

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON September 17, 2024

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met for Special Meeting on September 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor- Gustavo Olivares Presiding- Present, Mayor Pro-Tem- Margaret Perez , Present and Commissioners, Juan Garza- Present, Esteban Bocanegra- Present Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

Also Present: Ben Medina, City Administrator, Ana L. Hernandez, Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard, City Attorney, Lucy Garza, Finance Director, Sgt Rosales, Murl Kemmerling, PW Director, and Neal Cobb.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –Led by Mayor Olivares

INVOCATION: By Commissioner Margaret Perez

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Margaret Perez questioned who is responsible for cleaning up the alleys. Mr. Medina replied that the citizens are responsible but they don't, therefore the City has been cutting and maintaining alleys.
- Commissioner Cavazos asked who is maintaining the school building; Mr. Medina replied that it was on the schedule for the following day.
- Mayor Olivares asked for update issue at Park; Mr. Medina replied they will be doing a swell with a wrap on to connect to the other swell and there would be no barrier.
- Commissioner Garza asked about problem with sewer backing up and spilling into ditch; Mr. Medina said that it should be corrected within a week; waiting on estimate to move forward

2. Reports: Administrator

- Mr. Medina stated the City of Rio Hondo has contracted Mr. Delgado to help with cutting grass at City Hall, the boat ramp, the parks, the piece of property on Mira Mar and the school building and other City Properties.

3. Public Comment Period: *Please Note- The Public Comment Period is designated for hearing concerns regarding City of Rio Hondo Public Policy or City of Rio Hondo business that is or is not on the agenda or items listed on the agenda.*

- **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

4. Consideration and Action to approve the August 27, 2024, City Commission Minutes. Tabled.

- Commissioner Perez made motion to approve the Minutes for the August 27, 2024 meeting, Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motions. All voted “aye” Motion passed.

5. Audience with Neal Cobb – regarding Economic Development

- Mr. Cobb addressed the Council asking the City to consider selling the piece of property at Arroyo Escondido Subdivision. It would serve no purpose if he cannot acquire this piece of property from City. The Mayor pointed out that he was not pleased with how the property has not been kept up. He asked Mr. Cobb to put his proposal in writing and come back to the Commission for consideration.

6. **Public Hearing on the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year Budget from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.**

- **PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 6:48 PM**

Commissioner Bocanegra requested a salary chart and stated line items were not matching. Mr. Medina explained the reason for discrepancy and added that it was due to 5% increase across the board and 14% increase to Police Department shifted the numbers for everyone. Mr. Medina gave a more detailed explanation to commissioners as to why the shift. The end result for this is to truly account what is going on with Budget. Commissioner Garza questioned the salary for Parks and Recreation; Mr. Medina answered that it is for the intended lead position for Parks with 2 laborers. Commissioner Garza requested a Job Description be prepared for next Commissioner’s Meeting

- **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 7:06 PM**

7. Consideration and Action approving the City of Rio Hondo Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, budget.

- Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, budget; Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried

8. Consideration and Action to approve Resolution 2024-09 ratifying the property tax rate reflected in the City’s Fiscal Year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, operating budget.

- Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 ratifying the property tax rate reflected in the City’s Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, operating budget; Commissioner Bocanegra seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

9. Public hearing on Ordinance 2024-10 of the city of Rio Hondo, Texas, levying ad valorem taxes for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas, beginning October 1, 2024, ad ending September 30, 2025; providing for the apportioning each levy for specific purposed; providing a deadline; and providing for a lien on real and personal property to secure the payment of taxes asesessed.

- PUBLIC MEETING OPENED AT 7:20 PM
- PUBLIC MEETING CLOSED AT 7:21 PM

10. Consideration and Action approving Ordinance 2024-10 of the City of Rio Hondo, which approves a real and personal property rate of 0.812207 per \$100 valuation from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

- Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-10 of the City of Rio Hondo, which approved a real and personal property rate of 0.812207 per \$100 valuation from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

Commissioner Juan Garza	Voted	“AYE”
Commissioner Esteban Bocanegra	Voted	“AYE”
Mayor Pro Tem Margaret Perez	Voted	“AYE”
Commissioner Olga Gallegos	Voted	“AYE”
Commissioner Jose S. Cavazos	Voted	“AYE”

MOTION CARRIED

11. Consideration and Action approving the Employee Work Hours Policy, Employee Drug Policy, and Vacant Position Policy.

- There was discussion about the Employee Work Hours Policy – this item was tabled Mr. Drinkard will modify and bring back this policy for review at next meeting. The Employee Work Hours Policy was tabled for revision by Mr. Drinkard.
- The Vacant Position Policy WAS TABLED.
- Mr. Drinkard was instructed to draw up a new Employee Handbook implementing the new guidelines; he will have this ready in a month.
- Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the Employee Drug Policy with correction from “may” to “shall” submit for drug testing within 4 hours after an accident.; Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, all vote “aye” to approve, motion carried.

12. Consideration and Action on Holiday Calendar for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

- Commissioner Bocanegra made a motion to approve the Holiday Calendar for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025; Commissioner Perez seconded the motion; all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

13. Consideration and Action to cancel the September 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting.

- NO ACTION TAKEN

14. ADJOURNMENT.

- Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve the motion carried.

Approved



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 10-08-2024

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator.