

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON January 14, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on January 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor Pro-Tem- Margaret Perez , Present and Commissioners, Juan Garza- Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Absent, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Analicia Zarate – Citizen, Mr. Rob Fracasso -Motor-T President

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Olivares

INVOCATION: By Commissioner Juan Garza

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- Mayor Olivares communicated that he spoke to a representative of the Baptist Church. They want to expand their food bank into; Rio Hondo offered Old Junior High School.

2. Reports: Administrator

Mr. Medina:

- working on obtaining vehicle along with Chief Bilokury.
- Kick off set to installing all LED lights in all City Buildings; Project is \$250K no charge to city.
- Parks are being upkeped.
- Light are on from 5:45 to 8:45
- Netting for soccer goals have been obtained.
- There will be a drive thru clinic for immunizing your pets. (free)

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.*

- Mr. Robert Fracasso, 22 year of active duty in the Marines Corp. 15 year as a Military Instructor, retired 4 yrs ago, current President of Southern Justice Law

Enforcement Motorcycle Club in the Mid Valley. Mr. Garza reached out to Mr. Fracasso regarding heading up the Veteran's committee. He will be appointed Chair of this committee. Mayor told him to invite others that are veterans and would like to be a part of this committee.

4. Consideration and Action to approve the Minutes of the November 12, City Commission Meeting.

- Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2024, City Commission Meeting. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

5. Audience with developers of the metal shredder and barge manufacturer.

- Mr. Cobb presented his plans to the City Commission regarding his project. After much information it was the consensus of the Mayor and Commissioners and under the advice of the City Attorney that Mr. Cobb must present his proposition in writing for attorney & Commissioners to review. Plus a public hearing shall be scheduled to get the Citizen's opinion on this project

6. Consideration and Action on adding two (2) members to the City of Rio Hondo Municipal Development District Board of Directors and setting an annual meeting date.

- Mr. Medina read the requirements to be a member. Mr Medina is recommending we add to 2 members. One of them being Ms Sue Ann Talbot and the second Mr. Ron Garza nominated by Commissioner Bocanegra. We need to confirm if Mr. Garza would be interested in be a part of this Board.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to add two (2) members to the City of Rio Hondo Municipal Development District Board of Directors one of them being Ms. Sue Ann Talbot and Mr. Ron Garza will be pending until we verify he meets the requirements and accepts. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye to approve"; motion carried

7. Consideration and Action on a contract with the Rio Hondo Youth Sports League for the use of the baseball fields at the City-County Park from February 1, 2025 to August 30, 2025.

- Liz Rodriguez was here representing the league. She wants to included the soccer field into the contract. At the moment, per Mayor, the contract is only for the baseball and softball field. If a soccer league forms the league will need to come back to present to the Commissioners. Liz is asking if they can be in charge of maintaining inside of the fields. She is also trying to form a team for special needs kids.

Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the contract with the Rio Hondo Youth Sports League for the use of the baseball fields at the City-County Park from February 1, 2025 to August 30, 2025 upon review by our legal department. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

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

- Fence complete
- Electrical complete
- Playground complete
- Landscape complete
- Plaques have been ordered
- Firefly pending to finalize
- Missing the entrance bar
- Missing light by RV's
- \$860,813.68 spent to date

9. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2025-01 of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 for the purpose of electing three commission members for the position one (1), three (3), and five (5); making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date.

- Mayor Olivares wants election to be held here in the City of Rio Hondo. Mr. Medina is in talks with Remi Garza.

Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01 of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 for the purpose of electing three commission members for the position one (1), three (3), and five (5); making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried

10. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2025-02 of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 for the purpose of imposing a combined local sales tax rate under Tax Code Section 327.003 not to exceed two percent for Street Maintenance and Repair making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date.

- Mr. Medina explained that part of the Sales Tax proposal is to be used on roads but if it does not pass we will go back to using General Fund.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02 (with legal review) of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 for the purpose of imposing a combined local sales tax rate under Tax Code Section 327.003 not to exceed two percent for Street

Maintenance and Repair making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

11. Consideration and Action on contracting with Cameron County Election Services to conduct the May 3, 2025 City Election.

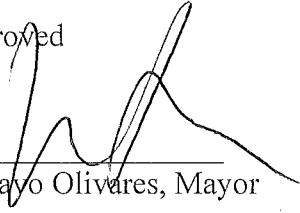
- Commissioner Garza asked for the estimated cost = \$12,000.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the contract with Cameron County Election Services to conduct the May 3, 2025 City Election. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:22 pm. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye to approve", motion carried.

Approved



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 3-4-25

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator.