

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON November 12, 2024

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Regular Meeting on November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor Pro-Tem- Margaret Perez (ABSENT), Commissioners, Juan Garza- (ABSENT), Esteban Bocanegra- Present Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

NOTE: Meeting started at 6:18 pm due to Commissioner Cavazos was running late; approved by Mayor

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard, City Attorney, Lucy Garza, Finance Director, Chief Bilokury, Murl Kummerling, Public Works Director, Bryan De Pierri from Kings & Queens, Valerie Flores, Chaplain Janie Perez from Cross Church, Chaplain Ruben Perez from Cross Church, Analicia Zarate from RGV Cleaning Solutions, Eric Lopez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Gus Olivares

INVOCATION: Led by Chaplain Ruben Perez, Cross Church

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- Mayor Olivares reported that he attended a community meeting where the citizens had questions. One of the questions he was asked was what is the City doing for our veterans. He stated that it was very good meeting.

2. Reports: Administrator

- Mr. Medina stated that we are caught up with mowing, we stopped spraying for mosquitoes, the playground is now in use, the lights at park are being turned on at 6 pm. The fields and walking trails are very well lit. We are looking to set a date for ribbon cutting for the Park, need to coordinate with Commissioner Garza.
- 1,500 candy bags were given out by Police Department at Spooktacular.

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.*

- Bryan De Pierri owner of Kings & Queens signed up for Public Comment he addressed the Mayor and Commissioner stating that he is a resident of Rio Hondo and has had his business for more than years. However, his

landlord recently asked for his location. He wants to remain in the City as he is from here and this is his way of giving to his community.

4. Acknowledgement of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, solid waste rated charge by Republic Services.

- Mr. Medina reviewed the current and past Republic Service rates

5. Consideration and Action

- Mr. Medina explained the Sidewalk Project. He stated that this is a 2-million-dollar TXDOT project along with City of Rio Hondo. Right now, they are working on Ebony and they will go North along Robinson. Later they will connect HWY 106 to the Park. The RV Park has agreed to give us the easement. The rain has delayed this project, but project is moving along. The 2nd phase of this project is going down from the High School to the Middle School that will be done by January. The city put \$84,000 towards this project.
- Commissioner Garza asked if it was possible to annex the area of where the NINOS Headstart is located. Mr. Medina replied that we definitely can since it is a non-profit organization and he will work with City Attorney to draw up the the ordinances to make them part of the City.
- This will be a shared path; which means someone can be riding a bike and someone can be walking. Some sidewalks will be 8' some 10'
- Estimated time to finish would be May 2025.

6. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park Project. (City Administrator)

Mr. Medina updated the Commission on Sea Trout Park as follows:

- Trails complete
- Fencing & Restrooms will be completed by this weekend
- Playground complete
- Pavilion complete
- Pending fixtures for next week
- Pier & Deck are completed
- Trees are being ordered
- Sanitary sewer is done
- RV sites are complete with electrical power and water
- AEP has installed the lights; did not charge to install 4 high powered LED lights.

- Total to date spent is \$928,846.00 pending \$204,000.00, this project is a \$1.6 million project. At the end of the project we should have between \$400,000.00 to \$466,000.00 left over from this project.
- At Pavilion there will be a 4 ft wall that will have a wrap with pictures of the students
- Commissioner Perez asked when the completion will be; Mr. Medina is aiming for the end of November.
- Commissioner Garza asked about the timeframe on the gates. Mr. Medina provided information about the vendor he has in mind.
- Mr. Medina also talked about the new addition to the County Park which is ADA accessible.

Mayor Olivares thanked the commission and is grateful to County, especially County Commissioner Garza, for helping with this project and for the \$287,000.00 that was given to the city for this project.

7. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2024-10 responding to the questions of Mr. Pedro Serna regarding the proposed stormwater easement on Lot 9 Block 18 of the Rio Hondo Original Townsite. (City Administrator)

- Mr. Medina explained to the commission that we are trying to access a pipe that is located on Mr. Perez' property and we are moving the easement to the North by the fence to connect to existing line. Mr. Medina also mentioned that Mr. Perez' concern is his palm trees. City Attorney Drinkard stated he has reviewed the resolution and has his approval.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10 responding to the questions of Mr. Pedro Serna regarding the proposed stormwater easement on Lot 9 Block 18 of the Rio Hondo Original Townsite Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried

8. Discussion and approval regarding the Park Maintenance Lead Person Job Description. (Assistant City Administrator).

- Mayor asked what the starting pay would be. Response \$12-\$14. Mayor wants us to start this position at \$14
- Commissioner Bocanegra felt that the HVAC requirement might be a bit too much for the pay.
- Commissioner Garza asked how many people we have for the grounds work at this moment. Response by Mr. Medina 4 at this time and one part time facility janitor.
- Commissioner Garza also asked if this person would be a working person; Response by Mr. Medina yes

Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the Job Description for the Park Maintenance Lead Person. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

9. **Consideration and Action to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Municipally Owned Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits Program with the State Energy Conservation Office.**

- Mr. Medina stated that this agreement is to replace all the lights at City Hall, Library, Civic Center, Water Plant, Sewer Plant and the Learning Center to convert all the light to LED lights to save us energy.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Municipally Owned Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits Program with the State Energy Conservation Office. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

10. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve the motion carried.

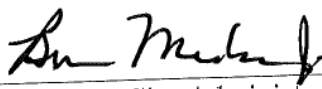
Approved



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator