

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

Juan Garza, Commissioner Place 1
Margaret Perez, Mayor Pro-Tem
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
January 28, 2025**

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 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, January 28, 2025, at the City Commission Chambers on the Second Floor of the Rio Hondo Municipal Building 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 Report, Library Report, Public Works Report**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0415, the City Commission, without having provided notice, may make reports about items of community interest if action is not taken and possible action is not discussed regarding the information provided in the report. "Items of community interest" include: (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations or condolence; (2) information regarding holiday schedules; (3) an honorary or salutatory recognition of a public official, public employee, or another 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 attended 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

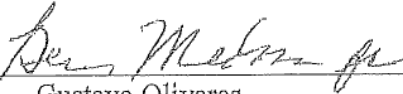
- 3. Public Comment Period: *Please Note- The Public Comment Period is designated for hearing concerns regarding City of Rio Hondo Public Policy or City of Rio Hondo business that is or is not on the agenda or items listed on the agenda.***
- 4. Consideration and Action on approving the December 10, 2024, City Commission minutes**
- 5. Consideration and Action on City of Rio Hondo Sea Trout Park Policies.**

6. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park Project.

7. 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, January 24, 2025 at 3:20 p.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

Rio Hondo City Commission Report
Rio Hondo Administration Report
January 28, 2025

Administration

- Staff
 - Fully Staffed
 - Parade was a successful.
 - City of Primera was winner.
 - Participate in Elementary Career Fair
 - Approved School/ City MOU
- Outside Staff
 - Fully Staffed
 - Contract Staff by Express Services
- Park Polices
 - Purchasing Tables, Benches, and Trash Cans
- Water Line Crossing approved by Army Corps of Engineers
- Possible Construction Mid February
- CDBG and other Federal Funding on hold

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Meeting with possible members of Veterans Committee




THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 27, 2025

M-25-13

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Matthew J. Vaeth, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget 

SUBJECT: Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs

The American people elected Donald J. Trump to be President of the United States and gave him a mandate to increase the impact of every federal taxpayer dollar. In Fiscal Year 2024, of the nearly \$10 trillion that the Federal Government spent, more than \$3 trillion was Federal financial assistance, such as grants and loans. Career and political appointees in the Executive Branch have a duty to align Federal spending and action with the will of the American people as expressed through Presidential priorities. Financial assistance should be dedicated to advancing Administration priorities, focusing taxpayer dollars to advance a stronger and safer America, eliminating the financial burden of inflation for citizens, unleashing American energy and manufacturing, ending “wokeness” and the weaponization of government, promoting efficiency in government, and Making America Healthy Again. The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve.

This memorandum requires Federal agencies to identify and review all Federal financial assistance¹ programs and supporting activities consistent with the President’s policies and requirements.² For example, during the initial days of his Administration, President Donald J. Trump issued a series of executive orders to protect the American people and safeguard valuable taxpayer resources, including *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* (Jan. 20,

¹ 2 CFR 200.1 defines Federal financial assistance to mean “[a]ssistance that recipients or subrecipients receive or administer” in various forms, but this term does not include assistance provided directly to individuals. For the purposes of this memorandum, Federal financial assistance includes: (i) all forms of assistance listed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of the definition of this term at 2 CFR 200.1; and (ii) assistance received or administered by recipients or subrecipients of any type except for assistance received directly by individuals.

² Nothing in this memo should be construed to impact Medicare or Social Security benefits.

2025), *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government* (Jan. 20, 2025), and *Enforcing the Hyde Amendment* (Jan. 24, 2025). These executive orders ensure that Federal funds are used to support hardworking American families.

To implement these orders, each agency must complete a comprehensive analysis of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President's executive orders. In the interim, to the extent permissible under applicable law, Federal agencies **must temporarily pause** all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal.

This temporary pause will provide the Administration time to review agency programs and determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President's priorities. The temporary pause will become effective on January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Even before completing their comprehensive analysis, Federal agencies must immediately identify any legally mandated actions or deadlines for assistance programs arising while the pause remains in effect. Federal agencies must report this information to OMB along with an analysis of the requirement. OMB also directs Federal agencies to pause all activities associated with open NOFOs, such as conducting merit review panels.

No later than February 10, 2025, agencies shall submit to OMB detailed information on any programs, projects or activities subject to this pause. Each agency must pause: (i) issuance of new awards; (ii) disbursement of Federal funds under all open awards; and (iii) other relevant agency actions that may be implicated by the executive orders, to the extent permissible by law, until OMB has reviewed and provided guidance to your agency with respect to the information submitted.

OMB may grant exceptions allowing Federal agencies to issue new awards or take other actions on a case-by-case basis. To the extent required by law, Federal agencies may continue taking certain administrative actions, such as closeout of Federal awards (2 CFR 200.344), or recording obligations expressly required by law.

Additionally, agencies must, for each Federal financial assistance program: (i) assign responsibility and oversight to a senior political appointee to ensure Federal financial assistance conforms to Administration priorities; (ii) review currently pending Federal financial assistance announcements to ensure Administration priorities are addressed, and, subject to program statutory authority, modify unpublished Federal financial assistance announcements, withdraw any announcements already published, and, to the extent permissible by law, cancel awards already awarded that are in conflict with Administration priorities, and; (iii) ensure adequate oversight of Federal financial assistance programs and initiate investigations when warranted to identify underperforming recipients, and address identified issues up to and including cancellation of awards.

Rio Hondo City Commission Report
Rio Hondo Public Library
January 7, 2025

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- Angel Tree
 - Number of families
 - Twin Palms RV Resort
 - Gifts for children
 - Christmas meal for a family
 - Rio Hondo Elementary
- Clothing Drive
 - Partnered with RHHS Student Council
 - Donation boxes at Library & City Hall
- Use of Meeting Rooms
 - Women's Study group
 - Girl Scouts
 - Dungeons & Dragons
 - Friends of the RHPL Christmas Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday classes will resume in January

CIRCULATION REPORT

- Door Count is up over November
- Fewer materials and E-books checked out

Circulations Totals FY 2025

Month	EBooks	Adult Non-Fiction	Juvenile Nonfiction	A-Fiction	Easy	Juvenile Fiction	Young Adult Fiction	Adult-DVD	Juvenile-DVD	Total	Computer Use	WiFi	Assists	Tech Assistance	Door Count
Oct	59	19	0	13	26	11	5	4	0	78	54	80	148	36	498
Nov	54	6	1	35	33	3	1	2	1	78	60	59	119	16	360
Dec	47	8	0	22	14	4	3	8	0	59	60	54	108	14	428
Jan															
Feb															
Mar															
Apr															
May															
Jun															
Jul															
Aug															
Sep															
Final Total	160	33	1	70	73	18	9	14	1	215	174	193	375	66	1286

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER MONTHLY MEAL & ACTIVITY REPORT

For the Month of January 2025

PARTICIPANTS MEALS IN CENTER NUMBER: 25

CURB SIDE NUMBER: 0

DAILY PARTICIPANT MEALS TOTAL NUMBER: 25

PARTICIPANT MONTHLY MEALS TO DATE NUMBER: 471

PARTICIPANT MEALS YEAR-TO-DATE NUMBER: 1492

NEW REGISTRATION PARTICIPANTS NUMBER: 2

MY PLATE FLYER DISTRIBUTED NUMBER: 25

CENTER PARTICIPANTS SOCIALIZING NUMBER: 25

CENTER PARTICIPANTS ACITIVITIES -GAME NUMBER: 25

SENIOR CENTER PARTICIPANTS ACTIVITIES

IN CENTER

Senior Center Monthly Garage Sale -Jan. 18, 2024

Sale \$263.00/ 6 Vendors at \$5.00 @ Table-\$37.00

PRESENTER'S NAME: May Bryan

AGENCY NAME: WEL MED

TOPIC: CARE GIVER SUPPORT GROUP

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE: 12

PRESENTER'S NAME: NIDIA GARCIA

AGENCY NAME: TEX,AGRI. LIFE EXTEN.

TOPIC: FRESH START HEALTHIER YOU

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE: 23

PRESENTER'S NAME: JOSE CANO

AGENCY NAME: TEXAS FINANCIAL PLANNERS / MEDICARE

TOPIC: MEDICAID / MEDICARE

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE: 17

Public Works Opened Tasks

Issue 62: Sewer Department

Category	(1) Category	Assigned To	Murl
Status	Active	Due Date	
Priority	(2) Normal	Opened By	Murl
Attachments	📎(0)	Opened Date	28-Jan-25

Description

Took two submersible pumps to get fixed, one from behind dollar and one from FM345

Comments

Issue 61: Water plant

Category	(1) Category	Assigned To	Murl
Status	Active	Due Date	
Priority	(2) Normal	Opened By	Murl
Attachments	📎(0)	Opened Date	28-Jan-25

Description

Electrician work at water plant on level transducers for elevated storage and ground storage tank.
Had an inspection from TCEQ on Thursday the 23rd. Waiting for results

Comments

Issue 60: Public Works

Category	(1) Category	Assigned To	Arron
Status	Active	Due Date	
Priority	(2) Normal	Opened By	Murl
Attachments	📎(0)	Opened Date	28-Jan-25

Description

Removed Fence on N Robertson at trailer park.

Comments

Issue 59: Parks

Category	(1) Category	Assigned To	Arron
Status	Active	Due Date	
Priority	(2) Normal	Opened By	Murl
Attachments	📎(0)	Opened Date	28-Jan-25

Description

Keeping up with the Rio Hondo County Park and the Spotted Sea Trout Park.
Trimming trees and removed fence at the Spotted Sea Trout Park and cleaned trash by the boat ramp.

Comments

Issue 58: Public works City area grass

Category	(1) Category	Assigned To	Arron
Status	Active	Due Date	
Priority	(2) Normal	Opened By	Murl
Attachments	📎(0)	Opened Date	28-Jan-25

Description

Keeping up with city area grass

Comments

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 Code, 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

Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

Ben Medina, City Administrator

SPOTTED SEA TROUT PARK POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Cancellation Policy

To receive a full refund, cancellation must be made 2 weeks before the date of check-in. You will receive 50% refund if you cancel 1 week prior to check in date.

There are no refunds for any cancellation made within 6 days from the date of check-in.

Park Rules

Alcohol

Public display or consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

Arms and firearms

NOT ALLOWED

Campfires

Campfires are NOT permitted to avoid ground wildfires.

Collecting

Take only memories and photographs. Federal and state laws prohibit collecting plants and animals and artifacts.

Firewood

Downed dead wood offers food and shelter to wildlife and provides essential nutrients for the soil. Please do not gather firewood.

Hammocks

NOT ALLOWED

Litter

Please deposit trash in dumpsters. Leaving no trace of your visit helps the park remain beautiful and reduces the possibility of human/animal conflicts.

Parking

Park only in designated areas to protect the plants and soil.

Pets

Protect pets and wildlife by keeping pets on leashes, no longer than 6 feet, at all times. Please pick up after your furry children.

Quiet hours

Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Respect your neighbors and celebrate nature's night noises.

Safe driving

Protect all park users and wildlife by obeying speed limits. No passengers under 18 are permitted in truck beds. Speed limit within the park is 10 mph.

Swimming

Swimming in the Arroyo is NOT Permitted

Tent camping

Please camp only on designated camp pads or sites to protect fragile plants and minimize soil compaction.

Wildlife

Keep wildlife wild. Do not feed or harass wildlife.