

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 27, 2026

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Regular Meeting January 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Present, Commissioner Diana J Bustamante-Zavala-Present, Mayor Pro-Tem Juan Garza- Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present, Olga Gallegos-Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present (Mr. Cavazos arrived at 6:43 pm).

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator
Julian Longoria, Chief of Police
Robert Drinkard, City Attorney
RH Police Department
Analia Zarate, Citizen

Ana Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator
Lucy Garza, Finance Director
Cheyenne Juarez, Citizen
Jose Munoz, GMES
Alfredo Sosa, Citizen

INVOCATION: Commissioner Juan Garza

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports:

Commissioner Garza reported that sprinkler heads at Spotted Seat Trout are leaking; Mr. Medina replied he will have it repaired.

Mayor gave an update to the commission regarding his health. He asks for the commission to work with him in the event he needs to be out due to medical reasons. Mayor thanked City Administrator, Ben Medina and Chief Longoria for constantly checking in on him. Mayor asks everyone to keep him and his family in their prayers.

Mayor announced that St Helen's Catholic Church will be giving out free chicken plated on Saturday February 14, 2026 at Pavillion at old middle school building from 11 am -2 pm hosted by the Men's group.

2. Reports: Administrator, Library, Public Works, Parks, Public Safety, Utilities

Administrator Report:

- Sidewalks look great. The staff is doing a great job in maintaining them.
- Catherine St will be done real soon; driveways are currently being improved.
- We received good bids for Heywood.
- Spotted Sea Trout Park is doing really well. We've collected \$30,000. Green Lights for night fishing are very popular.
- The City of Rio Hondo and Cameron County completed an all-inclusive park structure.
- City was power washed and new lighting was installed.
- New sewer line replacement will happen throughout the city.
- A new water well to ensure residents have adequate water resources.
- New Subdivisions are being planned.
- A Veteran's Memorial will be developed
- Several grants are being prepared: Police Vest funding, water improvements, sewer improvement, Police ALERRT Program.

- City Wide Comprehensive Plan will start in March; Citizen input will be needed
- City Elections Happening for Mayor, Commissioner Place 2 and Place 3

Senior Center Report:

Senior Center Submitted Report month of January (attached)

Utilities Report

- Currently working on a sewer back up
- Water Plant producing 1.2 million gallons of per day
- Staff making weekly modifications to improve efficiency and water quality
- State will be here to inspect water & sewer plant for tier II chemicals

Parks Report

- Parks are being maintained
- Restrooms at both parks cleaned 6 days per week
- All positions currently filled

Police Report

Chief introduce new Seargent Mario Tobias. Sgt Tobias introduced himself to the council and gave the council his background.

December

- 81 traffic stops
- Ongoing contacts with public
- 20 Calls for Service

January

- 9 traffic stops
- Ongoing contact with public
- 9 calls for service

Fire Dept Report

December 2025

- 9 calls

January 2026

6 calls

Chief Longoria introduced all the Volunteer firefighters; Mayor thanked them for volunteering.

3. Public Comment Period:

None

4. Consideration and action to approve December 16, 2025 City Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2025. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

5. Consideration and Action to approve the travel expense for Julian Longoria, Public Safety Director, to attend the State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts annual conference in San Antonio, Texas on January 29 – 31, 2026.

Mr. Medina stated that the County is paying for all expenses including gasoline, food, and room. This is the first time that the county offers an all-expense conference and is asking for approval. Chief Longoria addressed the council.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to approve the travel expense for Julian Longoria, Public Safety Director, to attend the State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts annual conference in San Antonio, Texas on January 29 – 31, 2026. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

6. Consideration and action on Resolution No. 2026-01, for submitting a grant application to the Governor's Office for Police Department bulletproof vests.

Chief stated this is grant is specifically for rifle rated armor that is really needed by our officers.

Commission Bocanegra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-01 to submit a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for Police Department bulletproof vests. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried

7. Consideration and action on Resolution No. 2026-02 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for the ALERRT Program.

Chief stated this grant is for a state mandated training. Every officer is required to 16 hours for active shooting every 2 years. This grant will pay for the officer to take this training out of the county. It will pay for travel expenses: room, food, registration fees, and while they are gone, they will pay for hours worked by other officer to cover the hours missed by the officer in training.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-02 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for the ALERRT Program. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

8. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2026-03 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for the Security Cameras.

Mr. Medina stated Security cameras are needed inside and outside the police dept. This will also include cameras in City Hall and in the evidence room.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-03 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for the ALERRT Program. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

9. Consideration and action on Resolution No. 2026-04 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for police officer patrol weapons.

This grant is to purchase 6 weapons needed by our Police Dept.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-04 for submitting a grant application to the State of Texas Governor's Office for police officer patrol weapons. Commissioner

Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

10. Consideration and action approving the installation of a way-finding sign for the Trinidad Church on City of Rio Hondo Right-of-Way.

Mr. Medina stated that Commissioner Garza is requesting signage with arrows and Church name on Colorado that way out of towners can find the church.

