

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF RIO HONDO
COUNTY OF CAMERON**

Juan Garza, Commissioner Place 1
Margaret Perez, Mayor Pro-Tem
Jose S. Cavazos, Commissioner Place 5

Esteban Bocanegra, Place 2
Olga Gallegos, Commissioner, Place 4

Gustavo Olivares
Mayor

**City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo
January 14, 2025**

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meetings Act, notice is hereby given that the governing body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, will convene for a Regular Meeting at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the City Commission Chambers on the Second Floor of the Rio Hondo Municipal Building located at 121 N. Arroyo Blvd., Rio Hondo, Texas 78583.

Call meeting to Order (City Commission)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION:

Regular Agenda:

- 1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports**
- 2. Reports: Administrator Report**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0415, the City Commission, without having provided notice, may make reports about items of community interest if action is not taken and possible action is not discussed regarding the information provided in the report. "Items of community interest" include: (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations or condolence; (2) information regarding holiday schedules; (3) an honorary or salutory recognition of a public official, public employee, or another citizen, except the discussions regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutory recognition for the purposes of the City of Rio Hondo; (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the City of Rio Hondo that attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the City of Rio Hondo; and (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the political subdivision that has arisen after the posting of the agenda

- 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.*
- 4. Consideration and Action to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2024 City Commission Meeting.**

5. Audience with developers of the metal shredder and barge manufacturer.
6. Consideration and Action on Adding two (2) members to the City of Rio Hondo Municipal Development District Board of Directors and setting an annual meeting date.
7. Consideration and Action on a contract with the Rio Hondo Youth Sports League for the use of the baseball fields at the City-County Park from February 1, 2025, to August 30, 2025.
8. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park Project.
9. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2025-01 of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, Ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 to elect three commission members for the position one (1) three (3) and five (5); making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date.

Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2025-02 of the City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, Ordering the General Election to be held on the 3rd day of May 2025 to for the purpose of imposing a combined local sales tax rate under Tax Code Section 327.003 not to exceed two percent for Street Maintenance and Repair making other provision related to such election; and providing for the effective date.

10. Consideration and Action on contracting with Cameron County Election Services to conduct the May 3, 2025 City Election.

11. Adjournment

Note: The City Commission for the City of Rio Hondo the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during this meeting to discuss any matters, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.087 (Economic Development).

Note: The Meeting is accessible to Americans with Disabilities. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, please call the City Secretary at (956) 748-2102, with at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

Gustavo Olivares
Mayor of the City of Rio Hondo

Posted: Friday, January 10, 2025 at ____ p.m.

I, City Secretary for the City of Rio Hondo, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting is a true and correct record and was posted in the bulletin board outside City Hall, and the bulletin board in the City Hall lobby, at 121 N. Arroyo Blvd, Rio Hondo, Texas 78583 and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time

Item 4

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON November 12, 2024

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Regular Meeting on November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor Pro-Tem- Margaret Perez (ABSENT), Commissioners, Juan Garza- (ABSENT), Esteban Bocanegra- Present Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

NOTE: Meeting started at 6:18 pm due to Commissioner Cavazos was running late; approved by Mayor

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard, City Attorney, Lucy Garza, Finance Director, Chief Bilokury, Murl Kummerling, Public Works Director, Bryan De Pierri from Kings & Queens, Valeric Flores, Chaplain Janie Perez from Cross Church, Chaplain Ruben Perez from Cross Church, Analicia Zarate from RGV Cleaning Solutions, Eric Lopez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Gus Olivares

INVOCATION: Led by Chaplain Ruben Perez, Cross Church

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- Mayor Olivares reported that he attended a community meeting where the citizens had questions. One of the questions he was asked was what is the City doing for our veterans. He stated that it was very good meeting.

2. Reports: Administrator

- Mr. Medina stated that we are caught up with mowing, we stopped spraying for mosquitoes, the playground is now in use, the lights at park are being turned on at 6 pm. The fields and walking trails are very well lit. We are looking to set a date for ribbon cutting for the Park, need to coordinate with Commissioner Garza.
- 1,500 candy bags were given out by Police Department at Spooktacular.

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.*

- Bryan De Pierri owner of Kings & Queens signed up for Public Comment he addressed the Mayor and Commissioner stating that he is a resident of Rio Hondo and has had his business for more than years. However, his

landlord recently asked for his location. He wants to remain in the City as he is from here and this is his way of giving to his community.

4. Acknowledgement of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, solid waste rated charge by Republic Services.

