

ORDINANCE 2010-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-07, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 14.02 OF THE LA FERIA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FROM SIX TO SEVEN AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of La FERIA Ordinance 97-2007 was enacted on October 9, 2007, and is codified as Chapter 14, Article 14.02;

WHEREAS, the matters charged to the Planning and Zoning Commission by such ordinance, and the subdivision and zoning ordinances, substantially impact the physical and economic development of the City of La FERIA;

WHEREAS, the matters charged to the Planning and Zoning Commission also have great import to those persons who bring their requests for subdivision approval, change of zoning district, or change in the standards and requirement applicable in a particular zoning district;

WHEREAS, many of the matters heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission require public hearings which are subject to notification of the owners of property within 200' of the applicant's property no less than ten days before the hearing and to publication in the newspaper no less than fifteen days before the hearing, inability to hold a scheduled meeting due to a lack of quorum significantly inconveniences the applicant, interested members of the public, city staff, and the Planning and Zoning Commissioners;

WHEREAS, decisions of the City Commission on several types of zoning and subdivision matters are preceded by a recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission, inability of the Planning and Zoning Commission to take action on an item due to a lack of quorum can delay City Commission consideration of said matter;

WHEREAS, the quorum for a Commission comprised of six members is four members and the quorum for a Commission of seven members is also four members, and it is easier to attain attendance of four of seven members than four out of six members; and,

WHEREAS, several members of the Planning and Zoning Commission informally considered this issue and agreed that it is in the best interest of the City for the reasons stated above to expand the membership of the Planning and Zoning Commission from six members to seven;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, THAT:

1. Section 14.02.002 –Membership and Appointment--of the City of La FERIA Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

The planning and zoning commission shall be composed of ~~six (6)~~ seven (7) qualified electors of the city. The city commission will consider for appointment to the commission only those persons who have demonstrated their civic interest, general knowledge of the city, independent judgment, interest in planning and zoning, and availability to prepare for and attend meetings. It is the intent of the city commission that members shall, by reason of diversity of their individual occupations, constitute a commission which is broadly representative of the community.

2. Section 14.02.003 –Terms of Office -- of the City of La Feria Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

The members of the commission shall be identified by place numbers one (1) through ~~six (6)~~ seven (7). The members shall serve staggered terms, with all terms being three (3) years in length. No member shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. Newly appointed members shall be installed at the first commission meeting after their appointment.

3. This ordinance shall become effective on the tenth day after publication, as provided for by the City Charter of the City of La Feria.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2010.

APPROVED:



Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Richard S. Talbert, City Attorney