

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF RIO HONDO
COUNTY OF CAMERON

Rick Tello, Commissioner Place 1
Margaret Perez, Commissioner Place 3
Joseph Lopez, Commissioner Place 5

Gerry Hartzog, Mayor Pro Tem
Alonzo Garza, Commissioner Place 4

Gustavo Olivares
Mayor

**Notice of a Special Meeting of the
City Commission of the City of Rio Hondo
April 14, 2020**

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 Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 14, 2020 at the **Civic Center** on the Second Floor of the Rio Hondo Municipal Building located at 121 N. Arroyo Blvd., Rio Hondo, Texas 78583.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNITED STATES PLEDGE

INVOCATION:

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioner's Report
2. Administrator'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.***
4. Consideration and Action approving the City Commission Minutes of January 28, 2020, February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020 City Commission Meeting. (Sylvia Garcia)
5. Consideration and Action authorizing the development of short-term stay overlay district on the southside of FM 106 from FM 509 to the Lift Bridge and on South Arroyo from FM 106 to City Cemetery on lots along the Arroyo Colorado River, (Ben Medina).
6. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2020- 002 to indefinitely not allow indefinitely burials at the Community Cemetery.
7. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2020-003 implementing rules and regulations for the Rio Hondo Cemetery.

8. Third Public Hearing and Possible Action on removing Bates Street and North Reynolds Street as a truck route. (Ben Medina and Mayor Olivares)

9. Executive Session.

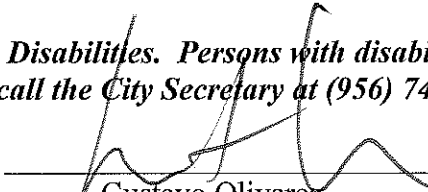
a. Consultation with Attorney 551.071.

10. No Action will be taken on item in Executive Session

11. Adjournment

Note: The City Commission for the City of Rio Hondo reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matters, as authorized by Texas Government Code 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 551.086 (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

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 of said Meeting.

DATE:

TIME:

27/9/2020 1:00 pm

POSTED



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

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2020

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo Texas met in a Regular Meeting on February 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor Gustavo Olivares presiding, Mayor Pro-tem Gerald Hartzog, Commissioners Rick Tello, Margaret Perez, and Joe Lopez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Gustavo Olivares led the pledge at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Gerald Hartzog gave the invocation.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Present: Mayor Gustavo Olivares, Commissioners Alonzo Garza, Rick Tello, Margaret Perez and Joe Lopez. Others: Ben Medina, Lucy Garza, Sylvia Garcia and Murl Kemmerling, Carol Dawson and Chief William Bilokury.

ITEM #1). MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Mayor Olivares; None, Comm. Lopez: None; Comm. Perez: None; Mayor Pro-tem: None.

ITEM #2). ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ben Medina: We are working well-real closely with the U. S. Census staff. The Civic Center will be a training site for the new hires that they will be having here for the month of March and April. Also, we've been attending all the County Census meetings. The library, Mrs. Dawson will report that they are recruiting at the library citizens for that. Finalizing all the CDBG reconstruction on Mesquite. There are some things on the agenda tonight. So, hopefully we can get that project under way and it shouldn't take that long once it gets into construction. And then also, met as we reported last time with Mr. David Garza Commissioner for the County, and we are working on rewriting the trucks ordinance as he kind of recommended us to do. We're working also with USDA on some projects for grant funding. And the rest of the stuff we are discussing will be with Public Works. But that's what I have so far.

Mayor Olivares: Any questions for Mr. Medina from anybody? No questions for Mr. Medina then let's go to item #3.

ITEM #3). FINANCE REPORT: Mr. Medina: Lucy has a sick child. But she did give us this report. This is a one pager. As you can see this is basically year to date. The budget year-to-date actual as we end up January we are within the perimeters of our spending. We have in our remaining budget for the remainder of the year for under the General Fund Revenues \$562,272 that we need to collect. We've already collected \$524,000 at the end of January and that's because of our taxes. So, and then on to our

expenditures we have \$722,689.54 that we have available to spend. That shows the remaining of the budget. So, we are working well. And I'm sure that some of these expenditures should be less at the end of the year. So, we'll be okay. Any questions?

Mayor Olivares: Any questions for Ben? So, let's go ahead on to item #4 Library Report.

ITEM #4). LIBRARY REPORT:

Mrs. Dawson: Good evening.

Mayor Olivares: Good evening.

Mrs. Dawson: The emergency doors have been installed at the back of the library. Something of a relief that has been successful in case of an emergency. We have our first diaper changing station installed at the library as well. So, bring your grandkids and children and utilize that. Over the Christmas holidays we had two separate movie days for children and we made cookies and had hot chocolate and had a good crowd one day and not much of one the next day but it was a nice thing for the kids to be able to do over the Christmas holidays. And then the first time that we did it, some the Chief's fire or police officers saw all these kids in the parking lot coming into the library and they had Christmas gifts for them. So, the kids got a story, and a movie, and snacks and Christmas presents. Thank you very much, Chief that was a wonderful Christmas surprise. As Mr. Medina mentioned, the Census Bureau has used our library to facilitate to recruit people. They give out their information as patrons are coming into the library and a couple of times helped them apply for the jobs there using our computers. So, that's handy as well. We are working on our annual report that is due April 30th, that will keep up accredited. Which allows us to apply for state grants and things like that. And then our art classes... our adult art classes are continuing the second Saturday of the month. That's about all that is going on.

Ben Medina: You have a real good demand for that. So, we're going to have to maybe utilize the Senior Center for that because of the big demand.

Commissioner Perez: You mean the art class?

Ben Medina: Yes.

Ms. Dawson: Yes. One of your favorite artists.

Commissioner Hartzog: Yes, one of my favorite artists is there.

Mayor Olivares: I was going to ask you.

Mrs. Dawson: Yes, sir.

Mayor Olivares: I know that I believe March and April are "Rabies Awareness Month." And I believe the city has participated in the past on coloring or drawing of anything having to do with rabies submitted to the state. And it will be a state competition within other cities or counties. So, I'll try to get that information back to you this week. So, maybe you can organize something like that with the kids.

Ms. Dawson: Okay. Sure. That be a good idea.

ITEM #5). SENIOR CENTER REPORT:

Mayor Olivares: Do we have the Senior Center to report?

Ben Medina: No, she's not here.

ITEM #6). PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Murl Kemmerling: The water plant is ready for the next phase of pump installations of the electrical. At the lift stations the upgrade for the Robert Garza has been ordered. At the Wastewater plant the new equipment has been installed at the clarifiers. And the meeting of the contractor of the installation of the pumps is under way. The park fields are being prepared by the league and the city will repair the concession screens and provide the paint. We will also repair all play structures. There is some grass that is still there that we will finish picking up. The street, the Mesquite Street that was CDBG project will be done in March. And we're maintaining the pothole program. We got almost all of them filled. And that's about all that I have now.

Mayor Olivares: You just give us an update of the clean up on the sewer plant.

Murl Kemmerling: Yes, sir. We got that started. We cleaned all the inside and then we started cleaning on the north side on the outside of the fence so we can put the wire back up there. And they picked up some brush on the 7th, which was Friday. And I talked to.....

Ben Medina: Rey Alegria.

Murl Kemmerling: Rey Alegria, today. Tomorrow I'll call Rey Tamez to come to pick-up the other truck without the other load that we have there. And then fill it up and take it away.

Mr. Ben Medina: Yes, we are getting four more roll-offs. So, we should have that within a week or so all cleaned up.

Mayor Olivares: I just wanted it to be part of the record that we are working on it and moving forward. It was a thing that was documented on our inspection report for the sewer plant. We're moving forward.

Murl Kemmerling: Yes, sir.

Ben Medina: We met here with Lisa today. This morning at 8 o'clock. She was here and everything was okay.

Murl Kemmerling: And we're going to tear around the fence so we can put the barb wire on top. I have ordered that. We'll get it done. Little by little we'll get it done.

Mayor Olivares: That's good, sir. I'll be by next week.

Murl Kemmerling: We'll do it.

Ben Medina: And the Roberto Garza pumps is a Buy Board product, it's \$52,000 and \$35,000 is being paid by the apartments.

Mayor Olivares: Awesome. Yes, I saw they installed the.....

Ben Medina: The manholes on this side.

Mayor Olivares: The manholes.

Comm. Hartzog: Sewer lines.

Ben Medina: So, the pumps over here on Roberto Garza they are paying 80%. They're upgrade. They're 10 horsepower. Above ground. Which is the newest technology.

Mayor Olivares: Easier to clean up.

Ben Medina: Clean.

Mayor Olivares: Any further questions for Public Works?

Comm. Lopez: Yes, on the water--- wastewater plant, what new equipment have been installed over there?

Murl Kemmerling: That irrigation basin that they were fixing has been done.....

Ben Medina: The clarifier. The CDBG project.

Murl Kemmerling: The clarifier. And they came and installed the lights that we needed. That were... So, we got that done.

Comm. Lopez: So, the Robert Garza Station there is already complete? Everything is.....

Murl Kemmerling: No, Robert Garza, no. They just ordered the pumps for it for the upgrade.

Comm. Lopez: So, once pumps are installed that's it?

Murl Kemmerling: No, that's at the water plant.

Comm. Lopez: No. No.

Ben Medina: No. Roberto Garza. Yes, sir.

Comm. Lopez: Once we install that...

Ben Medina: That's it for that plant.

Murl Kemmerling: Ok. I misunderstood. Yes, sir.

Ben Medina: We'll have new fencing.

Mayor Olivares: Thank you, sir.

ITEM #7). PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD:

No public comments received.

ITEM #8). CONSIDER AND ACTION APPROVING THE CITY COMMISSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 28,2020.

Sylvia Garcia: Not ready.

Mayor Olivares: Do we have a motion to table?

Mayor Olivares: Motion made by Commissioner Tello to table and seconded by Commissioner Lopez. All in favor say I. All I's and the motion carries.

ITEM #9). PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE 2020-001 GRANTING TO AEP TEXAS INC., ITS SUCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LINES AND APPURTENANCES AND APPLIANCE FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRICITY IN, OVER, UNDER, AND THROUGH THE STREETS, AVENUES AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO.

Mayor Olivares: Ben.

Ben Medina: Yes, let me introduce Mr. Dale Lucio, he is here with AEP as their representative. We discussed this last time. Their franchise rate was developed by the Public Utilities Commission. So, basically this is what they will reimburse the city for their use of our right of ways, poles, lights, etcetera. So, he's here if you have any questions.

Mayor Olivares: What we have here is kind of common practice for everything across the board.

Commissioner Tello: Did you get the attorney look at this?

Ben Medina: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Tello: Is there any changes needed to be done?

Ben Medina: No. So, we still have one more public hearing.

Mayor Olivares: One more public hearing? So, this is a public hearing?

Ben Medina: Yes, it is.

