

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON October 8, 2024

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Special Meeting on October 8, 2024 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- Present Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard, City Attorney, Lucy Garza, Finance Director, from Church Men's Prayer Group: Madgaleno Juarez, David G., Mr. Bocanegra, and Martin Garza

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Olivares

INVOCATION: By Magdaleno Juarez

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Garza asked Mr. Medina to please take care of the standing water on Harris St.
- Mayor Olivares asked about the potholes and Mr. Medina reiterated that they will be finishing up with potholes.
- Mr. Medina also mentioned that Public Works was working on repairing a leak.
- Mayor Olivares reminded everyone about Spooktacular to be held on October 29, 2024. He said for everyone to do their part: Park Clean, Police and Fire Department to be present at event.

2. Reports: Administrator

- Mr. Medina stated that we are working on the Potholes at Reynolds, Heywood, Robinson.
- Public Works has been cutting grass and we hired additional contract help.

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 to approve September 17, 2024, City Commission Minutes.

- Commissioner Perez made motion to approve the Minutes for the September 17, 2024 meeting with corrections to item 1, Bullet #2, Commissioner Garza seconded the motion. All voted “aye” approve; motion carried.

5. Status Report on the TXDOT sidewalk project. (City Administrator)

- 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: 10.22.2024

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator.