

## **MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON March 25, 2025**

**The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on March 25, 2025 at 6:40 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- Absent, and Jose Cavazos- Present**

**ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Chief Bilokury, Sgt Michael Rodriguez, Officer Doria, Residents: Ruben Rocha Jr., Tony & Kristi David, Diana Jean Bustamante, David & Victoria Reyes, Gloria Rodriguez**

\*\*\*\*\*

Call meeting to Order (City Commission) at 6:40 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION: **Pastor David Reyes**

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports
  - **Commissioner Bocanegra stated that he ran into the Manager of Twin Palms and that he stated that no one from the City had reached out or made contact.**
  - **The Mayor replied the reason for that was that the fence was within ROW, therefore the fence was removed and given back to them. Mayor also stated we did ask for more property but it was denied. Mayor instructed Mr. Medina to follow up with them.**
  - **Mayor reported he met with TXDOT regarding the Bridge being struck and the electrical panel was damaged. TXDOT immediately contacted AEP to shut power off. The hold back at this time is the components but hopefully be end of the week the Bridge should be back in service. Mayor suggested we talk to TXDOT about placing signage or cones to avoid another accident and also signage to the Spotted Sea Trout Park.**
2. Reports: Administrator Report, Library Report, Senior Center Report, Public Works Report, Parks Report, Public Safety Report

**Mr. Medina reported the following:**

- **Introduction of new Officer Rolando Doria**

- **Mr. Doria introduced himself to the Board, he stated has 17 years of Law Enforcement experience all of them at Port Of Brownsville.**
- **Mr. Medina reported that the Spotted Sea Trout Park keeps getting great reviews**
- **Bids for Street bids for Miramar, Killinger, and Harrold St are due tomorrow.**
- **City County Park Ribbon Cutting and Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday April 12.**
- **Contract with GLO on the Master Plan has been approved.**
- **The energy study for our facilities still underway.**
- **The GLO Stormwater Project for Streets Catherine and Haywood, the Environmental is underway once that is done bidding will begin.**
- **Brightly project status and asset management is being prepared. This platform will allow you to check status on projects.**

**Mr. Medina reported on behalf of Parks and Public Works**

- **The parks are being maintained by 4 staff persons**
- **All facilities are cleaned daily in the morning and in the afternoon**
- **Mayor asked status on arm; we need to start collecting**
- **Right of ways are scheduled for cutting and clean up**
- **Alley clean up is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month**
- **Curb clean up and pothole repair is scheduled for March 28**

**Chief Bilokury reported the following:**

- **Server has been repaired**
- **The Department is at 57.14% on staffing**
- **21 Traffic Stops – Issued 8 Citations, 13 Warnings, 3 Crash Reports**
- **2 Animal bites – 1 on Catherine and on Reynolds**
- **3 disorderly conducts**
- **10 on Fire Dept Staff**
- **Burn Ban in effect**

**Murl Kemmerling reported the following:**

- **Problems at Lift Station but they are being addressed**
- **Commissioner Cavazos requested from Murl a report similar to Chief Bilokury's report.**

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 on approving the Minutes of the January 28, 2025 and March 4, 2025 City Commission minutes.

**Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2025 and March 4, 2025 Commission Minutes. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted “aye to approve”, motion carried.**

5. Discussion regarding the Veterans Memorial Project.

- **Working on the brick paver project for the rotunda. Mr. Rob has some contacts and we are inviting other Veterans to give input; the Mayor along with Mr. Bocanegra would like to be involved with this project.**
- **The Mayor gave a little background for the audience on how this project got started.**

6. Consideration and Action abandoning Park F Street and Mira Mar Street from the Lots 1 through 8 of Block 17, Lots 1, 2, 3 of Block 18 and Farm Lots 107, 108, 109 and 110 Rio Hondo Park Townsite and Small Acreage Subdivision, Cameron County Plat recorded in Volume 2 page 1 Cameron County Texas

- **Mr. Medina requested this item to be tabled as he assumed an ordinance would suffice but according to the title company they need to give us the metes and bounds because Miramar & Park St still exist on the plat. Once they do this they will give the City a deed so that we can transfer over to School District and they can then sell.**
- **Mayor asked for an explanation.**
- **Mr. Medina explained at the stadium there’s a plat and there is a Right of Way that runs from North to South all across the stadium and behind the bleachers on Arroyo there was Park St. These are still under City but now the School District cannot sell because technically it still belongs to the City**

This item was tabled.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried

7. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2025-10 of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas expressing support for a multi-purpose arena to be constructed in Cameron County.

- **Commissioner Cavazos asked if we knew where the arena would be at. Mr. Medina responded that it would probably on the corner of Hwy 100 and Expressway.**

- **Mayor stated that supporting this doesn't mean we are approving the arena it only means we supported.**
- **Mr. Medina added that this would be paid from HOT and will not increase taxes for citizens.**

Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10 of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas expressing support for a multi-purpose arena to be constructed in Cameron County. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

8. Consideration and Action to approve the Mid-Year 2024-2025 Budget Progress Report.

- **Mr. Medina presented report. At present time our proposed revenues are \$1,617,128.00 and we have collected \$576,405.41, leaving a variance of \$1,040,722.59. On Expenses we have \$673,235.47 a deficit of \$96,830 but this is ok because the Parks Revenue is not showing the Legacy Grant nor the Parks & Wildlife Grant so in reality we have more cash. The only concern Mr. Medina has is the Senior Center.**
- **Mayor stated he requested this report from Mr. Medina. He wants to be aware of the purchases. Mayor stated he not only wants to know about big purchases but also the smaller ones.**
- **Mayor also explained briefly to board how budgets work and things to consider when working on budget this coming year.**

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the Mid-Year 2024 -2025 budget progress report. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried

9. Financial Report on Spotted Sea Trout Park.

- **Mr. Medina presented a report for Spotted Sea Trout Park. Grant Funds \$1,322,615.43. Additional funds \$307,816.10. Total improvements to date \$1,630,431.53.**
- **Mayor added that he asked for this breakdown so that everyone has a better understanding of the expenses.**

10. Consideration and Action on a Municipal Advisory Agreement between Government Capital and the City of Rio Hondo for a possible Certificate of Obligation bond issuance.

- **Mr. Medina stated to the commissioners that there are several projects that the City needs like painting this building, getting a dump truck, a sweeper, renovate police station. At this time he is asking for approval to hire financial advisor so that they can evaluate and let the City know exactly how much financial capacity we have.**
- **Commissioner Garza wants to prioritize the projects and wants the Commission to be aware of the projects beforehand.**

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to contract Municipal Advisory Agreement for a possible Certificate of Obligations bond issuance. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

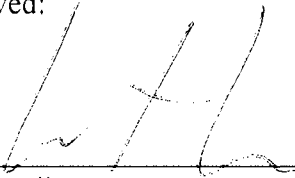
11. Consideration and Action approving the Annexation Study Plan.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the annexation Study Plan. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 5/27/2025

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Medina, City Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_