- Mr. Medina reviewed the current and past Republic Service rates

5. **Consideration and Action**

- 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 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: _____

Attest:

Ben Medina, City Administrator

Item 5

Item 7

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF THE RIO HONDO COUNTY PARK BY THE RIO HONDO YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUE/RIO HONDO PONY LEAGUE

AGREEMENT

This agreement is made by and between the City of Rio Hondo, a municipal Corporation of the County of Cameron, acting by and through its City Commission (hereinafter called "City") and the Rio Hondo Youth Sports League (RHYSL) acting by and through its President or Designee.

WHEREAS, the RHYSL desires to use the baseball fields, and softball fields at Rio Hondo County Park for the interest and general welfare of the youth of the Rio Hondo area and agree to be legally bound as follows;

Section 1 The City of Rio Hondo Texas agrees to allow the use of the Rio Hondo County Park baseball fields, and softball fields, to the RHYSL and areas so designated by the City of Rio Hondo. The RHYSL will have the obligation to give advance notice to the City, when the park will not be use, to allow the City to hold any other event.

Section 2 This agreement shall commence on February 1 2025 and terminate on June 30, 2025. The City and the RHYSL agree that either party with a ninety day written notice may terminate this agreement.

Section 3 The RHYSL will be responsible for routing minor matters, including the striping of the baseball fields and maintaining the fenced baseball, and softball fields and seating areas so designated free of litter. The RHYSL will be responsible for supplying and managing the Concession Stand and the maintaining cleanliness of restrooms when utilized by the RHYSL during all games and in preparation of such games. The RHYSL shall pay the City \$1.00 per month for the use of the park. The RHYSL will be responsible to maintain, repair major or minor damages and keep the park free of litter resulting from League events.

Section 4 The city will be responsible for mowing grass and for all routine and major maintenance of the baseball, and softball fields, such to be performed and maintained at all times during the term of this agreement. The city is also responsible for the provision of utilities, including electricity. The city will be responsible for repairs of all facilities related to plumbing, electrical and fixtures, not caused by negligence of the RHYSL.

Section 5 The RHYSL shall not be permitted to make the alterations to fields and the areas adjacent without prior written approval from the City. Any and all alterations, additions or improvements made to the fields and the areas adjacent shall become the property of the City and remain on the premises.

Section 6 RHYSL programs will be priority; however, the city may offer the baseball and softball fields to the public during the term of this agreement and shall coordinate with the RHYSL the use of the fields.

Section 7 In an effort to conserve electricity, the City shall turn off all lights when not in use. And shall be used for practice sessions. The lights will be turned off at 10pm.

The RHYSL will provide the city with a game and practice schedule.

Section 8 The RHYSL shall at all time during the terms of this agreement, or any extension hereof, maintain adult supervision and monitor the fields at all times that the fields are in use.

Section 9 The City will allow the RHYSL to use the bathrooms located near the fields, and operate and maintain the Concession Stand. The Concession Stand and storage room may be use by the RHYSL for storage.

Section 10 This instrument constitutes the sole and only agreement between the City and the RHYSL respecting the baseball, and softball areas adjacent to the fields. Both parties agreed that terms herein specified are correctly and set forth the obligation of the City and the RHYSL to each other as of its date.

Section 11 The RHYSL shall carry appropriate liability insurance and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City for any and all negligent and or intentional acts of RHYSL. Proof of appropriate insurance must be provided to the City at the time of execution of this agreement. Further, the city is not responsible for accidents occurring in connection with League events or property not owned by the City.

Section 12 The RHYSL shall permit City's agents, representatives or employees to enter on the premises for the purpose of inspection to determine whether RHYSL is in compliance with the terms of this agreement and for the purpose of maintaining repairs or altering the premise. The RHYSL shall receive one set of all keys to the Park and is not authorized to duplicate any of the keys. The City will place the locks and will give one set of key to the RHYSL.

Section 13 The RHYSL shall not assign any part of the premises herein to any other party without prior written consent from the City. However, the City will respect the RHYSL affiliation with any patron, sponsor, and/or youth organization.

Section 14 The RHYSL must provide adequate security in the parking lot and inside the park, preferably commissioned officers so they have power to arrest if necessary.

Section 15 The City agrees to allow the RHYSL to post up non-political sponsor poster on back fence of the Baseball and Softball field for the term of this agreement.

Section 16 The RHYSL will report to the City Commission every two months all events, finance reports, and improvement listings.

Section 17 The RHYSL will have a park cleanup day once a month will the contract is in effect.

Section 18 any violations of this agreement will immediately cancel this agreement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have executed this agreement in two (2) original copies this 14th day of January 14, 2025

CITY OF RIO HONDO

City of Rio Hondo Designee

RIO HONDO YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUE

President or Designee