

## MINUTES FROM A SPECIAL MEETING ON May 30, 2025

**The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on May 30, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor, Present and Commissioners, Juan Garza- Present, Diana Bustamante-Zavala – Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Absent, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present**

**ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Chief Bilokury, Sgt Michael Rodriguez, Robert Snyder – Reserve Officer, Dan Sanchez – Attorney, Attorney Shergold, Residents: Mrs. Bilokury, Heather Horras, Guadalupe Medina, Zenaida Medina, Alonso Garza, Tony David, Kristi David, and David Reyes.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION: Pastor David Reyes from La Trinidad

Regular Agenda:

1. 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.

Resident Kristi David expressed her concerns regarding Chief Bilokury. She stated that she has been living here with no services. What she meant by this is that a few years ago she received a letter signed by Chief Bilokury stating that they would not receive any ambulance, fire, or police assistance unless there was 2 officers on duty, which is very rare. Ms. David stated this was in retaliation to a letter her husband wrote warning the City of Rio Hondo that Chief Bilokury was not of the integrity to hold said position. She added that her dog was shot while in kennel on her front porch. After, taking her dog to the vet were they did X-rays which showed a bullet, she called the PD. She stated she was asked a series of questions. One being “Do you have any enemies?” to which she responded “yes, your Chief Bilokury”. She then obtained a police report made by Chief Bilokury which stated that she had threatened him when she read the Police Report it stated “dog shot” and that was their investigation. Ms. David stated that you would expect an investigation when there’s a shooting but there wasn’t. Since then the Davids have put a fence and tend to stay on their property since they don’t feel safe, secure, and have no support.

Resident Alonso Garza addressed the Council stating he himself has been a victim because of Chief Bilokury. He stated he could have sued the City but didn’t. He stated that it is time for a change and for the Commission to do this for the City of Rio Hondo. He stated that

later something bad can happen and the City will pay the consequences. Mr. Garza ended with stating to take it to heart and to make a decision, whether they like it or not, and do what is right for the City of Rio Hondo.

Resident Heather Horras expressed concern regarding Spotted Sea Trout Park in terms of safety. Bad issues with people walking on walking trail. Signs not working. She stated that we need to put something better than cones so that people don't drive on the trails. She constantly gets yelled at by people she calls out.

Resident Tony David started by thanking the commission for not allowing spot zoning in his neighborhood at previous meeting. Mr. David then went on to say that regarding what his wife Kristi David had stated he never filed a complaint because as he has stated before he just wants to be left alone. But it has been a lot of years, and he did warn previous commissioners. He stated that on the police report Chief Bilokury called his wife passive aggressive. "He's not a psychologist to say she is passive aggressive". He added that Chief Bilokury called the Texas Rangers on him for no reason and he has a witness which is Mark Garcia. Mr. David stated he knows of 2 individuals that were arrested but charges were never filed. Mr. David said "What you do in a community – policing – will have an effect for a generation". Mr. David said he will never forget what was done to him and neither will his 2 sons. Mr. David said there was so much more he could say but not enough time.

Attorney John Shergold introduced himself to the council as representing Chief Bilokury. He added that Chief Bilokury has requested that item 2 be discussed in the open public. He also, if there is any action taken against his client, he is protected under the Texas Whistleblower Statue for retaliation for making a report.

Attorney Dan Sanchez introduced himself to the council as Mr. Ben Medina's attorney. He stated that Mr. Medina has been a victim of Chief Bilokury's actions. Mr. Medina was arrested, bonded out, and had to hire him as his attorney. All of this has had a big impact on Mr. Medina. Mr. Sanchez asked the Council to remember they are the gatekeepers of justice in this community and they are the ones that need to make it clear that no one is above the law. Mr. Sanchez told the council to consider that when making their decision and send a message to this community that they can count them as elected officials.

2. Executive Session: Deliberation of the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Police Chief/Public Safety Director pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, unless the employee elects to have the deliberation in open session.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to go into Executive Session under Government Code 551.071- Consultation with Attorney. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

**Executive Session: 6:18 pm**

**Open Session: 6:44 pm**

Mr. Shergold asked the Council for this item to be tabled so that he can discuss with Mr. Drinkard but in the case that adverse personnel action is taken against Chief Bilokury he will take the position that this is retaliation for him doing his job. His client position is simple he reported unlawful action by one of the city's employees. If he is terminated we will be in court within 60 days from the time of his termination. Mr. Shergold added that his client did the right thing. Again, Mr. Shergold asked for this item to be tabled so that his client have the opportunity to speak with legal representative for the city. He added that if his client was to be fired it would look as if it was rushed and not done fairly.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to go into Executive Session under Government Code 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried

**Executive Session 6:47 pm**

**Open Session 7:03 pm**

3. Consideration and Action on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Police Chief/Public Safety Director.

Mayor addressed the council and citizens in attendance that the decision they are about to make was not made from one day to another. He added that the city hired an investigator. The investigation took months. The Mayor also said that he received letters from several staff members that have concerns being here.

Commissioner Cavazos commented that there were several violations that were committed. There were several cases that were not properly investigated.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion for the immediate dismissal of Police Chief/Public Safety Director. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion.

Commissioner:

Voted:

Juan Garza

aye

Olga Gallegos

aye

Diana Bustamente-Zavala

aye

Esteban Bocanegra

Absent

Jose Cavazos

aye

Motion carried.

4. Consideration and Action on the appointment or employment of a temporary/interim Police Chief/Public Safety Director.

Mr. Medina recommended Ms. Olga Maldonado as interim Police Chief effective immediately. She is retired Chief of Police for City of Mercedes and is currently the Mayor of La Feria.

Commissioner Cavazos stated that he would like to hire within the department. He recommended Sgt. Rodriguez.

Mayor asked Sgt Rodriguez if he would be interested being Interim Chief. He stated that given the situation that is happening in the City we need someone neutral.

Sgt. Rodriguez replied that he is interested and that he is here for the City.

Mayor added that whoever they select will also be running the Fire Dept. He again asked

the Seargent if he would still be interested.

Sgt Rodriguez replied that he would help the City until they hire someone but as far as a permanent position he is not interested in running the Fire Dept even though he is ceritified.

Mr. Medina stated his vision was to bring someone from the outside. He added that Ms. Maldonado would define the roles of Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Commissioner Cavazos stated that bringing in Ms. Maldonado would be replacing the Chief instead of reducing staff even more.

Sgt Rodriguez stated that they are very short staffed. The Police Dept has just lost Officer Ingle & Officer Ball and now the Chief. The Police Dept is short 4 officers.

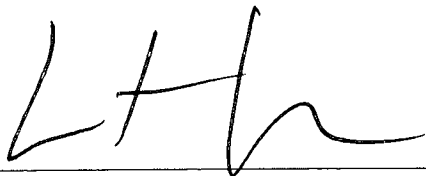
Commissioner Garza questioned if Ms. Maldonado would be handling the Fire Dept. there was discussion regarding amongst commissioner regarding this topic. Commissioner Cavazos added that although she is not certified to run Fire which is the purpose of the Assistant Fire Chief plus we also have Sgt Rodriguez. Therefore, Ms. Maldonado can still be the Public Safety Director

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to appoint Ms. Olga Maldonado as temporary/interim Police Chief/Public Safety Director. Commissioner Bustamente-Zavala seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

## 5. Adjournment

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve motion carried.

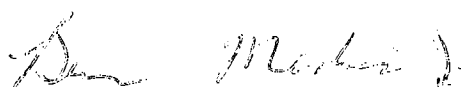
Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 06/26/2025

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator

Date: 8/26/2025