Mayor Olivares: So, this time anybody here from the public would like to approach or say anything in regard to the public hearing?

Mayor Olivares: Anybody? Alright.

Comm. Lopez: Are there two more public hearings?

Ben Medina: Just one more.

Comm. Lopez: One more. So, they're asking for two?

Ben Medina: Yes, it does require it. The state law requires two.

Mayor Olivares: Okay. At this time, I ask to go ahead and close the public hearing at 6:44 pm. Is there a motion to do that?

Comm. Tello: I so move.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Comm. Hartzog: I second.

Mayor Olivares: Seconded by Comm. Hartzog. Everybody in favor say I. All I's. Motion carries.

Item 10): Consideration and Action on Resolution 001 by the City Council of City of Rio Hondo designating authorized signatories for contractual documents and documents for requesting funds pertaining to the Texas Community Block Grant Program (TXCDBG) Contract Number.

Ben Medina: Yes. This resolution is a template. Part of the application required for us once we get started with our drawing funds from CDBG. The mayor will be the first signature and also the finance director for various reports that need to be filed. So, their signatures have to be one of those. So, this resolution is to give the authority to those people. They Mayor, myself, and Lucy Garza.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion to approve?

Mayor Pro-tem Hartzog: I so move on item #10.

Comm. Perez: I second.

Mayor Olivares: Second by Ms. Margaret. Everybody in favor say I. All I's. Motion carries.

Item 11): Consideration and Acting approving the Community Development Contract and acknowledging the following federal statutes and laws; with Section 109 of the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act. (24 CFR 6); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101-6107); and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and for construction contractors greater than \$10,000, must take actions to ensure that no person or group is denied benefits such as employment, training, housing, and contracts generated by the CDBG activity, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir this is the CDBG contract. Two-hundred seventy-five thousand dollars from the federal funds and fifty-five thousand dollars from the city of Rio Hondo to reconstruct Mesquite St. And the acknowledgement of all these federal laws make sure that the Commission knows that we cannot discriminate or make available training programs....

Mayor Olivares: Even the contractors.

Ben Medina: This is basically for the contractors.

Mayor Olivares: They got to pay people certain wages and all those things.

Ben Medina: Exactly. This is just an acknowledgement, "Hey, remember contracting includes all those laws." So, I ask for your approval of the contract.

Comm. Lopez: How did Mesquite come about? What about the other streets?

Ben Medina: A year ago we surveyed the streets with our engineer, and he determined...Mr. Garcia determined that this was the street that was more needing of the survey that we both did.

Mayor Olivares: And it was approved by the Commission.

Ben Medina: Approved by the Commission. Yes, sir. The Commission approved the street.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion to approve?

Comm. Hartzog: I so move on item #11.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Comm. Tello: I second.

Mayor Olivares: Second by Mr. Tello. Everybody in favor say I. All I's". Motion carries.

Item #12). CONSIDERATION AND ACTION PROCALIMING AS APRIL 2020 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir. Fair Housing, federal government and state government really look upon cities to promote fair housing. For example, the apartments we're building over here they all comply with the Fair Housing Act and then the laws the we just read up above. So, it's just that the city acknowledges that it's Fair Housing Month and we need to promote it by putting things on our website. Putting the address on the new apartments coming up that people can apply for those housing units regardless of origin, disability, sex, etcetera. So, I mean that's something that we will be promoting in the month of April.

Mayor Olivares: Will that be something that we will do here with the City Commission?

Ben Medina: Yes. We can have our own resolution. Only for the City. We can do that. Have displays.

Mayor Olivares: Ben, you know, in the last I would say five years, I mean the City of Rio Hondo has been a big impact in growth in our fair housing—in our housing that we have created in Rio Hondo. I would like to see if maybe we could put a basic report of how many new constructions that we have done in the last five years.

Ben Medina: Sure. We'll do that.

Mayor Olivares: So, if you can just put it together.

Ben Medina: I'll put it together annual report as you requested. So, I will include—I have a little part of that, but I will explain.

Mayor Olivares: Alright, so do I have a motion to go ahead and approve April 20, 2020 as Fair Housing Month?

Comm. Perez: I motion.

Mayor Olivares: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

Comm. Tello: Second.

Mayor Olivares: Second by Mr. Tello. All in favor say I. All I's. Motion carries.

13). CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONTRACTING CAMERON COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES TO CONDUCT THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, MAY 2, 2020 ELECTION.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir. There's a contract. A proposed contract in your packet. Bottom line total cost \$17,000 if you really want the County to take care of it. They just let us know what the results are. Seventeen-thousand dollars. What we have done in the past is that we rent only the equipment from them and we ourselves contract with the clerks and the presiding judge there that we've had contacts with that we've used in the past. I'll come back. We can table this. But I just want to let you know and get from you feed back as to what route you want to go. And that would be less maybe around \$12,000 to do it that way. Which we did that in the last election. There was no school board election. When there are school elections, we kind of join forces and we share the cost. But this year it's only us. So, I'm asking for your opinion as to what we should do.

Mayor Olivares: To me, if we can save money.....

Ben Medina: It worked perfectly the last time.

Mayor Olivares: Let's save some money for the citizens of Rio Hondo. But I think if we can save a little bit of money why not?

Ben Medina: Yes. I have a meeting with Remi, and I want to discuss this with him. So, that's why I put it on tonight's agenda to ask for your opinion. What you'd suggest.

Comm. Lopez: Is the seventeen a concrete figure?

Ben Medina: Yes.

Comm. Lopez: But you don't know how much the other....

Ben Medina: It's about twelve thousand. That's what we paid last time.

Comm. Perez: And if we go with the County, they pay us seventeen?

Ben Medina: That's our cost.

Mayor Olivares: It's seventeen and if we do it the way the second....

Various talking at once.

Comm. Hartzog: It's about twelve.

Ben Medina: So, I would like to come back and give you an estimate and we have their contact people that ran the election last time. They're from Lozano and La Feria. They want to come back and we can do that.

Mayor Olivares: For this situation, Ben like for example, you rent the machines. Right? Then you have the judges, that are either appointed by somebody.

Ben Medina: They're appointed by the County but they're freelancing.

Mayor Olivares: They're appointed by the county. Right? So, then you hire three people. And at the end of the day they are the ones that watch the...It's not going to be you or....

Ben Medina: No. No. It's not us.

Mayor Olivares: It's handled by almost the same people but just....

Comm. Lopez: Independent.

Ben Medina: Yes, independent. Right.

Mayor Olivares: I mean bring that to the table.

Comm. Hartzog: You can save that much money and you can save five thousand.

Comm. Lopez: If you can just bring down the person who is going to take lead, so we know who that person is.

Ben Medina: Yes, we have a listing of people.

Comm. Lopez: And the machines get rented from Cameron?

Ben Medina: They have them. It's their machines. They lease them to the cities. They want to do their own election.

Mayor Olivares: I guess just bring it back to the table, Ben with that.

Ben Olivares: And of course, we'll have to pay for the ballots.

Mayor Olivares: What is the closing date of the election?

Ben Medina: The applicant's is Friday at 5 o'clock.

Mayor Olivares: This Friday?

Ben Medina: Yes, sir. I have yours, Mr. Hartzog.

Mayor Olivares: I'll get mine tomorrow.

Ben Medina: Okay. Good. We'll be calling the people that signed up tomorrow to make sure they don't arrive Monday with an application in hand. So, reminding them.

Mayor Olivares: So, let's go ahead and table this. Right? Do I have a motion to table?

Comm. Perez: I motion to table.

Mayor Olivares: A motion by Miss Margaret. Do I have a second?

Comm. Hartzog: Second.

Mayor Olivares: Second by Mr. Hartzog. Everybody in favor say I. All I's. Motion carries.

ITEM #14). PUBLIC HEARING AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REMOVING BATES STREET AND NORTH REYNOLDS STREET AS A TRUCK ROUTE.

Mayor Olivares: So, at this time I go ahead and open for public hearing at 6:53. So, it is open for public hearing. This goes back to Ben and I meeting with Commissioner Garza last week concerns about you know about the trucks destroying a lot of our streets and our infrastructures towards Bates. So, he basically told us N. Reynolds..... If we would like to remove Bates and N. Reynolds, he had no issue with us doing that. So, this is why it's here. Cause eventually it's going to be an ordinance. Right?

Ben Medina: Yes, sir. It has to be an ordinance. You have an Ordinance 177 right now that created this truck route. And believe it or not in the ordinance it calls for Roberto Garza to be, not Bates. All the way north and then South Arroyo where there used to be a depot. But we want to remove all those streets. This is Robertson. Right now, an engineer did this for me. It's one point five million to reconstruct this route again to make it for truck ready. But what we're proposing is to start here at FM 106 go all the way north to Chester, I'm sorry Chestnut. This one right here. They can go into the depot and they can go into Wilbur-Ellis. And then if these people start thinking here about doing something that would involve trucking, they will have to go north Chestnut come down Robertson Street.

Comm. Hartzog: But we don't really have to do anything with Chestnut track. Do we?

Ben Medina: No.

Comm. Hartzog: Our deal would end at Bluebonnet.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir.

Comm. Hartzog: And I believe from Bluebonnet forward it becomes County. Which is County property.

Mayor Olivares: Actually, I think County starts at Roberto Garza.

Comm. Hartzog: Yes, that's what I've heard.

Ben Medina: Yes, it does. The ordinance says that.

Mayor Olivares: It starts at Roberto Garza forward. So, we're really removing just Bates and N. Reynolds. Just shooting them straight down the road.

Ben Medina: Yes. Straight shot. It's even a better straight shot than just making all those curves or turns. So, I mean that's what we're proposing. And will be notifying--I have notified the Depot. They're not here but we need their comments. And also, Willbur-Ellis. Just so they'll know that they.....

Comm. Hartzog: Willbur-Ellis also knows?

Ben Medina: Yes, sir.

Comm. Hartzog: Both of them know?

Ben Medina: That they're not going to be able to transport their goods through Bates.

Comm. Tello: But they still have to go through Robertson?

Ben Medina: They have to go through Robertson.

Mayor Olivares: Because there is no alternate route.

Comm. Lopez: In talking to Comm. Garza there is no way of buying easement going east?

Ben Medina: That's an MPO issue that will take the next ten-fifteen years.

Mayor Olivares: He said, Joe that could we talking about maybe coming together putting some money together to get a plan right for an alternate route and he said, "Really, right now there is no money for an alternate design or anything like that. That's not even close to being something that we would like to do. Maybe down the road that is something we would consider. Pero ahorita it's not even close."

Comm. Lopez: So, going north on Robertson are they just going to tear up the whole street or resurface it? Or....

Ben Medina: No. No, sir. This is no improvements. This is just truck route.

Mayor Olivares: We're just getting them out of the city.

Comm. Hartzog: We're just getting them off of Bates and getting them off of Reynolds.

Ben Medina: They're not giving us any money.

Comm. Hartzog: We're really are just telling them if we change the ordinance that they can no longer use Bates or Reynolds to get to their property. They're going to have to go continue on and work with the County and figure out where they're going.

Comm. Lopez: But now I'm saying within the City, are they going to do any improvements on the road?

Comm. Hartzog: No.

Mayor Olivarez: At this time no.

Ben Medina: That would be up to us. So that's what we propose. And the County did say, "Hey, send them over to us and we'll have to do something."

Mayor Olivares: That's what he said.

Ben Medina: They do have the deeper pockets.

Mayor Olivares: He said, "Once you send them to us, we'll be in charge of those roads. He goes, "So, we have funds to repair County roads. So, it's just the maintenance that we're going to have to do." He said, "We're not going to give them a brand-new road, but we'll give them a workable road."

Comm. Lopez: So, the County would be responsible from Robert Garza.

Ben Medina: All the way down to North to Chestnut including Chestnut to the west.

Comm. Tello: So, we say that we're going to stop letting them go through Bates. At this point how soon is the County going to start the other roads?

Mayor Olivares: The roads are there.

Comm. Tello: I know they're there. But.....

Mayor Olivares: How soon what?

Comm. Tello: Are they going to black top everything?

Mayor Olivares: No. No.

Comm. Tello: I just don't want to get into a lawsuit with those companies. Because I mean actually, we're stopping them from doing business.

Mayor Olivares: No, we're giving them another route.

Comm. Hartzog: But if you get to Chestnut and if you're making the turn that's not enough turn for an eighteen-wheeler.

Ben Medina: Bates is not as well.

Comm. Hartzog: Bates isn't either.

Mayor: And that's what Commissioner Garza said, "You give them the... We're okay we'll take them. They're going to have to work with us and one is we're going to have to fix those roads down the road."

Comm. Hartzog: These people have known forever what they're doing to this city. Period. Okay. And they've laughed about it. And they've joked about it. We've tried to bring them in here to discuss this situation. The words that they've used can't even be repeated. So, it is what it is. They're not inside our city limits they're using our streets to take trucks down the road. They should have come and negotiated with us and they didn't want to. So, they're going to have to deal with it. I don't know about the legality part. I'm sure they

will come after us with attorneys. But you know this has been going on... that street right there to get from 106 to get to those plants is probably four hundred thousand dollars' worth of street repair. I mean, your budget is only a million-two. So, where are you going to get the money to do it? We can't let these companies continue to not pay any taxes and tear up our streets. I mean so, if we got to get into a dog fight, we're going to have to get into a dog fight. I mean that's just it. I mean you can't. Where are you going to get the money to continue? We've redone that street in the last twenty years. Tello, twice?

Comm. Tello: No, once.

Comm. Lopez: From Robert Garza north. Once.

Comm. Hartzog: Once?

Comm. Lopez: The County. David Sanchez was a commissioner at the time.

Comm. Hartzog: Okay.

Mayor Olivares: I think what we are doing with this route is one: it's going to help up share the cost. Okay. Because instead of having...I don't know how many miles it is. Let's say it's a mile. Right? If we cut half a mile out of our expenses of street repairs and the county is willing to take that extra half a mile and throw it to another route and they are willing to do the upgrades or repairs that need to be done to those roads to make them get to their facilities as they're needed, I think that's a good alternative. Right? Because really that road just comes out straight. The people that really are going to benefit are the people, the families living in the corner of Bates and the people that go to Bluebonnet. That whole section there. The infrastructure there. It's going to.....

Ben Medina: They already tore our waterlines.

Mayor Olivares: One of our waterlines got broken because of all the weight. So.....

Comm. Lopez: And I agree. I agree with you, Mayor. But from 106 to Roberto Garza that street has taken a beating.

Mayor Olivares: Yeh.

Comm. Lopez: A beating.

Mayor Olivares: And I think we need to fix it. And it's something that....

Comm. Lopez: And more so from Madero to Bates—I mean from Madero to Roberto Garza.

Mayor Olivares: Yes, I know. And we need to fix it. It's probably something that once we get these routes set up right, then maybe we need to go back to the County again and approach them. Hey, you know, let's just pay half and half. But it would be a lot less road that we would have to maintain.

Comm. Lopez: I don't know if y'all have been in talks with Pete Sepulveda with the MRA. Outside the city they can help but not within the city limits.

Mayor Olivares: But it is a public hearing. It's a good discussion. Anyone else from the public have any questions? Chief?

Police Chief: Just two quick things that come to mind. They did dump a substantial amount of diesel. I think it was last year and I had to go and pull a report on two separate occasions all over the roadway and that eats up the asphalt. I went through there today to see what's going on and right there at Bates and Robertson trucks are tearing up the road and creating a big pile of all that gravel. So, it's substantial the damage to the roadways. I see the serious matter. I have no qualms. I've done it. Seizing a truck. Park it in the yard. Till someone comes over and pays. They learn quick to take the right routes. But the right route actually is not a very good route. I gave my two cents.

Comm. Lopez: I've seen where these trucks have missed the turn on 106 and continue going south on Reynolds and either turning up on Ebony or going straight and ending up on Huerta Road.

Comm. Hartzog: Yes. That seems to have slowed down a little bit. They definitely do. They'll turn down Ebony. They'll turn down the road by the park or they'll turn all the way outside the city limits on Huerta. Just like you were saying. The City can't afford to continue to maintain a street for an oil company that is bringing in fifteen to twenty trucks a day. Not a day. The City receives no tax dollars. It receives no funds. We're not the State of Texas. They need to get in here and negotiate. I don't think the trucks should be allowed to go down Bates and I don't think the trucks should be allowed to go down Reynolds. Period! Not the way things are today. With the weight of those trucks. The noise of those trucks. If I lived there, I wouldn't like it at all.

Mayor Olivares: I think back in the day when it used to be Wilbur-Ellis by itself I think there was one truck once in a while. It was no big deal. Now it is a high traffic area. Any further discussion? Anyone else have any input? I ask if we can have a motion to go ahead and close public hearing at 7:05.

Comm. Tello: I so move.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Comm. Hartzog: Second.

Mayor Olivares: I got a second. Everybody in favor say I. Motion carries. So, you still have to bring another one. Right, Ben?

Ben Medina: Hopefully we can get some comments from them.

Comm. Lopez: Call those guys and tell them to come to the meeting.

Mayor Olivares: It might be that when they come to the meeting, we can ask them to repair the front section.

ITEM #15). CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ORDERING THE MAY 2, 2020 ELECTION.

Ben Medina: There is a form and it's just to approve that you order the election, and everybody needs to sign.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion to approve?

Comm. Perez: I motion.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Mayor Pro-tem Hartzog: Second.

Mayor Olivares: All in favor say I. Motion carries.

Chief Bilokury: Chief's Report attached.

ITEM #16). ADJOURNMENT.

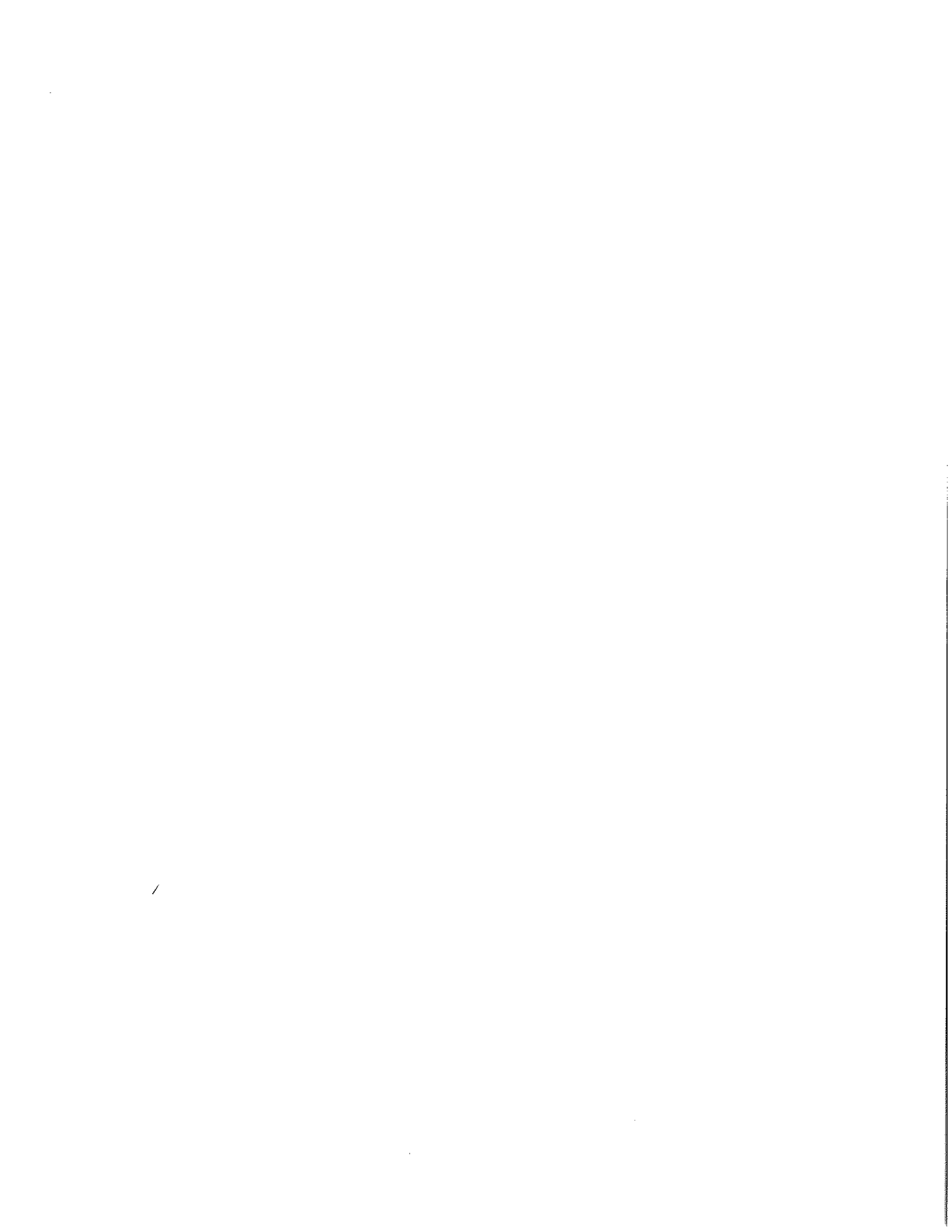
Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion to approve?

Mayor Pro-tem Hartzog: I so move

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Comm. Tello: Second.

Mayor Olivares: All in favor say I. Motion carries.



THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF RIO HONDO
COUNTY OF CAMERON

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2020

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo Texas met in a Regular Meeting on January 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor Gustavo Olivares presiding and Commissioners Rick Tello, Margaret Perez, Joe Lopez, and Alonzo Garza.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Gustavo Olivares led the pledge at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Margaret Perez gave the invocation.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Present: Mayor Gustavo Olivares, Commissioners Alonzo Garza, Rick Tello, Margaret Perez and Joe Lopez. Others: Ben Medina, Lucy Garza, Sylvia Garcia and Murl Kemmerling.

