

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON September 23, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, met in a Regular Meeting on September 23, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding and present, and Commissioners Juan Garza- Present, Diana Bustamante-Zavala – Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Officer Julio Olguin, Judge Jessica Gonzalez, Raul Garcia – RE Garcia & Associates, Dionicio Garza – Guzman & Munoz, Patricia Avila – Wrecking Crew Jams Productions,

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States

Invocation led by Commissioner Juan Garza

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor’s and Commissioner’s Reports.

Commissioner Bocanegra inquired about annual passes for boat ramp. Commissioner Bocanegra stated that some citizens were told that the City Commission was not supporting the issuance of Annual Passes – which is false.

Ana Hernandez replied that this is currently being worked on with the company that installed the arm at park. The mayor suggested that all staff be informed so that the wrong information is not being given out to citizens.

Commissioner Bocanegra also mentioned Spooktacular. He stated that it is a shame that we aren’t having it this year since it is one of the best events the City has. He would like to know the reason it is not happening.

The Mayor reminded everyone about Mike’s reopening celebration, scheduled for September 27. The mayor encouraged everyone to stop by Mike’s. The Mayor, Mr. Medina, and the Police Chief will be cooking the chicken and hot dogs.

Commissioner Bustamante asked about sinkhole located in front of the Elementary. Mr. Medina stated that it is already being worked on.

2. Administrator Report:

Mr. Medina reported to the commission that stormwater construction on Catherine St is

underway by Rhyner Construction. An engineer from Munoz was present to answer any questions.

Mr. Medina also reported that Mira Mar, Kindergartners Street, and Harrold Street are about ninety-eight percent (98%) completed.

There will be a pre-bid meeting on October 3rd for the Heywood Project, this is the other stormwater project. Bids will open on the 27th.

Mr. Medina reiterated about Mike's Supermarket Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled for September 27 at 11 am. Mr. Medina asked the Commission to make plans to attend.

Mr. Medina is also currently working on funding from TWDB for plant improvements.

Parks Report:

Mr. Medina reported that to date, the park has collected over \$4,500 in RV Revenue and over \$800 in entry fees alone since September 2.

Mr. Medina stated that the RHPD is responsible for turning the lights on and off at the fishing pier, allowing them to also make their rounds at the park.

Staff have been maintaining the park clean and well-cut.

Public Works Report:

Mr. Medina reported that potholes are being fixed, there is one tractor down but parts have been ordered and it should be ready by Friday.

Crews are also cleaning the area where the Kermes will be held.

Library Report:

Ms. Dawson could not be present, but she reported that Saturday art classes are resuming, and the Dungeons & Dragons group has been meeting bi-monthly. Also, the Friends of the Library met to discuss plans & projects for the Library. The DECA is organizing a story time scheduled for September 27.

Ms. Dawson also met with Bridge Fest organizer, Mr. Betancourt, to discuss activities that will be happening at the Library during Bridge Fest. The plan is to bring an illustrator & author of children's books.

The number of patrons is down, but the yearly total is well above average from last year.

Mr. Medina also announced that Ms. Dawson's last day will be September 30. He also announced that he already has a person to take over this position.

Police Dept Report:

Officer Olguin reported there had been 28 traffic stops, 103 interactions with public, a total of 92 business checks. Citizens started calling about business checks because it's new. The citizens like this. There were also 27 calls for service. The PD has increased patrols during the morning and evening hours. The Chief has challenged the officers to be proactive and to talk to the community. Officer Olguin added that he has been stopped at least 4 times by citizens to thank him for patrolling.

Commissioner Bocanegra suggested that there be a time frame on the reporting, also, and maybe a short narrative about what the service calls are for; nothing too specific that would compromise the investigation. In case anyone asks he know and the commission what they are talking about.

The mayor stated that one of the things he wants to do is have coffee with the Chief and officers. Mayor would like this to start next month at the Civic Center.

Fire Dept Report:

There were 2 calls for service, one was a stove on fire, and the other was a bee attack.

Public Works Dept Report:

Filling up potholes, we might also need to subcontract for the sinkhole in front of the elementary school because it's too big for the staff to handle. Mr. Alaniz will be assisting with this.

The Mayor added that this is important information because sometimes the public doesn't know and they think it's a simple process when in reality there is more than just adding concrete.

4. 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 on the agenda.*

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE GIVEN.

5. Consideration and action to approve the August 26, 2025, City Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025, City Commission Minutes with corrections. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

6. Consideration and action on a Proclamation honoring the Community Church for its 105-year anniversary.

Pastor was not present. Mayor Olivares read the proclamation for the record.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve Proclamation honoring the Community Church for its 105-year anniversary. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

7. Consideration and Action on approving Change Order No. 1 for \$18,181.88 for TXCDBG contract No. CDV23-087.

Mr. Medina stated that \$18,181.88 is to finish off the Street all the way down to Ebony, which was done. There's just a bit more money needed to complete the asphalt. The engineers were present for any questions.

Mr. Garcia stated that this is in addition to the City. He noted that they used every single penny of the grant monies. Still, because of that, along with the final quantities and the work done by Miramar, Harrold, and Kindinger, this is the additional money needed to complete the project.

