

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING ON JULY 15, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Special Meeting on July 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, and Commissioners, Juan Garza- Present, Esteban Bocanegra- ABSENT, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present, and Diana J. Bustamante-Zavala, ABSENT.

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Lucia Garza, Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Julian Longoria, Public Safety Director, Murl Kimberling, Public Works Director, Eddie Garcia, Consulting Engineer, Jose Munoz, Consulting Engineer, Ty Ryner, Buck Ryner, Stephie Ryner, and Kendra Busse Rocha with Grant works, Sue Ann with RHISD

Call meeting to Order (City Commission) at 5.53 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION: Led by Commissioner Juan Garza.

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Gallegos expressed the need for an ordinance to let persons know that not to park on the new sidewalks. Mr. Drinkard said that he will review the existing sidewalk ordinance to see if it needs to be modified. Mayor Olivares requested that he sidewalk ordinance be brought to the next meeting.

2. Reports: Administrator Report

Mr. Medina discussed that he had met with Mrs. Carla Marin the new manager of Cameron County Irrigation No. 3 on the condition of the Irrigation ditches in our city. She will be working with the city to improve the ditches by working with NADBank to bring funding for these projects. She toured the area and liked the new sidewalk along the Robertson Street ditch.

Mr. Murl Kimberling, Public Works Director reported that water plant had some electrical problems that had been repaired at the water plant. The sewer plant need a new sludge pump the requirement is that it needs three pumps at all times. The grass is being mowed at all parks. The Mayor mentioned that he had received a letter from TECQ on findings at the water plant. Mr. Kimberling said he had fixed the finding on the letter. A separate letter will be sent to the commission what has been resolved on the findings. He requested from Mr. Kimberling that he address all of the issues. Mr. Medina advised the Commission that Mr. Kimberling will be retiring on August 12, 2025.

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 on the June 24, 2025 City commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Juan Garza made a motion to table the minutes and seconded by Commissioner Jose Cavazos; motion carried.

5. Discussion and review bid tabulation, engineer's recommendation letter a, and consider awarding a construction contract for the Rio Hondo Catherine Drainage Improvements project CDBG-DR Contract no 23-152-E184 to Ryner construction as the low bidder.

Mr. Jose Munoz, Consulting Engineer for the project, addressed the Commission. He reviewed the bidding process. He said that Ryner Construction was the lowest bidder for the project. The bid was at \$891,958.71 which above the available budget. He is proposing to do value engineering to reduce the cost and recommended that the project be awarded to Ryner Construction with a change order. Mr. Medina commented that the City had been transparent in providing all of the submitted bids, Consulting Engineer's letter of recommendation and that Ryner had produce a bid bond and had the proper insurance. Mr. Medina recommended that the bid be awarded to Ryner Construction. Commissioner Garza requested clarification on the change order. Mr. Munoz explained that the project was over budget by \$81,523.71 and that a change to the scope of the project is necessary to lower the costs. The change would be to leave an existing drainage pipe in place which the bidder had agreed to the change. The Mayor expressed the importance to local businesses bidding on the city projects such as Ryner Construction.

Commissioner Jose Cavazos made a motion to award a construction contract for the Rio Hondo Catherine Drainage Improvements project, CDBG-DR Contract no 23-152-E184, to Ryner Construction as the low bidder with a change order. Commissioner Olga Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried. Mr. Buck Ryner expressed his gratitude to the commission and stated that this was his first meeting to the commission.

6. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2025-15 regarding a finance contract for the purpose of financing three electric lift-station sewer pumps for the sewer plant lift station.

Mr. Medina explained that the Resolution 2025-15 was to request financing from Government Capital Finance Corporation in the sum of \$200,000 dollars for sewer pumps at the Sewer Plant. TECQ has been sending letters to the city regarding the overflowing of sewage on N. Arroyo Street. Residents in the area have also been concerned with the overflow of sewage. The pumps will correct this problem. The project will be paid with water and sewer funds from the enterprise fund. The selection of the pumps and will be brought to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Juan Garza made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 for financing three electric lift-station sewer pumps for the sewer plant lift station. Commissioner Olga Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

7. Discussion, review, and possible action of the Cameron County Emergency Fire Zones for 2025.

Mr., Medina and Mr. Longoria, Public Safety Director present the Fire Zone maps to the Commission and the proposed map to the Commission. Land of the district is being given to Harlingen and on the

east side of the district will be given to Los Fresnos. Commissioner Cavazos expressed that we need to respond more to calls because land taken away will not be given back. The Mayor requested that a letter be written to Cameron County Emergency District protesting the boundary changes. Mr. Longoria will prepare the latest statistics to support the city's position.

8. Status Report on the 2024 - 2025 CDBG Streets Project.

Mr. Medina, Kendra Rocha, Grantworks representative and Raul Garcia presented the status report. Mira Mar Street is moving on schedule, and a problem with Kinlinger Street is being addressed. A meeting with TXDOT will be scheduled to discuss the drainage at the intersection of S. Reynolds and Kinlinger Street. Mr. Garcia is recommending that the curb and gutter be removed and allow payment all the way to Ebony Street. Mrs. Rocha stated there is surplus funding of \$130,292 to finish the project. A change order will be brought back to the Commission.

No Action was taken.

9. Discussion regarding the City Hall, Library, and Civic Center roof projects.

Mr. Medina discussed the need for the roof repairs at the library, City Hall and the Fire House. Mr. Robert Drinkard explained that the City Roof had been in litigation that was resolved. The Mayor requested that Mr. Medina visit with the commissioner individually and come back to the commission with a new list of priorities. No Action was taken.

10. Consideration and Action approving the Comprehensive Plan CDBG documents.

- a. Resolution Authorizing Signatories
- b. Resolution Regarding Civil Rights
- c. Citizen Participation Plan Compliant Procedures
- d. Excessive Force Policy
- e. Limited English Proficiency Plan
- f. Section 504 Policy against Discrimination based on Handicap and Grievance Procedures
- g. Code of Conduct Policy
- h. Fair Housing Policy
- i. Section 3 Policy
- j. Proclamation of April as Fair Housing month.

Mr. Medina explained that these Resolutions are part of the Comprehensive Plan funding. They are all government documents that are part of the funding requirements. Commissioner Juan Garza motioned to approve the Resolutions in the Comprehensive Plan CDBG requirements. Jose Cavazos seconded the motion and, all vote aye to approve the motion.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Olga Gallegos motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:44 pm. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jose Cavazos. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cavazos motioned to allow the City Attorney to proceed with the items discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olga Gallegos and voted aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjourn:

Commissioner Olga Gallegos motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Jose Cavazos and all voted aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

Ben Medina, City Administrator