and costs of \$113,805.66 for the City of Rio Hondo buildings and facilities by Victors Insurance Managers.**

- Mr. Medina explained to the commission that this insurance covers all city buildings for Windstorm only.

- Mr. Medina suggested we self insure in the future due to prices continue to go up or borrow the money.
- There was discussion among the commission. Mayor suggest we save the \$113,805.66 and hope for the best.
- Last claim done was 5 years ago
- Mr. Medina suggested every year we continue saving some money.
- Commissioner Bocanegra agrees that this money should be set aside.
- Commissioner Perez stated asked happens if we don't renew and something happens and damages are over \$113,805.66. Mr. Medina along with Commissioners replied we then get a loan.
- It was agreed that this item will be put back on the agenda at a later date to allocate the funds.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to reject windstorm policies in the amount of \$113,805.66 for the City of Rio Hondo buildings and facilities by Victors Insurance. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

**9. Report on the Stone Garden Program regarding the grant report and overbilled amount.**

- Mr. Medina presented a report to the commission on the findings from our auditors on the overpayment of Payroll to one of our officers. He also presented a grant report with the overbilled amount.

**10. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park Project.**

- Mr. Medina reported that Department Chair for Grants Commission visited the park and was very impressed.
- The fence is being finished
- The restrooms are functional
- Fishing pier functional
- Kayak launches are ready
- Missing the arm
- A walk of the park by Mayor and Commissioners will be scheduled
- The commission we do a soft opening.
- A ribbon cutting will be scheduled once park is fully complete.

**11. Status on Christmas Parade will be held on December 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm**  
**Ana Hernandez reported we currently have 16 participants. The parade will start at Dollar General and ends at right before bridge. There will prizes for the best 3 floats. Prizes will be awarded at Fred's Drug Store.**

**12. Executive Session: Closed session pursuant to Sec. 551.71, Texas Government Codee, for attorney briefing and consultation regarding the City's legal**

**obligations and processes in light of multiple grievances aor complainsts involving or amont different City employees, and as also filed by citizens.**

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:32 pm.  
Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.


**13. Consideration and Action on directing the City Attorney to hire a consultant to investigate and provide a report on all legal obligations and grievances or complaints involving city employees and also filed by Citizens.**

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion on directing the City Attorney to hire a consultant to investigate and provide a report on all legal obligations and grievances or complaints involving city employees and also filed by Citizens.  
Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

**14. Adjournment.**

Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.  
Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve the motion carried.

Approved

  
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Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 1 - 28 - 2025

Attest:

  
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Ben Medina, City Administrator