The Mayor asked about Williams. Mr. Medina and Mr. Garcia both replied that it is still in process. The mayor said if we have rain, we are going to have a problem because there is no outlet.

Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 for \$18,181.88 for TXCDBG contract No. CDV23-087. Commissioner Bustamante seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve; the motion carried.

8. Consideration and Action on approving Change Order No. 1 in the decreased sum of \$103,896.65 for GLO Contract 24-067-013-E200 Catherine St.

Mr. Medina stated that this was to formalize what was discussed when the contract was approved. Mr. Rhyner agreed to remove a pipe, saving the City this money to complete the project.

Mayor asked what pipe it was. The engineer responded that it was the lateral that connected to the alley. He also stated that they were supposed to upgrade, but to stay within the GLO budget, they decided not to upgrade. This gave us a savings of \$103,896.65.

The mayor asked if these were extra funds to be used somewhere else. Mr. Medina replied no,

these are funds to complete the project, eliminating the pipe.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 in the decreased sum of \$103,896.65 for GLO Contract 24-067-013-E200 Catherine St. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

9. Status Report on Bridge Fest 2025.

Ms. Patricia Avila was here representing Wrecking Crew Jams Productions. She stated that Mr. Betancourt had spoken to the superintendent and band director for Rio Hondo, and they've agreed to coordinate with student organizations to participate in a dedicated vendor section called Bobcat Road. They will also have 'Battle by the Rio,' which is a Battle of the Bands. Michael Betancourt has several confirmed acts. The main event cannot be released yet due to pending contracts. There will also be Lucha Libre, and the Jurassic RGV has been booked. There will also be flag football, a baby crawl tournament, and a hay bale toss competition. He has a walkthrough scheduled for September 29th with the security company.

The mayor asked to ensure we get the signed contract back, along with the list of music performances, by next week.

10. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park.

Mr. Medina updated the Council on the Spotted Sea Trout, reporting that we've collected a good amount of money in RV reservations. We use Firefly, which allows visitors to book online. Staff are continuously trained on new features in the Firefly system. The arm is functioning, and we have been collecting entry fees. Staff are doing a good job of maintaining the park. In two weeks, we collected \$700, and the mayor believes that is very good. The mayor also stated that we need more signage for NO PARKING. A fishing table will be added this year.

Commissioner Bustamante asked why Homeland Security & Border Patrol are using our park. Mr. Medina replied that it is used for training and to launch their boats.

11. Status Report on Bobcat Subdivision.

Mr. Medina updated the Commission on a new subdivision that is coming to Rio Hondo. Mr. Fisher bought the property. The property is right behind the Rio Vista apartments. The retention pond will remain. It is 10 acres, and they are building a 40-lot subdivision. The subdivision will be called Bobcat Estates.

The mayor asked How soon are they starting? Mr. Medina replied that they are working on some grants to connect to the trail. They are currently working with the engineers, Munoz Engineers.

The Engineer replied that they are almost done with the plan set, just working on some layout changes with the owners.

Commissioner Bocanegra asked if we have the capacity to take this into the infrastructure that is in the area, or at the lift station. Is it just a retention pond? Mr. Medina replied that there is a lift station to the apartments, and they will have to dig deeper, but the infrastructure has the capacity.

The mayor said that we need to make sure that once we are in the development phase, we do some development on the rights-of-way. The mayor also stated that the subdivision should add sidewalks.

12. Consideration and Action on closing Huisache Street, Bristol Street, and Harrold's Street surrounding St Helen's Church for the Annual Fall Festival.

Commissioner Bustamante made a motion to approve the closing of Huisache Street, Bristol Street, and Harrold's Street surrounding St Helen's Church for the Annual Fall Festival on October 4 & 5. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

13. Consideration and Action adopting the 2025-2026 City Holiday Schedule.

There was discussion and suggestions on the Holiday Schedule by members of the council. Commissioner Bustamante recommended adding a day after Christmas, December 26, and January 2, and maybe having a skeleton crew.

The Mayor says if an employee wants those days, they can request them.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to adopt and approve the 2025-2026 City Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion, and Commissioners Garza, Gallegos, and Bocanegra voted "aye". Commissioner Bustamante voted "nay"; motion carried

14. Consideration and Action designating a date for the Christmas Parade.

After some discussion on possible dates, the item was tabled.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the

motion, all voted "aye" to approve; the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:05 pm

15. Discussion with legal counsel pursuant to Tex. Govt Code Section 551.071 regarding claims by former Public Safety Director William Bilokury.

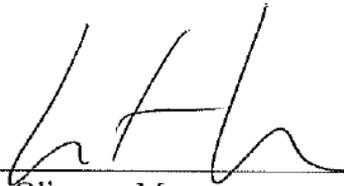
This item was discussed in Executive Session

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:19 pm

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

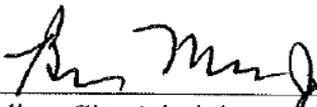
Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator/Secretary

Date: _____