

## **MINUTES FROM A SPECIAL MEETING ON September 30, 2024**

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Special Meeting on September 30, 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- Absent, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Police Chief Bilokury, Allison Bastian, City Attorney, Lucy Garza, Finance Director, Murl Kemmerling, PW Director

Please see attached list for all other attendees

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Olivares**

### **INVOCATION: By Commissioner Margaret Perez**

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- 1. Call meeting to Order (Mayor)**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **UNITED STATES PLEDGE**
- 3. INVOCATION: Led by Commissioner Perez**
- 4. OPEN FORUM:** At this time, audience is allowed 3 minutes per person to address the Council on any topic. There is no discussion or formal action taken during this agenda item. The speaker must identify themselves before speaking. A Speaker Request Form must be presented to the City Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.
- 5. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 2024-11 Regarding the Powers and Duties of the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Rio Hondo.**

There was discussion amongst commission regarding Ordinance 2024-11 and the duties and powers of the Mayor.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approved Ordinance 2024-11 regarding the powers and duties of the Mayor and the City Administrator of the City of Rio Hondo.

### **6. CLOSED SESSION:**

- a. Closed session pursuant to Sec. 551.071, Tex. Gov't Code, for attorney briefing and consultation regarding the City's legal rights, duties, and obligations concerning recent inquiries and other pursuits undertaken by the Rio Hondo Police Department, including potential legal and operational impacts arising from such actions, and implications on City governance.

*Commissioners went into Closed Executive Session at 6:08 pm  
Commissioner reconvened at 6:55 pm*

b. Closed session pursuant to Sec. 551.074, Tex. Gov't Code, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, to wit:

i. City Attorney :

*Opened session at 6:55 pm      Reconvened at 6:56 pm*

Allison stated that she was filling in for Mr. Robert Drinkard as he is part of ongoing investigation. If an external investigating firm is hired their firm will still be available to assist. Mr. Drinkard will just recluse himself.

ii. Police Chief

*Closed Session at 6:56 pm      Reconvened at 7:06 pm*

iii. City Administrator

*Closed Session at 7:06      Reconvened at 7:07 pm*

7. Closed session pursuant to Sec. 551.071, Tex. Gov't Code, to receive legal advice and counsel arising from the deliberations undertaken in items 5(b)(i)-(iii) regarding the City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Administrator, and associated legal implications for general City operations.

*Commissioners went into Closed Executive Session at 7:08 pm*

*Reconvened into open session at 7:18 pm*

8. Consideration and action regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the City Attorney.

*NO ACTION TAKEN*

9. Consideration and action regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Police Chief.

*NO ACTION TAKEN*

10. Consideration and action regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the City Administrator.

*NO ACTION TAKEN*

11. Consideration and action regarding the appointment of an interim City Attorney.

*NO ACTION TAKEN*

**12. Consideration and action regarding the appointment of an interim Police Chief.**

***NO ACTION TAKEN***

**13. Consideration and action regarding the appointment of an interim City Administrator.**

***NO ACTION TAKEN***

**14. Consideration and action to provide direction to the Mayor, City Administrator, Interim City Administrator, City Attorney in addressing City administrative or operational impacts and concerns arising from or relating to recent inquiries and other pursuits undertaken by the Rio Hondo Police Department.**

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion hire an external investigating firm to investigate recent inquiries and other pursuits undertaken by the Rio Hondo Police Dept. Commission Perez seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve motion carried.

**15. Deliberation, direction, and possible action regarding current administrative and operational coordination and communications between and among the City Administrator, City Attorney, and the City Police Chief, and their respective departments.**

The Mayor stated that the City needs to keep moving forward. We need to work and get along with each other. This situation will have its due process but in the time being we must continue doing our jobs.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved:



**Gustavo Olivares, Mayor**



**Ben Medina Jr, City Administrator**