

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, August 10, 2010**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, August 10, 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
Mr. John Edward Betancourt	City Commissioner
Ms. Angelica P. Baldivia	City Commissioner
Mr. John Hernandez	City Commissioner
Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	City Commissioner

Absent: Ms. Lori Weaver City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem

The following staff members were present.

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Ms. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning and Community Dev. Dir.
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 6:55 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, JULY 27, 2010**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LA FERIA  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LFIDC) HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner John Hernandez moved to confirm the minutes of proceedings of the previous special meeting of the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) held on Thursday, July 15, 2010. Commissioner

Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ACCEPT GRANT AND LOAN FUNDING OFFERED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) FOR THE LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that the expansion of the library has been discussed for some time after the library received a donation from the George and Grace Dunlap Estate. The Library Board decided that a portion, \$200,000.00, of the donation from the Dunlap Estate would be used for the expansion of the library to the south side of the existing building. Since then, the City has received a grant from the Rockwell Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.00 and the Trull Foundation in the amount of \$2,500.00 to add to the funding for the library expansion. The City also applied to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for additional funds to make the expansion to the library a two-story addition instead of one story. The City has received an offer from the USDA for a grant in the amount of \$464,431.00 and a loan in the amount of \$379,000.00, which loan would be scheduled for repayment over a period not to exceed 30 years. Mr. Philip's recommendation was for the Commission to accept this grant and loan funding offered by the USDA. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to accept grant and loan funding in the amount of \$464,431.00 grant and \$379,000.00 loan offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the Library Expansion Project. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ACCEPT EFFECTIVE AND ROLLBACK TAX RATES, SCHEDULES AND FUND BALANCES PRESENTED BY TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that the notice of 2010 Property Tax Rates in the City of La Feria was published in the newspaper and a copy was included in the City Commission packet along with the detailed calculations of the Effective and Rollback Tax Rates. Mr. Philip explained the calculations and stated that the Effective Tax Rate was 0.7353/\$100 and the Rollback Tax Rate was 0.7550/\$100. He said the property tax value is flat and there is no increase at all. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to accept the Effective and Rollback Tax Rates, schedules and fund balances presented by the Tax Assessor/Collector. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2010 (FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011)**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that the Current Tax Rate is 0.7000/\$100 and the Effective Tax Rate calculation for 2010 is 0.7353/\$100 which is the tax rate required to operate at the same level in 2010 as in 2009. The Rollback Tax Rate is 0.7550/\$100 which is the tax rate at which the voters could ask for an election to roll back the tax rate to a lower amount. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approve a proposed tax rate of 0.7353/\$100. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO TAKE A RECORD VOTE AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS IF THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL**

**EXCEED THE ROLLBACK RATE OR THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE  
(WHICHEVER IS LOWER)**

No action was necessary on this item, as the proposed tax rate will not exceed the Effective Tax Rate.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING FOR  
THE CITY COMMISSION TO HOLD THE SECOND OF TWO PUBLIC  
HEARINGS ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM  
PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL FROM THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR**

No action was necessary on this item, as there were no public hearings necessary for this tax year.

**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 551.072 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 7:13 P.M. After Executive Session deliberation, Mayor Brewer declared the meeting back in open session at 7:52 P.M.

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

Mayor Steve Brewer announced that there were two motions to consider as the result of Executive Session deliberation.

**Motion 1:** Authorize the City Manager to release two contracts for nineteen lots in the Lion's Villa Subdivision. City Commissioner John Betancourt moved to authorize City Manager Sunny K. Philip to release two contracts for nineteen lots in the Lion's Villa Subdivision. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**Motion 2:** Authorize the City Manager to purchase one lot from the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) in Lion's Villa Subdivision. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to authorize City Manager Sunny K. Philip to purchase one lot from the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) in Lion's Villa Subdivision. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**REPORTS BY STAFF**

- **Water and Wastewater Improvement Projects**
- **Beddoes Road Improvement Project Status**
- **Disaster Recovery Street Improvement Project**
- **Disaster Recovery – Round 2 Funding Status**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported on the following:

- SLC, the contractor working on the Wastewater Improvements Project has completed 98% of the work, but they have run into difficulties and the Bonding Company is

taking over. The City has contingency plans to make sure that the school opening is not affected.

- Beddoes Road Improvement Project is going along good. There are some utility poles that need to be relocated and AEP is making arrangements to do that. The street will not be completed by school opening, but there will be access to the school. Closner Construction is doing a good job.
- The Disaster Recovery Street Improvement Project – There are some issues to be taken care of concerning drainage and utility line adjustments and there is no money left over in the project so all options will be exhausted to complete the project. The contractor is doing a good job.
- The Disaster Recovery Round 2 Funding Status – The Development Council is going through public hearings. The City is trying to schedule some public hearings and will submit an application.

### **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 John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

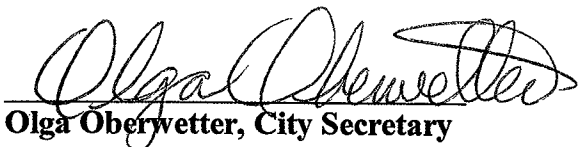
Mayor Steve Brewer adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

**APPROVED:**



Steve Brewer, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 12:00 P.M. on August 20, 2010, as official record.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

AT THE

CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2010, AT 6:30 PM**

WELCOME

PLEASE SIGN IN

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1	Eva Marchese		
2	Rosanne		
3	MS Wright		
4	Liana Brewer		
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