

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Commission Meeting Room, 115 E. Commercial Avenue, La Feria, Texas 78559. The purpose of said meeting was to consider and take action on those items of City Business as was duly posted by agenda in accordance with State Open Meetings Law. The following City Commission members were present at said meeting.

Mr. Steve Brewer	Mayor
Ms. Lori Weaver	City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. John Edward Betancourt	City Commissioner
Mr. John Hernandez	City Commissioner
Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	City Commissioner
Ms. Angelica P. Baldivia	City Commissioner

The following staff members were present.

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Mr. Miguel D. Wise	City Attorney
Ms. Darla Jones	Assistant City Manager
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary

A copy of the signature roster of all others present is attached as a part of the minutes hereof.

At 6:30 P.M., Mayor Steve Brewer asked Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. to give the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Brewer led everyone present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. He then declared that a quorum of the City Commission was present and called the meeting to order.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Lori Weaver moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO FRANK  
PUENTE OF PUENTE ROOFING COMPANY FOR DONATION OF ROOF TO  
RESIDENT OF LA FERIA**

Mayor Steve Brewer asked to move items five and six till later in the meeting to allow time for the individuals involved to arrive. Mr. Ryan Wolf voiced his agreement. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia moved to consider this item later in the meeting.

Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO RYAN WOLF, KGBT – TV FOR INCLUDING A LA FERIA RESIDENT IN ITS ANNUAL “HELP A FAMILY” DONATION PROGRAM**

Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia moved to consider this item later in the meeting. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT REGARDING A REQUEST BY LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR ALCOHOL SALES RELATED TO THE FIESTA DE LA FERIA CELEBRATION WHICH WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2010**

Mayor Brewer declared the public hearing open at 6:34 p.m. Assistant City Manager Darla Jones explained that it is a requirement of the zoning ordinance that in “C-1” zoning which is the Commercial (downtown) area a Specific use Permit is required for the sale of alcohol. She said that the Fiesta de La FERIA has requested a Specific Use Permit for alcohol sales for the past several years. Notices were mailed out to the property owners within the 200 ft. radius, and no comments or objections were received. Discussion followed regarding the certification of the persons that will be selling the beer, and Ms. Jones said the certification is good for two years. There being no further comments, Mayor Brewer declared the public hearing closed at 6:36 p.m.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY THE REQUEST BY THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR ALCOHOL SALES RELATED TO THE FIESTA DE LA FERIA CELEBRATION WHICH WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2010**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that the Fiesta Committee has for the past few years asked the Commission to approve alcohol sales at the Fiesta as a fundraiser for the event. He asked that the Commission favorably approve the request. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. moved to approve the request by the La FERIA Industrial Development Corporation for a Specific Use Permit for alcohol sales related to the Fiesta de La FERIA celebration which will be held February 27, 2010. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY A REQUEST FROM KENNY’S FUNLAND TO OPERATE A CARNIVAL IN LA FERIA FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2010 THRU FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said a copy of the request was in the Commission’s packet. He said the carnival has operated in La FERIA in the past without any incidents, and since the LFIDC is the owner of the property, the LFIDC requests that a donation be made to a special function in the community. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve the request from Kenny’s Funland to operate a carnival in La FERIA from February 10, 2010 thru February 21, 2010. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**REVIEW PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE RELOCATING OF A PORTION OF SANITARY SEWER PRESSURE MAIN AT EXPRESSWAY 83 AND FM 2556**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that the Utilities Board reviewed this item in their meeting earlier today, and they are recommending to the City Commission to award the contract to J.M. Construction, who was the only bidder on this project, in the amount of \$32,000.00. A pressure main under the Expressway and FM 2556 is in conflict with TxDOT's drainage improvements. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approve contract award for the relocating of a portion of sanitary sewer pressure main at Expressway 83 and FM 2556. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO CONFIRM THE LFIDC PURCHASE OF THE MASONIC LODGE BUILDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,257.00**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that this item has been discussed previously by both the City Commission and the LFIDC. The Masonic Lodge Building was damaged during Hurricane Dolly, and the LFIDC offered what is basically the price of the lot. The LFIDC approved the purchase of the Masonic Lodge Building in the amount of \$27,257.00. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. moved to confirm the LFIDC purchase of the Masonic Lodge Building in the amount of \$27,257.00. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) IN LA FERIA**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that this item was placed on the agenda for the Commission to discuss and give staff some direction. He added that when a disaster happens it could be possible that there would be a group in the community that could come together to help. The Development Council has a program that will assist in training the group and they are willing to assist in the training. There would be some obligations from the City to make sure that these people would be covered through the City's insurance. There would need to be routine training and a protocol would need to be developed. This group would be a volunteer group made up of a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 25 people, but eventually, it would be the responsibility of the City. Mr. Philip said this discussion is to introduce the subject only and if the Commission has any ideas to call him. He said he had not yet meet personally with the Development Council to see what all is available for this program.