1). Mayor and Commissioner's Report: Mayor Olivares: Just before we get started with our meeting, our hearts and prayers are with Mr. Hartzog. He lost one of his brothers a couple of days ago. So, our prayers are with him and his family. Comm. Lopez: None; Comm. Perez: None; Comm. Garza: I did but I changed my mind, None; Comm. Tello: None.

2). Administrator's Report:

Ben Medina: Yes, sir I have an item on the League. They are working fabulous with us. Meet with them every day. As a matter of fact, even Saturday. They are really gun ho. They still do not have the board, but I think they are striving to get that accomplished. Met today with Comm. Garza, the Mayor and I regarding our Robertson streets, base streets. I don't think we're going to get a lot of help from the county. They suggested other avenues. And they did agree that maybe we should change the truck route to take out Bates go to Chestnut further up and the county would as they're required to do, maintain those roads. So, other than that, that's basically what they kind of told us at the meeting. Mayor Olivares: So, basically, we are probably going to bring an item to the agenda. To see if we choose to change the route maybe by ordinance or stuff. It's like Commissioner Garza said, "It's like you know, how I can help you is maybe take off a load or a section of it and put it in the county area for it so we can maintain it instead of it going through your town. I said, you know what, sir, that's a good idea. We'll bring it back to the commission for review and approval. Like he said, "It might create issues but outside the city, but I'll worry about those issues with the constituents outside the city. I'm pretty sure your people within in that area will be very happy." Which is one of his concerns also that was brought up that he said that he's concerned about the reason that would be good to move it, out would be because the district is such close by. We don't want to have all those tankers spill the diesel by the school area

and create an issue down the road. So hopefully, we put that on the agenda in the next two weeks and look forward on maybe dedicating a different route. But I think we'll have our attorney look at it just to check everything before we put it on the agenda. But that was a great meeting today. Ben Medina: We spent some time with them. That's all I have for report. Comm. A. Garza: I for one. I for one like that. It's good. Mayor Olivares: And just under administrative report, I guess this past week we turned on the lights at the park. Staff did. It automatically sends messages to Jaime and the Park Director, the Asst. Park Director. We were talking and he told me that he had gotten some. The lights are still under warranty. They received a message that there are some non-functioning lights at the park. So, he is going to put in the work order to get the actual company that is responsible to fix them under warranty. So, that should be coming up in the withing next week or so. So, I told him to get together with you. So, you guys can plan it. So, he said that he's going to let us know about it. and eventually get those lights fixed. There might be one that might be burned out or a light bulb or whatever. It's a major light so eventually it might save us some money. So, that's it. Comm. Lopez: Mayor, can we go back to comments? Mayor Olivares: Yes. Go ahead. Comm. Lopez: I did speak to the County Park Director, Joe Vega in reference of the field. As far as making an additional field-a third field. What he needed was to see the plans. Comm. Lopez to Ben Medina: I did give you the phone number. Did you make phone contact? Ben Medina: Yes, I did. I talked to him and he said that-and basically what I also asked for was for the cracks leading up the trail. It was starting to form some cracks. He said, "Yeh, write it up, but first it has to go to the County Judge and our Commissioner." And hopefully we did mention it to him today for that support. So, once we develop those plans. But I was just waiting for the league to get up on board and get their full board up so they can support it. But yeh, I made contact with him. Mayor Olivares: Alright, no further questions for Ben or anything under Administrative Report?

3). Public Comments:

No public comments received.

4). Mayor Olivares: Consideration and Action approving the City Commission Minutes of November 26, 2019, December 10, 2019, and January 14, 2020. Open for discussion. Sylvia Garcia and Comm. Lopez speaking to each other. Mayor Gustavo Olivares: What correction were those, ma'am that Mr. Lopez requested? Sylvia Garcia: I remember the thoroughfare. Comm. Lopez: Yes. Sylvia Garcia: Behind Mike's.

Comm. Lopez: Yeh.

Comm. Tello: Also, where January 14, 2010 item #8 where it says 72,000, I think it was 17. Way on the bottom.

Mayor Olivares: Yes.

Ben Medina: I think it was what they said.

Comm. Perez: Yep, I think that's what he said 72. But he meant to say - he meant to say 17.

Ben Medina: That's what they said.

Mayor Olivares: Who said that?

Ben Medina: Commissioner Garza.

Commissioner Perez: Mr. Garza. I think he said 72, but it was 17.

Mayor Olivares: Are you fair with that change?

Commissioner Garza: If it is, go ahead and make the change.

Sylvia Garcia: The 17 thousand?

Ben Medina: Just go change it. He made that mistake.

Sylvia Garcia: Okay.

Mayor Olivares: After we approve these minutes, I think it would be a good idea for you guys to get a copy. So, you can see what transpired in the last meeting. Okay. Make sure we do follow up with Ben and get a copy.

Commissioner Garza: It's got to go through a request form, first.

Mayor Olivares: Make sure you guys ask for a copy. But I would recommend you do that. So, you can see what transpired in the last meeting. I don't have anything else. Unless anybody wants to make a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tello to approve the minutes of November 26, 2019, December 10, 2019 and January 14, 2020 and Seconded by Commissioner Perez and the motion carried.

5). Consideration and Action on ORDINANCE 2020-001 Granting to AEP TEXAS, INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LINES AND APPURTENANCES AND APPLIANCES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRICITY IN, OVER, UNDER, AND THROUGH THE STREETS, AVENUES, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF RIO HONDO, TEXAS.

Yes, sir. This is the Franchise Agreement with AEP. It has expired. I believe the last one the city did was done back in the eighties. So, this one the rate is set by the PUC. And let me find-and the rate is by kilowatt hour.

Commissioner Perez: I think it's on section 5. No. Page two.

Ben Medina: Yes. And this is the first reading. We'll need two reading to pass the ordinance as you may know. Yes. No, it's on page two.

Commissioner Perez: Oh, two. Yes not 5.

Mayor Olivares: Is this common practice?

Ben Medina: Yes, it is. That's so they can pay you so they can put poles and lines on your right of way. And that's .00297. I mean sorry, .002979 per kilowatt hour and is multiplied times the number of kilowatt hours delivered by AEP to retail customers in the city. So, I mean those two we annex or de-annex this franchise agreement would apply. So, payment is made I believe is quarterly, and- I'm sorry it's made monthly. At the beginning of the month. The other company Magic Valley is quarterly. But they do it monthly. But the rate is set by the Texas Public Utilities Commission. It's an agreement that we give them permission to put their poles and lines in the right-of-way. To ask for a first reading.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tello to approve and Seconded by Commissioner Garza and the motion carried.

6). Status Report on new guidelines for Rio Hondo Park usage by Non-Profit Organizations, Baseball Leagues, and for-profit organizations.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir, they took into heart what was discussed with them last time. I bold in black letters here what they are agreeing to. I met with them. They are willing to give us keys for the locks that they own. So, we can get in their if there is a water break. If there's fumigation. We can go in there and do those things. We didn't have that before. Also, they want to report to the Commission their finance reports, any improvements that they have planned, any events coming up every two months. So, that's good. The Rio Hondo Sports League people do-you know we talked, Ms. Perez about park update. They are going to have park update once a month.

Commissioner Perez: Okay. Good. And will they let us know when that is so we can go and (inaudible)?

Ben Medina: Yes. We're having good and close communication with them. And they also agreed to promote the wellness of parents that are waiting and seeing their kids play. They're going to try with our Wellness Coordinator to promote the use of the exercise equipment that's there. Also, the walking trail for 15 minutes and promote the wellness of the community. So, that's something that we wanted. And those are the things. But as you know I want to table this. So, that the board can get in place. We'll all be in the same page. Whoever the new members come in and then we'll work with them. But right now, they are very excited. As a matter of fact, this afternoon a few minutes ago I was with them to see where they are going to put the forms for the new batting cages. And Mr. Pete was there. The electrician that came before us a couple of months ago. So, he's ready to do that work. So, we identified the location right there between the two fields a little unfinished field-a yellow one.

Comm. Perez: Hmmmh.

Mr. Medina: Right there are no trees or anything. There's really a void there that's stopping the view. So, they're going to put the batting cages there.

Mayor Olivares: Ben at the end are we going to give Pete's Electric something in writing so he can use it for his maybe taxes or something?

Ben Medina: Yes, of course. Once he gives me the price of how much it cost.

Commissioner Lopez: Did you have the attorney look at it as well?

Mr. Medina: Yes.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion to table?

Motion was made by Commissioner Perez to approve and Seconded by Commissioner Tello and the motion carried.

7). Consideration and Action approving payment from Rio Hondo Independent School District on water and sewer arrear charges.

Mayor Olivares: Ben.

Ben Medina: Yes, sir this is the pending agreement. I did meet with Mr. Garcia. And of course, we already discussed with him, we have come up with the 20,000. Which I believe was discussed a long-time last month. Or the 14th of this month. So, it's still the offer here by them.

Mayor Olivares: So further discussion? Anybody want to discuss this further?

Commissioner Tello: Did the attorney look at the contract?

Ben Medina: Yes, he had it since last night.

Commissioner Tello: Last night?

Ben Medina: Yes, and he said it was fine.

Mayor Olivares: No further discussion. Do I have a motion on the table?

Commissioner Lopez: Well, they're present.

Ben Medina: They may want to say something.

Mayor Olivares: Do you guys want to say something?

Ismael Garcia: We're here to answer any questions you all might have.

Mayor Olivares: Any further discussion?

Commissioner Lopez: Yeh. This water bill has been going on since when? How long? How far back?

Ismael Garcia: May I approach?

Mayor Olivares: Just share your name and title.

Ismael Garcia: Thank you, Mayor and Commissioners. Thank you for giving us this opportunity. My name is Ismael Garcia and I'm the Superintendent of Rio Hondo I. S. D. To answer your question since when has this bill, I guess. Outstanding bill of water charges, I believe that it was December 28th.

Commissioner Lopez: The whole year?

Ismael Garcia: The whole year. Yes, sir. We have been in communication at different time to try to resolve this issue. It has not been fruitful. I know that starting, I think in October we had more in-depth conversations. I know that I've met with Mr. Medina. Him and I have had different discussions about you know, issues. We're here to put it on the table an offer of 20,000 to kind of we agree with you to turn the page and continue our good working relationship that we have with the City. So, this is the proposal that's on the table. I'm here to answer any questions. I know I have Mr. Hernandez which is our Maintenance/Transportation Director and I also have Mrs. Villalobos who is our board president here. But I hope we can answer your questions.

Commissioner Garza: So, you guy's condition has been happening on for over a full year already?

Ismael Garcia: That is correct. There have been conversations for over a year.

Commissioner Lopez: Just for the record, yourself, Mr. Hernandez, and Mr. Ron De La Garza met with myself and Commissioner Tello. Last Monday?

Ismael Garcia: Last Monday, actually.

Commissioner Lopez: Y'all gave us a presentation of what.....

Ismael Garcia: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Lopez: Okay. How did-who came up with the 20,000, by the way?

Ismael Garcia: I did.

Commissioner Lopez: You came up with the 20,000?

Ismael Garcia: Yes, sir. I came up with the 20,000. If you look at information that I don't know if you've gotten information for your preview. But we do have copies here. If you look at everything, based on meters, and usage and things of the sort. I feel that that is even a larger number then it should be. We're looking somewhere more in the \$13,000. That's \$2,000 that I do feel that the district owes the City plus the late fees which we wouldn't try to negate those late fees. But when you put the late fees and what we feel that is owed to the City that comes out to a total of approximately, 10,139. I know that the conversation and the proposal was maybe about 22,000. I don't think that - I wouldn't be able to support that. That's why we came and presented to the board. Presented the numbers. Which we are willing to present to you all. I said look, let's put this behind us; let's turn the page: let's work together- 20,000. I did send it to my attorney. As you can see the agreement that was sent to you all. That's not my ability to write. I wish I could write like that. But It was reviewed by our attorney. I'm glad that I hear your attorney reviewed it also and finds it in line.

Ben Medina: Very good.

Ismael Garcia: So, that's what our proposal is.

Commissioner Lopez: At that last meeting we had the contract and the check given to us just as when we got here for the meeting. Our attorney hadn't seen it. You know, this is the first time I've ever seen it. I wanted to have our attorney look at it. To make sure the right language is in there. And then as the amount.....

Ismael Garcia: I totally respect that. I think that that is good business sense to have it reviewed by the attorney. It is a copy of the check. We have the check ready that if tonight you all approve this agreement, we can walk it over tomorrow and turn it in to.....

Commissioner Garza: This contract when did you make this contract? It was given to us on that night and I think it was unfair. I'm going to be honest with you. I think it was unfair for me to read it and I was not really prepared for that kind of literature it had. And I was really - I felt offended. I'm going tell you. I want to know; did you give Mr. Medina that contract or the date?

Ismael Garcia: In all fairness to Mr. Medina, I believe that I gave it to him the previous day. So, he did not have that much of a turn around to either review it or send it out or hold it or anything of that sort. I was pressing my attorney to get it to us quicker. To put down what we had talked about. What we had verbally agreed to put it down on paper. And In all fairness to Mr. Medina I do believe I gave it to him like one day before you all's meeting.

Mayor Olivares: And I think you were also trying to meet our deadline because we had an item on the agenda.

Ismael Garcia: That is correct, sir.

Mayor Olivares: That it was on the agenda for Tuesday.

Ismael Garcia: That is correct.

Mayor Olivares: So, basically if maybe our item on the agenda would have been later Ben probably would have had more time.

Ismael Garcia: That is correct. Yes.

Commissioner Garza: Mr. Garcia, what is it that broke here? I'm saying in reference of the first water bill. What happened that we're here today?

Ismael Garcia: That's what I'm trying to figure out. Because we did receive a high bill that we of course contested in reference to what is called a compound meter. And we have pictures of a compound meter for those of you - I'm not trying to educate anyone on a compound meter, but I got educated on it. Supposedly it's this that has two little dials. One is for high output and low output, right?

Audience speaker: High flow and low flow.

Ismael Garcia: And depending on the usage of those meters then it records, and somebody goes and reads it and they determine this is how much gallons of water we used. The first bill like I mentioned was for half a million gallons. Half a million gallons is a lot.

Commissioner Garza: This is in the year of eighteen, right?

Ismael Garcia: Yes, December 2018. And there's this conversation that there was a leak I think of this sort although we disagreed with it on December. I'm not here to discuss whether there was a leak or not I'm going to grant that to the City. And then that was in December. In January we have another half a million gallons of water from the same meter. The thing is. Here it is. So, the compound meter you actually, the way you were billing us because it has been replaced actually has two account numbers. And I will show you the pictures. Because it's very interesting. It was a pretty interesting research that we did. So, one compound meter #1 that generated the bill that was in question if you look at the dial and you look at the reading with what we are being billed is not even close. You're talking about a million gallons recorded. Right?

Mr. Hernandez: One point three.

Ismael Garcia: And your meter is reading 4.4.

Mr. Hernandez: Your recording.

Ismael Garcia: Your recording. Your bill. So, right there and then it's three million dollars, 3 million gallons of water that the district has been charged and we had to pay without really looking at the numbers. Now we wouldn't have seen those numbers, but it was brought to our attention that we were not good business partners and that we were not being good judiciary responsibilities with our bills. So, we actually- I actually went. We went out there each one. We have sixteen meters. I can tell you that

sixteen meters and I can even tell you the locations of it. And that one stood out because when we matched the bills most of them were within a tolerable range. Not a 100% accurate. But tolerable. But when you got to that one, it was three million gallons over. So, that was one of the disputes.

The second dispute was the one that came in November of 2019. Now November of 2019 is very interesting. Cause that one is referred-we refer-and I think you all refer to it La Trinidad. Trinidad meter. And that to me is very interesting because 1.2 million dollars. One point two million gallons in that meter where we have very limited people using it was a shocker. And I believe that it was either one of you, I don't know if it was Commissioner Hartzog, or Mr. Lopez, or somebody. But y'all started looking at the bill and you were saying am I making the account numbers up. Right, I have the numbers that I can prove. How can it be like okay 1,000, 1,000, 1000 dollars right or whatever and then all of the sudden 10,000 and then back to a 1,000. 1000, 1000. And there was no---there was no leak there. Now in my conversation with Commissioner Lopez he did bring up something and we looked into it. And I'm going to show you a video because I think that this also is very interesting. Get the video ready. So, he says, "I remember, one time that I made a phone call," and correct me if I'm wrong to either Mr. Hernandez or somebody and said "Hey, there's a leak right on the Trinidad." And that is correct there was a leak and it was on the Madero---on the Madero meter and we went, and we researched that field and that field 100,000 gallons were spilled. That's a leak! I'm going to show you what 100,000 gallons look like. Now remember in November of 2019 we're charged a million-two. That's twelve times that amount.

Commissioner Garza: I saw that. I made that call. I called (inaudible).

Various speaking.

Ben Medina: Mr. Lopez.

Ismael Garcia: August 11th.

Mr. Medina: Mr. Lopez that's when you called.

Ismael Garcia: August 11th.

Mr. Hernandez: One of your people from the water district or commission they called me and said that the alarm went off or something on the tower and y'all were losing a bunch of water.

Ismael Garcia: So, on August 11th we go out there and the meter is turning like crazy and we turn it off. And we wait for the bill. And the bill comes in and it's 100,000 gallons of water. Which we paid for it.

Mr. Hernandez: And no one filled up the entire.....

Ismael Garcia: That entire street.

Mr. Hernandez: Ye and that's 100,00 gallons.

Ismael Garcia: So, imagine 1.2 million is 12 times that. Now, maybe we do have a leak somewhere. Maybe there's this magical restroom that runs and turns off depending on the month. But that's 12 times that. We were expecting a huge, a huge puddle of water. So, the way that I told my board members actually, it wasn't me it was the board president who did the research. You can do the research it's GSA. I think it GSA on the website. Which is a government place. And I spoke with Mr. Medina, "Well that's not really fair." Just for conversation purposes, a 1,000,000 gallons-I used this one

and they didn't like it. A 1,000,000 is how much the average municipal water tower holds. So, that means that the whole water tower emptied out. They said, "No, that's not good enough." Okay, so what is a good example? A 1,000,000 gallons is a football field ten feet high deep in water. That's a million gallons. And I know there's going to be seepage. And I know that maybe I'm being a little bit too dramatic. But we can't justify that. We can't justify that. But even with this 20,000 upper. We're saying, "You know what, guys let's don't worry. Let's don't debate if whether there was a leak or not. Will give it to the city. Fine. Esta bueno. A leak no problem. Don't think so, but no problem." So, let's go and look at the bills. So, here's this bill of the compound meter. Meter # 1 that we're calling that is charging us 3,000,000 gallons more than what the meter reading is saying. Three million. So, when you do the math and we have paid those, technically we have pre-paid for three million gallons. So, if I'm getting charged for 3,200,000 then I should get credit for the 3,000,000 that I already paid and therefore I shouldn't have any late charges because I've prepaid. And therefore, that's the case then I only owe you eight-hundred dollars like if we were to go down that road. But I told Ben, if I offer eighteen-hundred dollars that is a slap to anybody. Eighteen we want thirty-seven. No, the bill is thirty-seven. How can you come with eighteen? So, after negotiating, and Mr. Medina has been very professional. Outstanding. And he is not paying me to say that. Just like Mr. Lopez and Mr. Tello went and spoke to me very professional. And you can tell me, "How were they?" I said very professional. They were super sweet. Didn't I say that? I did say that. From both of them.

Mr. Medina: Too sweet.

Ismael Garcia: Hah?

Mr. Medina: Too sweet.

Ismael Garcia: I said too sweet, right? I said because both gentlemen came in and said, "Look, you know what, we want to solve this issue. Tell us what's going on." And I appreciate you reaching out, Mr. Lopez. Reaching out to us for that. So, once we say everything. To me 20,000 is a fair deal. Twenty thousand is the maximum that I will put on the table. And I hope that y'all take everything into consideration and that you accept the offer. Now one last thing and I'll close with this because I think this is pretty amazing. And again, here is where we work together, and we solve the problem. So, the compound meter, going back to that. It was the compound meter? No, it was the one before, right? In front of our....

Mr. Hernandez: In front...

Ismael Garcia: In front of our Franklin vault. Y'all replaced the meters. Cause you replaced the meters. And we saw, because we've been taking pictures. Right? Now. Now they're not going to be taken again. Right? So, we've been taking pictures and we saw where your people, your city workers went in there and installed the new meter on a Saturday. They finished it on a Saturday. From Saturday to Monday morning, because I have my guy going out and taking pictures. There was 8,000....

Mr. Hernandez: Eighty thousand. Eight thousand.

Ismael Garcia: Eight thousand gallons used from Friday, Saturday afternoon to Monday morning. Eight thousand gallons. And the conversation-because we had been having conversations. Was, "See, I told you. You all have a leak." We went back to that leak that we're trying. Right? "Y'all have a leak. Y'all need to find it." Eight thousand gallons. We talked. We reached out. We compromised. I said well we

never saw it go down to see zero.” Okay you know what. Fine we’ll work with you. We going to reset or change the meter out and we’re going to bring it out to zero. Zero. Come here. What is it?” Zero. “Satisfied?” Yes, sir. Satisfied. Today before I came to this meeting, I said let’s go. It’s twenty days. Cause January 8th and January 28th.

Ben Medina: Yes, it’s twenty days.

