

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON October 28, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, met in a Regular Meeting on October 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding and present, and Commissioners Juan Garza- Present, Diana Bustamante-Zavala – Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Julian Longoria – Police Chief

Call meeting to Order (Mayor) at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States

Invocation led by Commissioner Diana Bustamante

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioner's Reports.

No Reports

2. Administrator Report:

Ana Hernandez reported on behalf of Mr. Medina the following:

- CDBG application will be released on November 1, 2025
- Police Car Grant has been funded; the car ordered will be delivered in 6 weeks
- Christmas Parade scheduled for December 13, 2025
- Closing 2025 has started; the audit will begin on Nov 1, 2025
- Power washing will begin on November 10, 2025
- Estimates for painting the City are being solicited
- Outside City Hall lights will be replaced starting Nov 17, 2025
- Staff began fixing the Arroyo embankment at City Hall
- Parks, Public Works, and Water Utilities are fully staffed
- Getting ready for the Christmas Season
- Received compliments on how clean and well-maintained the city is.

Police/Fire Dept Report:

Chief Longoria reported that both the PD & Fire Department are doing better than expected; they still need a lot of work, but they are moving in the right direction. Traffic stops have increased. There were 40 traffic stops, 182 contacts with the public, 141 Business checks, and 79 calls for

service, with no significant incidents. Officers have been instructed to make contact with citizens whenever possible.

On the Fire Dept side, there were 12 calls for service, which are as follows:

Two brush fires, five medical calls, one bee attack.

Two structure fires, one vehicular accident, and one rescue/recovery.

Chief Longoria wants to host several events, the first being C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events). This program outlines the best practices for surviving an active attack in any public place.

The chief wants to hold a fundraiser through an LTC class on December 6th. The class will be free, but donations and sponsorships will be accepted to fund RHPD training and equipment.

Chief also wants to have the following events:

- fishing with a cop on November 24
- Family Movie Night
- National Night Out
- Rio Hondo Youth Club
 - ➔ For ages 12-18
 - ➔ Teach our youth life skills that are not generally taught in school but are needed in everyday life
 - ➔ Gun Safety
 - ➔ Domestic Violence Awareness
 - ➔ How to change a tire
 - ➔ Pre-Trip Vehicle inspection
- BBQ Cook Off
 - ➔ Proceeds for Fire Dept

The Mayor stated that these are all great ideas and he has the support of the Commission.

The Chief also reported that they are currently checking all fire hydrants and fixing the ones that are not working, after which they will be repaired. They will begin painting all the hydrants.

The mayor added that the Community should be included in this project.

The mayor also mentioned that he has asked the Chief to look into having the siren repaired.

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 on the agenda.*

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Consideration and action to approve the September 23, 2025, City Commission Minutes.

Ms. Bustamante noted a mistake in paragraph 3 of item 1 – the date for Mike’s Grand Opening is incorrect; it should be September 27, 2025.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2025, with corrections. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve. The motion carried.

5. Status report on Bridge-Fest 2025.

Ana Hernandez reported to the council that the City had been receiving many complaints regarding Wrecking Crew Jam and the inability to communicate with them. Mr. Betancourt also failed to meet deadlines. Mr. Betancourt kept promising a list of vendors, a list of the contract for the closing act, and to meet with the security company to provide a layout of the event, but every time there was an excuse or he asked for a few more days. The City was recently given another contact name for the list of vendors after reaching out to the person. He stated that he didn’t have this list, as Lola Betancourt was handling it. Ms. Hernandez also said that she reached out to Clint Black’s agent, who was supposed to be our closing act. His agent had never heard of Mr. Betancourt nor Wrecking Crew Jams.

The mayor requested that a statement be released immediately regarding the cancellation of Bridge-Fest.

According to Mayor and Commissioner Bocanegra, Bridge-Fest should not be incorporated into the Christmas Festivities.

Mr. Drinkard stated that he knew this guy was not honest when he sent in a 2-page contract.

6. Discussion and Action on the appointment of Commissioner Place 1, Juan Garza, as Mayor Pro Tem.

The Mayor stated that, at Mr. Drinkard's suggestion, if the Mayor is not available, the Mayor Pro Tem can step in. After speaking with Mr. Garza and explaining his duties as Mayor Pro Tem, he nominated Mr. Garza for consideration. Mr. Garza has been serving on the board for some time, and the Mayor believes he is a strong candidate for Mayor Pro Tem.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to appoint Commissioner Place 1, Juan Garza, as

Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

7. Workshop and Training on the Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551; and Public Information Act, Texas Government Code 552. (required one hour).

THIS ITEM WAS PUSHED TO THE END OF THE MEETING.

Mr. Robert Drinkard conducted a workshop and training on the Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, and the Public Information Act, Texas Government Code 552. There were questions along the way from the Commissioners. Mr. Drinkard will issue Certificates of Completion to all.

8. Consideration and action to reschedule the November 25, 2025, and December 23, 2025, City Commission meetings to November 18, 2025, and December 16, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to reschedule the November 25, 2025, and December 23, 2025, City Commission meetings to November 18, 2025, and December 16, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; the motion carried

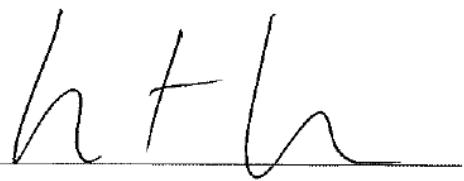
9. Executive Session pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 551.071, for attorney consultation regarding legal fees in conjunction with the FY 2025-2026 Budget.

**The Commission entered Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.
Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:15 pm**

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn at 8:35. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion, and all voted “aye” to approve; the motion carried.

Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 11/18/2025

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator/Secretary

Date: 11.18.2025