

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING ON February 11, 2025

The Government Body of the City of Rio Hondo, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on February 11, 2025 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- Absent, Olga Gallegos- Present, and Jose Cavazos- Present

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Medina - City Administrator, Ana Hernandez - Assistant City Administrator, Robert Drinkard - City Attorney, Lucy Garza – Finance Director, Aaron Martinez - Parks Supervisor, Chief Bilokury, Sgt Michael Rodriguez, Officer Christopherh Rodriguez, Chaplain Ruben Perez, Chaplain Janie Perez, Daniel Bryant – Citizen, Rob Fracasso – Citizen, Kendra Busse Rocha – GrantWorks, Nelda Barrera - GrantWorks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

INVOCATION: Led by Chaplain Ruben Perez

Regular Agenda:

1. Mayor's and Commissioners' Reports

- No reports from Mayor nor Commissioners

2. Reports: Administrator

Mr. Medina:

- The School sold stadium
- Recreational facility for the community

Robert Fracasso:

- Presented some ideas for the Veteran's Memorial
- Currently working on Fund raisers with VFW and American Legion
- Trying to establish roster of Veterans

Aaron Martinez – Parks Supervisor

- Mr. Martinez introduced himself to the Mayor and Commissioners
- Mayor told Mr. Martinez to please try to upkeep the Parks and Sidewalks

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

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

4. **Consideration and action on approving January 14, 2025 City Commission minutes.**

- **Mr. Garza noted some corrections regarding Mr. Fracasso's last name**

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2025 City Commission Meeting with corrections. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve; motion carried.

5. **Presentation of TDA Form A1024 CDBG Section 3 Goals and Concepts as related to the CDBG Program.**

- Kendra Busse Rocha presented TDA Form A1024 CDBG Section 3 Goals and Concepts as related to the CDBG Program. Street reconstruction for Catherine, Miramar, and Kindinger, The City of Rio Hondo was awarded \$500,000 funded through CDBG.

6. **Public Hearing on rezoning application 2025-01 of Lot 1 Block 1 of SL Graham Sudvision from Residential Classification to Business District Classification.**

Public Hearing opened at 6:22

- Daniel Bryant is requesting to be changed to Business District Classification for a business office.
- Mr. Bryant introduced himself to the Mayor and Commissioners currently owns a Bryant Industrial out of Port Isabel, South Padre Island, Texas City, and want to work in Rio Hondo too. He wants an office here in Rio Hondo. He also presented his plans for this project.
- Commissioner Garza asked if neighbors needed to sign consent; Mr. Medina replied notices will be sent and they can attend next public hearing. There will be 2 more public hearings.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to close Public Hearing at 6:26 pm. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted "aye" to approve motion carried.

Public Hearing closed at 6:26 pm

7. Consideration and Action to implement and allocate funds for an Employee Assistance Program to promote employee well-being.

- Mr. Medina is asking to develop a program especially for mental health
- Mr. Medina does not have a dollar amount
- Commissioner Cavazos stated the County offers it; its an EAP
- Mr. Medina asking for approval to move forward
- Mayor wants this to be brought back with a dollar amount
- Mayor wants to know cost before approving
- Mr. Medina asking for no more than \$20,000

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to table this item until next council meeting. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

8. Consideration and Action on City of Rio Hondo Sea Trout Park Policies.

- This item had already been approved at previous meeting but needed some corrections on some policies. All recommendations and changes were done. Mr. Medina recommended an action be taken.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the updated Spotted Sea Trout Park Policies. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

9. Status Report on the Spotted Sea Trout Park Project.

- Mr. Medina went over the punch list. All items have been taken care of with the exception of new items added to the list but they are all being worked on and will be completed by the end of week. Signage will also be ready by the end of this week.
- Clean and extend ditch behind RV pads – (new item)
- Protect dro off behind pavillion
- Level up or place speed hump at exit or park access (new item)
- Install final signs (new item)
- Regrade all park areas with loose soil and evidence of erosion (new item)
- Drain water away from pavillion (new item)

10. Consideration and Action purchasing two solar lights for Spotted Sea Trout Park at the cost of \$20,000.

- Mr. Medina is asking for approval to purchase two solar lights for Spotted Sea Trout Park at the cost of \$20,000. They will be downlighting for the darker sections of the park.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of two solar lights for Spotted Sea Trout Park at the cost \$20,000. Commissioner Cavazos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

11. Consideration and Action to purchase ground-breaking giveaways for park ribbon cutting ceremonies not to exceed \$6,000.

- Ms. Hernandez addressed the council on some promotional items that we are looking to get for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve the purchase of ground-breaking giveaways for park ribbon cutting ceremonies not to exceed \$6,000. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

12. Acknowledgement of Easter Egg Hunt and Play Structure Ribbon Cutting on Saturday April 12, 2025 at 10 am.

- Ms. Hernandez addressed the council about the Easter Egg Hunt that has been scheduled for Saturday April 12, 2025 at 10 am. Sponsor letters have been mailed to local businesses.

13. Acknowledgement of Spotted Sea Trout Park Ribbon Cutting on March 6, 2025 at 10 am.

- Ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 10 am.
- We will have some businesses on site
- Mayor suggested we give some fishing rods

14. Consideration and Action on Ordinance 2025-03 on setting the City Commission Meeting date as the second Tuesday at 6:00 pm of every month.

- Mr Medina requesting this item to be tabled. ordinance 374 will be brought back to the commission
- Commissioner Cavazos requesting to meet only once a month because sometimes agendas are very small
- Commissioner Cavazos also suggested if needed we can have a special meeting.
- Commissioner Garza asked if we can look into meeting virtually

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

15. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2025-04 supporting HB 1901 relating to the release of certain areas from a municipality’s extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.

- Mr. Medina addressed the council regarding HB 1901 and explained Resolution 2025-04. ETJ being reduced if this passes not good for any city.

Commissioner Cavazos made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04 opposing HB No 191 relating to the release of certain areas from a municipality’s extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried.

16. Consideration and Action to purchase one police vehicle from CAP-Fleet for \$60,000.

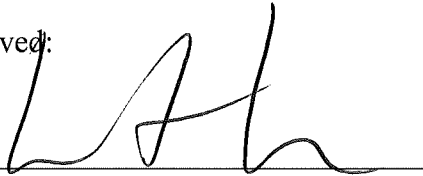
- Chief Bilokury addressed the council regarding this grant funded vehicle is at \$56,400, (2022) vehicle is practically brand new. Chief recommends we obtain this unit.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of one police vehicle from CAP-Fleet for \$60,000 grant funded. Commissioner Gallegos seconded the motion, all voted “aye” to approve; motion carried

17. Adjournment

Commissioner Gallegos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:18 pm. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion; all voted “aye to approve”, motion carried.

Approved:



Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

Date: 3-4-2025

Attest:



Ben Medina, City Administrator.