Ismael Garcia: So, in twenty-eight days with no people in the building, because remember we’re out on break, who wants to guess what the meter reading is right now? Where it was at 5 o’clock.

Mayor Olivares: About twenty-five.

Ismael Garcia: How much?

Mayor Olivares: Twenty-five hundred gallons.

Ismael Garcia: A little bit more. One last. Okay nobody takes the option. Four-thousand five hundred gallons in twenty days. Four-thousand five-hundred gallons in 20 days with people. Verses eight-thousand gallons in a day and a half with no people. So, what am I trying to say? I don’t know what I am trying to say. But what I am telling you that those meter readings.....

Mayor Olivares: Mr. Garcia and I appreciate you bringing those things up. And that’s why we’ve been trying to have the commission understand that there’s some discrepancies in the system. And we’re not trying to blame nobody right and but based on our last meeting the commission. Some on the commission didn’t feel comfortable with making decisions.

Commissioner Garza: I am one of the one. I was one of them. Yeh.

Mayor Olivares: So, to me if they don’t take the time to look into things, of course it’s going to create “you know this is the way it is.” No. Sometimes, I always say that’s why we have a city administrator that whatever recommendations he brings to the commission we should accept those things. And when he came to the commission and said, “Hey, they’re offering twenty-thousand dollars.” I think that was a great deal. Because I even met with you, too. Right? And we talked about it a little bit. You know, but I think it was a great deal. The numbers might show different. Yes, you know but we are not going to win this battle. Neither you nor us. Right? So, let’s just meet in the middle like we’re talking about. I wish this would had been solved already two weeks ago. But I’m glad it’s back on the agenda. I think more people met with you. And I think they might feel more comfortable now. So, I think it’s time to move forward.

Ismael Garcia: And I do just want to thank you. And I do want to again, recognize the fact that Mr. Lopez and the Commissioner Tello for reaching out. I know that Ben has tried. Mr. Garza and myself had several conversations and I believe that his questions were legit. And I totally understand, you know – you all’s point of view. And I do wish that we would have had this conversation earlier.

Commissioner Garza: Mr. Garcia, I want to say one thing-Mr. Hernandez, that I want to be the first to apologize. Because what this information that you just brought in today was never (inaudible) to me. I didn’t know that we had an issue back in December of eighteen. I didn’t know that. I was looking from August 11th this way. And I for one, I for one apologize for the City dropping the ball on this one. You come in here saying that this (inaudible), this and that. You know. Somebody dropped the ball here. But

it's okay. Let's put it to the side. Let's get it going. I for one, whatever we want to do with it you have my support. But I want to thank you tonight for coming and being very, very clear with it. But again, I was never aware of.... I put my trust in this man over there. And I thought--- he never brought this up. You know. Eight thousand in one day and four thousand in twenty days. You know, there's something wrong with this picture. But I want to apologize (inaudible).

Ismael Garcia: No problem, sir.

Comm. Margaret Perez: I have a question. So, basically, so everybody on the commission is aware, you just didn't not come up and say, "We're not going to pay this water, it's ridiculous." No, you did your research.

Ismael Garcia: Yes, ma'am.

Margaret Perez: And. So, I mean I understand that, and you brought it in before us today. But my other questions is-ah, but I just wanted everybody to be aware that the school district just didn't say "We're not going to pay." They did their due diligence and had reason for not paying the thirty-seven thousand.

Ismael Garcia: That's correct.

Comm, Margaret Perez: Now. Secondly, I want to know who initiated the meeting you had with the other commissioners that you said y'all had earlier this week or last week. When was it?

Ismael Garcia: It was Commissioner Lopez. Reached out to me.

Comm. Margaret Perez: And when was the meeting?

Ismael Garcia: It was on Monday.

Comm. Margaret Perez: On Monday.

Ismael Garcia: Last month. Monday a week ago.

Comm. Garcia: Okay.

Comm. Joe Lopez: You know, Mr. Garcia we just approved the minutes as to where we had discussions back in December 10th, and I have it highlighted in here where Mr. Medina says, "And I ask that you get a copy that you don't want to pay for it, period." That's the response. And then we met. I talked to my attorney. The city attorney and asked, "Hey, can we meet with these guys?". He said, "Sure. Take another commissioner with you and go and talk and explain." so, that's what we did, and we went into this room. It looked like a war room. A very well-organized war room that y'all had there. That was a discussion that I had never seen. Because, we were already like I mentioned to you, we were only having a one-sided discussion and it wasn't until we met with you. You explained to us step by step probably for maybe a good forty-five minutes or so. And you were explaining the compound meters and you were explaining the other meters as well. And you even told us that the City hired a CPA to do the numbers. Right?

Ismael Garcia: That is correct. And these are based on your numbers.

Comm. Joe Lopez: Alright. And I appreciate you sitting down with us and explaining it to us. Cause that in itself was an eye opener. I had not seen that before. And for the fact that you know we had gotten this like us said that day the check I just wanted to wait and see. You know, let me talk to this man.

Ismael Garcia: Totally understanding, again. Totally respect y'all's due diligence and the process that you are following. I totally respect that. I know that you're responsible to your constituents. My board is responsible to our constituents. And I agree with mister-with Mayor Olivares they're both the same group. You know what I mean they're basically the same taxpayers and I know you advocate for them. And I know that my board advocates for the taxpayers. And I try to be transparent. I do have an open-door policy. And we can have any discussion and if I don't know the answer, I won't know the answer. Or, if I don't know the question, how can I answer if I don't know the questions. But, thank you very much for reaching out and taking this time. And again, it's up to you.

Mayor Olivares: I think part of Ben's discussion was-because you were never in favor of paying thirty-seven thousand?

Ismael Garcia: That is correct. I was never.

Mayor Olivares: So, I think that what was Ben's-I'm trying not to defend you but.

Ben Medina: No. No. (inaudible).

Mayor Olivares: I figured that he approached and said you your bill is thirty-seven thousand and you said, "No, we're not paying that."

Ismael Garcia: And in all fairness to Mr. Medina, and I have to say he's been a gentleman. He's been very pro-city but just like he has to advocate for city coffers, I have to advocate for the school coffers and that's where the negotiation....

Mr. Ben Medina: But, Mr. Garcia, I think It will be remised if not only pro city but pro school district.

Ismael Garcia: That is correct.

Ben Medina And we want to mention that the things that we're working on that have nothing to do with water but with scholarships, with programs, with bringing industry into the school district. All that we don't have to do. Or we have to do. But we're pro Mr. Garcia, pro school district, and the kids. So, in the next of the months there will be a non-profit (inaudible) that will help the student even more. I'm even thinking-- My wife and I thinking about opening about a scholarship program. She retired from the school district a teacher for 37 years. But to develop a scholarship for people wanting to go into the vocational program. I think that is very important. That's what we're trying to do with the STEM program. and I spoke to ACCIONA. With....

Comm. Alonzo Garza: We're off the subject here.

Ben Medina: No. No. He mentioned that about being remised about the school. So, I think he needs to vocalize that because the City supports the School district.

Mayor Olivares: Yeh, that's something that I'm always in favor of. As I was telling Ben today. And just to close this out. People in the community know who you-we are; know what you have done; know what you have done in the past if it's good for bad; or what you're doing now. So, to have- if you go sit in a

room and try to say something that's not what it is people already know the kind of person you are. They don't have to tell you. So, I always tell Ben I say don't worry about it we just got to worry about doing the right thing helping the district and move forward. Because people already know who we are. No matter what you do today or what to you do tomorrow. If you're a bad person all you got to do is look up Gus Olivares, Rio Hondo and it will tell you what I've done. For any of us. Regardless of what has happened today, or tomorrow or years ago. So. Alright, let's move on.

Commissioner Lopez: Mr. Garcia, here lately have you had any more issues with the meters or anything?

Ismael Garcia: Actually, we have not. I mean I know that we're going almost every other day. We will continue to do our part. Our due diligence. But we have not.

Mayor Olivares: Thank you, Mr. Garcia.

Thank you from all Commission.

Ismael Garcia: Do you want us to stick around?

Mayor Olivares: Yes. Let's go ahead and move forward. What do you guys want to do with Item #7?

Comm. Margaret Perez: I motion to accept payment of \$20,000.

Mayor Olivares: We got a motion to accept.

Comm. Alonzo Garza: I want to hear it from her, I'm sorry.

Mayor Olivares: She has a motion.

Comm. Alonzo Garza: What did she say?

Comm. Margaret Perez: I motion to accept the payment of \$20,000.

Comm. Alonzo Garza: Okay.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a second?

Comm. Alonzo Garza: I second.

Mayor Olivares: We got a second. Now open for discussion.

Comm. Joe Lopez: Mr. Garcia and those that are with the School District, I look forward to working together with you guys. You guys are our biggest customers as far as water is and not only that there's the kids there that are involved in that. And I look forward to working with you guys.

Commission Alonzo Garza: Likewise. Here. Here

Ismael Garcia: Thank you.

Comm. Alonzo Garza: Call me if you guys need anything. I'm here.

Ismael Garcia: Thank you, guys.

All thank you.

Mayor Olivares: So, we have a motion by Ms. Margaret and second Mr. Garza. Everybody in favor say I.
I. Motion carries.

Mayor Olivares: Thank you guys. And get together with Ben tomorrow.

Ismael Garcia: Yes, sir.

Mayor Olivares: And I do want to go back.....

Comm. Margaret Perez: Hold on. I have a question. If have I have some concerns or questions regarding some other stuff today, kind of went off the subject, do I have to put it on the next agenda, or can we bring it up right now?

Ben Medina: On the water issues?

Comm. Perez: Yes, on the meeting that went on with Mr. Garcia.

Ben Medina: It's up to the mayor.

Mayor Olivares: Well.

Ben: That's related to the agenda item?

Comm. Perez: Yes.

Ben Medina: It's up to you, Mayor if you want to open up that discussion?

Mayor Olivares: Yes, let's go ahead and do that.

Comm. Perez: My question is the commissioners who met with Mr. Garcia, in the minutes we delegated with Mr. Medina to go back to talk to Mr. Garcia. So, we jumped the chain of command.

Mayor Olivares: The Commission?

Comm. Perez: Because, A) Commissioners went on their own to make a meeting with Mr. Garcia. I don't know if you were invited to the meeting (to Mr. Medina)?

Mr. Medina: No.

Comm. Perez: Because I know I was not invited to the meeting.

Comm. Lopez: Ben knew about the meeting.

Comm. Perez: Nobody asked. Nobody asked the other commissioners if we would like to attend the meeting. I mean I would have wanted to go.

Ben Medina: Positively.

Comm. Perez: I wanted to go.

Comm. Lopez: You knew you about it (Medina) you called me.

Comm. Tello: That would justify a quorum. Three commissioners.

Comm. Perez: Yes, but even one commissioner can't go and just have a meeting.

Comm. Garza: Oh, yes. Yes, they can.

Comm. Lopez: I called just for the record. I talked to our City Attorney to get permission and he said yes you can. And then he said take somebody with you as a witness. And I called Comm. Tello to see if he was available and he was. There after that was on Wednesday. At the end of the day Ben called me and tells me, "Hey, I understand you're going to have a meeting with Mr. Garcia," I said yes. And he said, "Okay." And that was the end of that conversation.

Comm. Perez: So. But my question is why didn't we ask Mr. Medina to have Mr. Garcia set up a meeting with all of us? Or come here and explain to us before today?

Mr. Medina: And I think.....

Comm. Perez: No. That's what they're here for now because you're already met with them. We could have asked them to be presented in front of us. Cause I would like to have known. I would have liked to have known what happened in that meeting and not hearsay. Because you know once somebody says something a word can change a couple phrases can change and that changes the whole concept of what actually happened.

Mayor Olivares: At the end of the day, Margaret the Commission gave direction as a Commission for Ben to meet with them. That's it.

Ben Medina: Right.

Mayor Olivares: The Commissioner never said Mr. Lopez or Mr. Tello to go meet with them. Right?

Ben Medina: Right and then I believe Mr. Lopez talked to the attorney directly and the attorney my understanding because I met with Mr. Drinkard said, "Yes you can go with Ben," That's what the instructions that he told me.

Comm. Lopez: Either you or a Commission. That's exactly what he told me.

Ben Medina: Well we need to ask him, so.

Mayor Olivares: That's your concern it's a good concern to bring up. I mean the Commission did give a direction but at the end of the day it did happened. Let's just move forward.

Comm. Garza: The Commissioner does not have to...and there no (Inaudible.) We can have meetings wherever they want. If they want.

Mayor Olivares: What it is—it's what...

Comm. Perez: We can't have meetings anywhere we want. Whether we want.

Comm. Garza: You need to get educated. That's why. I though.....

Comm. Perez: Sir, I just went to a TML meeting!

Comm. Garza: Well.....giggle.

Comm. Perez: And I can call tomorrow and have them send that information.

Comm. Garza: Go ahead. Go ahead and do that.

Comm. Perez: Because I am educated, sir!

Comm. Garza: I don't know what is your problem? What is it you want?

Comm. Perez: I don't like that you all went behind somebody-the rest of the Commission's back to have this meeting. You should have said-asked would I like to attend and if that would have made quorum then we could have it here. Everybody here.

Mayor Olivares: I think what she is trying to say is this.

Comm. Perez: I feel blindsided. That's what it feels like. Like if you all manipulatively, secretly went behind to do this.

Comm. Lopez: Wow! No.

Mayor Olivares: Because Margaret, let me explain.

Comm. Perez: When it could have been done here in front with everybody. That's all I'm asking.

Comm. Lopez: Blindsided? Blindsided is accepting a \$20,000 check and a contract at the last minute. I didn't see that until the day we showed up.

Comm. Perez: But that day you know what we should have done that night, we should have said "Mr. Medina don't go back and talk to him. Have him come back here and talk to us so we can ask him ourselves the questions we have."

Comm. Garza: Mayor.

Mayor Olivares: Before you leave, I do want to say one thing. A commission as a whole makes decisions in the city as a whole. Right?

Comm. Garza: Yeh.

Mayor Olivares: The Commission gave Ben direction to go meet with the school district and negotiate. The amount was asked how much and said whatever. Right? Well a day later someone tells Ben.....

Comm. Tello: It was not, negotiate whatever.

Mayor Olivares: Negotiate more. Right? So, the next day Ben gets a call to negotiate \$7,000 or \$6,000? Which the Commission never negotiated. Never discussed that. Okay. So, this is why it brings.....

Comm. Perez: See, that I didn't even know that it was brought up.

Mayor Olivares: That's why it brings up this issue. So, I think that as a Commission when you give a directive and say, "I want Ben and Mr. Tello," as an example to go meet with the superintendent and negotiate \$6,000, blah, blah, blah. Go. But when that direction is not given and then the Commission goes and does something different it could-I'm not saying it's wrong. I'm saying it could cause issues.

Comm. Lopez: We didn't negotiate numbers. We were just listening to their version.

Mayor Olivares: Did you ever tell Ben to negotiation \$7,000 or \$6,000?

Comm. Lopez: I never told him.

Ben Medina: You said to ask them.

Comm. Lopez: It was asked.

Mayor Olivares: For how much?

Comm. Lopez: I didn't say.

Ben Medina: Seven thousand.

Comm. Lopez: You can look at the minutes. It was not.....

Ben Medina: No. No. No, it was afterwards.

Mayor Olivares: Did you call Ben and tell them to ask?

Comm. Lopez: I didn't call Ben.

Ben Medina: You called me at night, sir. Yes, you did. Remember?

Comm. Lopez: I told you

Ben Medina: You asked from five to seven.

Comm. Lopez: I told you let them figure it out.

Ben Medina: Yeh, but you did call.

Comm. Perez: My thing is. That's the thing. See that's the thing when you have not everybody present, it's, "I said, no, you said this, no you said that."

Mayor Olivares speaking with Comm. Garza: (inaudible).

Mayor Olivares: No, we went back to the line item.

Comm. Garza: But it's not.

Comm. Perez: If we were all present. If we would have brought him with the concerns that you had, cause maybe somebody else had another concern but didn't think of that at that time. But if we would have brought him here we would have all heard and it would not be a, "Well, you said this," "No, sir I didn't," "I said this," "Yes, you did," "You want me to bring...." That's what I'm trying to avoid. We need to work together instead of doing things like this.

Comm. Lopez: It was on the agenda.

Comm. Perez: I'm just saying we could have said bring him before us. I have questions. I want to know more about this. I want to see why they are saying no. Why they only sent this amount. We could have had him come here to present to us. So, everybody could have heard.

Comm. Lopez: There was at the agenda for that topic. For whatever reason they didn't show.

Comm. Garza: But it was from 2018. I just learned about it. It's been a long time. So. So, if there's something to be even discussing this. We're not supposed to even be discussing this. I don't think.

Mayor Olivares: It's part of the same item. It's part of the same item.

Comm. Tello: The problem here is that it was an issue that has been here for over a year. And you and I just came in in June this should have been taken care of even earlier.

Comm. Perez: Hmmhhh.

Comm. Tello: I'm not going to say that—the only thing is that that Mr. Medina and I sat here even at before the last meeting. Cause you called me here and said, "Look I'm going to go over there and they want to pay the bill. This is the bill". And I said okay, how much is it? "It's 37,000 plus this month's bill". And I told Mr. Medina, that day look if it's okay with all the Commission to accept, but I was looking at 27,000. Because if you look at the bill it was 39. I mean you saw the contract. Thirty-nine thousand. They paid 2,000. We they still had 37,000.

Mayor Olivares: (Inaudible)

Comm. Tello: No, let me finish. On the 37 he said they want a \$9,000 credit. Okay, if you subtract 9,000 from 37,000 how much is it?

*****Everybody calculating numbers.

Comm. Perez: Twenty-eight.

Comm. Tello: Almost 28,000. Okay and the I said, I told him that morning you call the mayor, you call all the commissioners and if they all agree put it on the next meeting. Okay, that's for us to accept the bill. But it was no 27,000. And that's fine. But you know I told him, call all the other commissioners. And the thing is even at our last meeting, I mean he knew that he had to go and meet with him and then later on I think Mr. Lopez called me and said look talked to the attorney, but he wants a witness. And said well, so, can you go? Well, I can make time to go. I am just going to be there as a witness to see what's being discussed. And basically, they showed us all their numbers. Because I think Mr. Lopez' concern was okay how did you come up with 20,000? You know because I mean we didn't take—we didn't accept your \$20,000 offer. Because I think we feel that there was—that we're supposed to get more money. And actually, in all reality I mean he sat there. I mean he was talking to them, and I was listening. And he said, "In all reality I think we only owe you probably 10,000". I mean we didn't say---okay we didn't agree with anything. (inaudible). We were just there to listen to how they came up with that number.

Comm. Perez: The numbers that they gave.

Comm. Tello: Yeh. We weren't there to say okay, you know that's great, that's fine, we're going to accept it. We made no decision. The only other thing is that Mr. Lopez invited him to come in and give us their-whatever presentation they gave us there. And I guess that's the same presentation that Mr. Medina (inaudible). That we all as a Commission here would see why they were only offering us 20,000. And that's it. That's why they are here.

Mayor Olivares: In the last meeting. Let's be fair.....

Comm. Tello: It doesn't matter.

Mayor Olivares: Let's be fair to Margaret. Okay. To me if you guys want to invite me to a meeting or not it doesn't matter. Let's be fair to her. I believe she's going to be here a longer time than any of us. In the last meeting she asked, how much you guys want to negotiate or how much is it that you guys want? And it said a little bit more or whatever it was. Right? If this was going—why not say, "You know what

Mr. Medina so, everybody has (inaudible) set it up at our next meeting, bring them here". Don't point Ben to be going negotiate and then a day later somebody tells him try and negotiate six or seven-thousand dollars and the commission never agreed on that. You can't do that. You can't.

Comm. Garza: No.

Mayor Olivares: Even if Alonzo wants 3,000. Right? How do we know if he is okay with seven, or how do we know he's okay with seven, or me with seven, or you with seven? There's no way.

Comm. Garza: Yeh.

Mayor Olivares: So, what should off really happen was you should maybe set up the meeting for today. Right? Instead of us trying to figure it out. I mean. The only thing—that the only reason I met with the Super since day one is, I wanted him to able to get his numbers straight with Ben and figure that out. And then that's when they came up with this other stuff. But in Margaret's situation she's like "Oye, pues I've been left out of this stuff."

Comm. Garza: You know, Mayor, in the past. Margaret, in the past. They do their—Mr. Medina, the mayor and even Gerry they do stuff without us knowing. "Hey, did you hear they were in Galveston?" No. Or, "Did you know Mr. Medina was in Washington?" No. So, is that fair? Because, I know people tell me that stuff right. And I'm like wow I didn't know that. Sometimes I try to get a hold of Ben he so can explain to me. It's okay. Esta bien. At least let us know. You know.

Mayor Olivares: But if the Commission says.....

Comm. Garza: But. But. No, what I'm trying to say

(Inaudible).

Ben Medina: No, but he mentioned my name. Sir, I was on vacation.

Comm. Garza: Well, that's fine. But Mr. Medina the entire time I've told you that's fine. And you know and it's good. But at least let me know. I don't like to hear it from someone else.

Ben Medina: But

Comm. Garza: That you were over there. Now. The point here on the water here. On the water. You know that this commissioner if he wants to go talk to somebody. If he wants to talk to the county, he doesn't have to come and tell you about it. He can go you know and bring it to the table, and we make decisions. He can say, "Look I talked to the county we talked about this, this and this."

Mayor Olivares: So, if the Commission appoints you, Alonzo to go represent this board to go talk to the school district and then everyone else is talking to the school district. "Pues, para que the board appointed me.". Right? You're going to say, "Porque, a mi the board appointed?" As an example. Right?