Commissioner Lori Weaver said that she was at the meeting with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council when this was discussed and the presentation was very interesting. Ms. Weaver said that additional information is available in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council website. Training is free and conducted at the City's site. Training is on Saturdays for two to three hours for eight weeks. Commissioner John Betancourt suggested that this program be extended to High School students. City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that this would be brought back before the Commission at a later date.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Steve Brewer asked for a motion to consider items five and six that had been delayed until later in the meeting. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to consider items number five and six at this time. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO FRANK PUENTE OF PUENTE ROOFING COMPANY FOR DONATION OF ROOF TO RESIDENT OF LA FERIA**

Mayor Steve Brewer asked Mr. Frank Puente to step forward and accept a Certificate of Appreciation for his donation of a roof to Robert and Alicia Garza, a family in La Feria. Mr. Puente has been doing a free roof for a deserving family since 2001. Mayor Brewer asked Belinda Garza to introduce her family. Ms. Belinda Garza introduced her father Robert and her mother Alicia. Ms. Belinda Garza wrote the letter that won the contest for the free roof. Mayor Brewer thanked all of them for being at the meeting, and thanked Mr. Puente for giving back to the community.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO RYAN WOLF, KGBT – TV FOR INCLUDING A LA FERIA RESIDENT IN ITS ANNUAL “HELP A FAMILY” DONATION PROGRAM**

Mayor Steve Brewer then called on Ryan Wolf of KGBT-TV to step forward to accept his Certificate of Appreciation for partnering with Frank Puente to assist the Garza family. Ryan Wolf accepted his certificate and said that it couldn't have gone to a more deserving family, and hopefully it had eased their burden a bit. Ms. Belinda Garza presented Ryan Wolf with a small token of her family's appreciation. Mayor Brewer thanked everyone for their participation.

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW CHAPTER 551, GOVERNMENT CODE, VERNON'S TEXAS CODES ANNOTATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN SECTION 551.071 TO CONSULT WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING ISSUANCE OF SPECIFIC USE PERMIT TO ALLIED WASTE; SECTION 551.072 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PURCHASE/ SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/ CITY OF LA FERIA; AND SECTION 551.087 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the meeting in Executive (Closed) Session at 6:56 P.M. After Executive Session deliberations, Mayor Brewer declared the meeting back in open session at 7:47 P.M.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY AS THE RESULT OF EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION DELIBERATIONS**

There was no action necessary as a result of Executive Session deliberations.

**REPORTS BY STAFF**

- **Fiesta de La Feria**
- **TPWD Indoor Recreation Facility Grant**
- **Flood Protection Planning Study**
- **TTHM Report**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported on the following:

- The Fiesta de La Feria committee met today and everything is going well. They will be using the old theater building for the Cultural Arts activities.
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department approved a grant in the amount of \$750,000 for the Indoor Recreation Facility. The City has submitted another request

for a grant in the amount of \$500,000 for improvements to the Sports Complex; the total project cost for that would be \$1,000,000.

- There will be a Flood Protection Planning Meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2010.
- The TTHM Report was mailed out this week.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public comments session open. No one signed up to speak before the Commission, so Mayor Brewer declared the public comment session closed.

#### **ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**


Mayor Steve Brewer adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

**APPROVED:**




**Steve Brewer, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary**

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 1:30 P.M. on February 21, 2010, as official record.



**Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary**



**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**AT THE**  
**CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010, AT 6:30 PM**

WELCOME  
PLEASE SIGN IN

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1	ERIN DUFFY		
2	Elsie Ireland	PO Box 1494	797-2964
3	Jose S. Ballinaz	1601 Converse	536-4864
4	MB Wright		
5	Rose Turner		
6	Liana Brewer		
7	Frank Puente, Jr.	PO Box 531591	Hy 78553 245-4357
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