Commissioner Garza stated that because of the location of the church, away from the main street, it's hard to find.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the installation of a way-finding sign for the Trinidad Church on City of Rio Hondo Right-of-Way. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

11. Consideration and action appointing six members to the Veterans Memorial Committee.

Mayor gave background on how the idea of creating this committee came about. He also stated that he will be giving up his seat on this committee. Taking his place on this committee will be Cheyenne Juarez. Ms. Juarez was in attendance and introduced herself. It was reiterated that Commissioner Bocanegra will be the chair for this committee. Commissioner Garza's seat was given to Mr. Rob Fracasso. Commissioner Bustamante will also serve on this committee. Mr. Medina directed the council to a form in their packet to nominate a citizen to this committee.

Mr. Drinkard asked that the motion be changed to state that the nominees are approved.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to appoint six member to the Veterans Memorial Committee and to approve the nominees submitted by each Council Member. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

12. Consideration and action appointing Mrs. Sue Ann Taubert to the Municipal Development District to replace Commissioner Juan Garza.

Mr. Medina stated that Ms. Taubert is a local realtor that wishes to serve on the Municipal Development District committee. Commissioner Garza is giving up his seat to Ms. Taubert.

Mayor wants this committee to reconvene and have members of the community appointed.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to appoint Mrs. Sue Ann Taubert to the Municipal Development District to replace Commissioner Garza. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

13. Consideration and action on the Financial Report for the Month of November 2025.

Lucia Garza reported on Financial Report for the Month of November 2025.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to acknowledge the Financial Report for the Month of November 2025. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

14. Discussion of bids received for Heywood Street Stormwater Project.

Jose Munoz addressed the Council stated that we had very good bidders. We had a total of 10 bidders. Low bidder was Valley Civil Construction. His office will be calling some of their previous customers and reviewing some of their previous projects.

15. Consideration and action approving the preliminary plat of the Parkway Estates Subdivision.

Mr. Medina stated this is the preliminary plat for Parkway Estates Subdivision it has been approved by our Engineer. Mr. Medina explained the difference between preliminary plat and final. In the preliminary phase the developer and the owner come together to subdivide into lots and decide the size of the lots an Engineer is involved during this process. At this point they decide what kind of improvements will be needed, who will be the water and sewer provider and develops a concept plan. They will then develop construction drawing. Once all is approved a final plat will be submitted for approval.

This subdivision will consist of 10 lots.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the preliminary plat of the Parkway Estates Subdivision. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

16. Acknowledgement of a pending Re-Zoning Application for the Arroyo Escondido Subdivision.

Mr. Medina stated that Mr. Jose Perez, developer, wants to purchase the land a develop a subdivision, he asking to have it rezoned as residential. Mr. Perez wants to be assured if he purchases the property, it will be rezoned to residential.

Mayor stated that he doesn't see a problem to rezone to residential the only problem he sees is that he wants to make sure Mr. Perez knows and his buyers as well that they are purchasing in an area that is located right in front of a sewer plant.

NO ACTION NEEDED

17. Discussion regarding the current building permit fees.

Mr. Medina stated that Rio Hondo currently charges based on project valuation and showed our current fees.

After discussion among commissioners regarding the fees, the Commission requested this item be brought back with new rates based on square footage. Ordinance will need to be amended. Mr. Medina was instructed to mirror fees to those of the County.

18. Consideration and action allocation \$10,000 for laying bricks for the Veterans Memorial from the General Fund.

Mr. Medina addressed the council to ask for the allocation of \$10,000 for laying bricks on the rotunda for the Veteran's Memorial. The city will then start selling the bricks. This will be the start of this project.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the allocation of \$10,000 for laying bricks for the Veteran's Memorial from the General Fund. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all

voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

19. Consideration and action allocation of \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of a security light and pavilion fence at Spotted Sea Trout Park.

Mr. Medina is asking for \$25,000 to fence the pavilion that way it can be rented out and also for security lighting that is much needed.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to allocate \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of a security light and pavilion fence at Spotted Sea Trout Park. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

20. Consideration and action authorizing Ben Medina, City Administrator, to prepare a plan with Estrada Hinojosa Financial Advisors and Holeman Capital for possible funding for Capital Improvement Projects.

Mr. Medina is asking for the approval to contract Estrada Hinojosa Financial Advisors and Holeman Capital for possible funding for Capital Improvement Projects. The majority will be for streets, other projects repairing parking lot at the park needs a sealer, redo baseball fields.

Commissioner Garza wants projects to be prioritized.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to authorize Ben Medina, City Administrator, to prepare a plan with Estrada Hinojosa Financial Advisors and Holeman Capital for possible funding for Capital Improvement Projects. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

21. Consideration and action excusing Mayor Olivares from regularly scheduled meetings because of illness.

Mayor addressed the Council stating that due to his condition he might need to miss some meetings. Mayor stated he feels good but, in the event, he cannot attend he wants to be excused.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to excuse Mayor Olivares from regularly scheduled meeting because of illness as needed. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve motion carried.

22. Executive Session pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Public Safety Director.

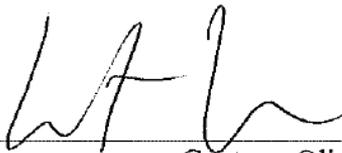
Chief Longoria requested his evaluation be held in open session.

Open Session started at 8:08 pm

Mayor Olivares, Council Members and Mr. Medina evaluated Chief Longoria on his work performance.

23. Adjournment:

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

Ben Medina, City Administrator.

Date: _____