Comm. Garza: Yeh.

Mayor Olivares: The board appointed Ben. But if we're all going to go talk to them all individually then why did we appoint Ben? You know what I'm saying? So, we just got to be careful when we make the decision who we are appointing or whatever it is let the person run with it. There's nothing wrong. But.

Comm. Perez: The difference with me is that I am not going to go talk to somebody about something that's got to be decided on with the city because I don't want something that I said miscommunicated, misunderstood, or said that she said she was there. No. No. No. I don't want any of that. I don't want to get in any trouble here. I don't want to teeter totter on the side of the law and policy and procedures. I do everything here.

Comm. Lopez: That's why....

Comm. Perez: Here while we're here that's what I do.

Comm. Garza: That's why they brought it to the table,

Comm. Perez: You know that's what I want here.

Comm. Garza: Nothing was negotiated. Nothing was negotiated. They just wanted to hear the story.

Comm. Perez: But like you said you hear things; other people hear things.

Comm. Garza: Yeh.

Comm. Perez: Everything goes around. Unfortunately, that's what happens in not just small towns but in big towns everywhere things go on and things get

Comm. Lopez: Ms. Margaret.

Comm. Perez: Misunderstood and I don't want to be any part of that. I want to do everything correctly, legally, morally, ethically. I want to do it all correct.

Comm. Lopez: Margaret, when we were discussing this check. I mean like you and I and everybody else we got a check right then and there. One, we're trying to approve that check and there was a contract attached to that the check. Our attorney wasn't even present at the time. Hadn't even seen the check until the next day. Cause I called him.

Comm. Tello: He's not even present today.

Comm. Garza: Do you think that is fair?

Comm. Lopez: So.

Comm. Garza: Margaret.

Comm. Lopez: So.

Comm. Perez: But we still voted on it whether he was here, Alonzo. It doesn't matter whether it's fair or not.

Comm. Lopez So.

Comm. Garza: No, the question is, do you think it's fair?

Comm. Lopez: So, I have questions as we were discussing questions back and forth. Y'all were asking questions and questions and I wasn't getting them answered by Mr. Medina. So, then I called the attorney and I explained to him and he talked to me, I said these are my concerns. I mean one, this

didn't even get to you. And he said, "I did.... I wasn't even..." He didn't know about it. He hadn't even received that until he opened up his e-mail mid-morning when I was talking to him. I said just I don't feel comfortable accepting this check and then the verbiage behind it is the language of an attorney. Will I be first seeing it? You know, it seemed like we were trying to rush into this and what if we rushed into something and we find out we did wrong? That's why.

Mayor Olivares: None of that stuff was discussed.

Talking in the background.

Comm. Lopez: So, then I talked to the attorney. Said, look can I talk to them before? And he said, "Yeh, if you want to talk to them you can take Ben, or you can take another commissioner." And I took another one because I wanted a witness. And I told the attorney we're not going to go negotiate, I just want to ask questions. One, how long has this been going on? Two, who came up with the money? And three, I mean what are the meters y'all are having trouble with? And they showed me four meters and one in particular the one they were talking about; the compound meter is the one they are having trouble with. So, I agree with you. I'm not going to be hiding the ball from nobody. It's going to be all up front and do what is right for the city. You know. I came here and I got elected by the people and I entrust their judgement for voting on me and that's the most sacred vote that I can ever have as a commissioner. And I will never violate that trust that people gave me. You know, for whatever reasons they can't come up here and be commissioners but then they said, "If you want to serve, we'll elect you". So, that's why I'm asking questions. You know, Margaret you can ask questions. If after the meeting you have a question you can call one of the commissioners. Call Ben or call the attorney. "I have a question with this and this." And you can bring it to the table. I told Mr. Garcia up front, "Did I meet with you? Did Commissioner Tello meet with you?" and he said, "Yes. Yes." With the approval and we ran it through our attorney. If the attorney said "No" then I would have never made that attempt. But I just wanted answers.

Mayor Olivares: Let me go back to that item. It's number six. Basically, Ben will continue working with you guys to come out with an actual contract to eventually have in place of the things that you guys have been discussing all week. How you can help, are you going to participate and other things. So, it was tabled by the Commission to bring back because the attorney's got to review it and stuff like that. Right? And then once that is reviewed then we'll set up another day so you guys can come and be part of the meeting. And listen to the discussion and look at it and so, you guys can say "Yeh, we're cool with this." And then this Commission.....

Ben Medina: Until their board also gets elected.

Mayor Olivares: And also, Ben mentioned that you guys are going to be giving us reports twice a month. Or, no once every two months or something like that. So, that's what transpired on your agenda. But we will bring it back to the table. I don't know how soon you need it. Cause I know you guys start planning the... I mean run with it until I guess the Commission.....

Ben Medina: We're already working. I think they're registering people. We should have it. I believe March was what they told me.

Mayor Olivares: So, that's what was being discussed.

Comm. Garza: Can I say something?

Mayor Olivares: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

Comm. Garza: We have a contract with them. Right?

Mayor Olivares: Yes, and it expires.....

Ben Medina: It expires in February.

Mayor Olivares: In February.

Comm. Garza: What day in February?

Ben Medina: The last day.....

Mayor Olivares: The last day in February.

Comm. Garza: Okay. Make sure you bring that before it expires.

Ben Medina: Yes. And I'm waiting just for the board to get elected because they haven't done so.

Mayor Olivares: You're missing one person for president, Jesse?

Jesse Izaguirre: Yes.

Comm. Perez: Or have y'all decided?

Mayor Olivares: Or have you guys decided that yet?

Jesse Izaguirre: No, well she's going to stay?

Mayor Olivares: Okay, cool.

Jesse Izaguirre: And I'm keeping the vice-president.

Comm. Perez: Who's the president?

Jesse Izaguirre: Jessica Gonzales.

Comm. Perez: She's the president of the league now?

Jesse Izaguirre: Yeh.

Mayor Olivares: Okay. So, you talked to her already and she is going to stay?

Jesse Izaguirre: Yeh, well so far yes.

Mayor Olivares: Okay.

Female League speaker: Unless she changes her mind.

Mayor Olivares: What's that?

Female League speaker. Unless she changes her mind. But so far, she's been.....

Jesse Izaguirre: So far, she been in.

Mayor Olivares: Perfect.

Jesse Izaguirre: It doesn't look like she's not going anywhere.

Mayor Olivares: So, once we get the contract hopefully by the end of this week and then go back to the attorney and then back to you. Then we'll get a copy or something.

Ben Medina: It'll be ready in February.

Comm. Perez: Shouldn't any of them be here?

Mayor Olivares: I think it would be good for one of you guys to be here just so we can go through the contract and y'all agree and after the meeting I sign it.

Jesse Izaguirre: And a little update for y'all.

Mayor Olivares: Perfect. Go ahead, sir.

Jesse Izaguirre: We're putting in the batting cages.

Mayor Olivares: Perfect.

Jesse Izaguirre: We had originally, ahh were going to put them where if you drive into the left along that fence, but there was a question on the contractor about the easement of the fence on the setback. So, we went ahead and moved them in between the two, the small field and the bigger field on the north side and that's already blocked off with the fence so, that area isn't being used. So, we marked it off and he said there was no problem getting power to that point. And besides it's going to be under the big light, also.

Mayor Olivares: The cages and all that are all being donated?

Jesse Izaguirre: The cages is all being donated.

Comm. Garza: And the work?

Ben Medina: And the work.

Comm. Perez: Labor and material?

Comm. Garza: This is something I need to know. So.....

Ben Medina: They made a presentation a couple months ago.

Jesse Izaguirre: Nothing is coming out of the city. Everything there is being donated. We're trying to get event the pitching machines.

Mayor Olivares: Pete's Electric was here with so and so a couple of months back and he's the one donating the cages and doing the work. Ahh, working with them now. And I think that's a good spot where you guys-I think that's the best spot in general.

Ben Medina: That's a great spot.

Jesse Izaguirre: We originally, we didn't think about the light but it's almost right underneath the big lights.

Comm. Garza: Is that good or bad?

Jesse Izaguirre: Yeh, it's good. Because of where it was there's no lighting in that area, also.

Comm. Perez: I'm sorry, Jesse I'm a little geographically challenged. You can't tell me to go east on this road. I'll say you need to tell me to cross the bridge or is it before the bridge?

Jesse Izaguirre: You drive into the park...

Comm. Perez: So, is it the one-is it that area facing Junior Vasquez' house? Or is it the one facing, like...

Jesse Izaguirre: No. No. It's the one facing....

Female speaking:

Comm. Perez: Kind of by the storage shed? The equipment shed.

Ben Medina: You go north.

Comm. Perez: Okay.

Jesse Izaguirre; Where that little equipment shed is it's on that side. It's in between those two fields.

Comm. Perez. Okay. Got it.

Mayor Olivares: Do I have a motion?

Motion was made by Commissioner Perez to approve and Seconded by Commissioner Garza and the motion carried.

8) Adjournment: Motion was made by Commissioner Tello and seconded by Commissioner Garza and the motion carries.



April 9, 2020

To the Citizen of Rio Hondo

I am writing this letter to wish you and your family a very blessed Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, and Easter Sunday.

In the coming days and weeks, we will learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 on our community. The City of Rio Hondo and the Cameron County government are working together to directly respond to the threat of this virus and will continue to partner with the Federal and State government.

Please understand that if we successfully adapt the strategy below, we will contribute to "flattening the curve." As a result, lives in our community for those most at-risk will be saved from illness or more severe complications. While we may not know every person saved, realize they could be our parents, grandparents, child, friend, or neighbor. The local churches have all come together to provide virtual worship services. The Rio Hondo School Independent District further supports these efforts that will keep all of us safe by having curbside feeding providing in home instruction to all students. Our Senior Center continues to provide curb-side meals three times a week.

We need everyone to practice safe distancing, cover your face with a mask or homemade covering. Do not gather in groups larger than ten. Please only two people per car and no child under fourteen of age to get essential items.

I also want to thank our store owners and store managers and dedicated employees for remaining open. You do not need to go very far for your needs; you can buy all your groceries locally, pump gas, and buy hardware. The local restaurants have delicious take-outs, and they and I appreciate your business.

I want to assure all residents of the City of Rio Hondo that our staff has continued to work diligently and have kept our water, sewer, and street services uninterrupted and Police and Fire Depts have remained vigilant. Our street renovation projects, water plant improvements, and private construction projects have not stopped.

I pray for this pandemic to end soon and that we may stay safe. Please call me at (956) 345-6496 if there is anything that I can do to assist this community better. We will continue to post updates on the City's Website; riohondo.us Please know that you have full support from the City Commission and me, for we are all in this together.

Again, thank you for supporting one and another during these difficult times during this Easter season. God Bless you and your family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Olivares".

Gustavo Olivares, Mayor
City of Rio Hondo

