

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, December 20, 2011**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 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

Absent: Ms. Angelica P. Baldivia City Commissioner

The following staff members were present.

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Mr. Richard S. Talbert	City Attorney
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 6:33 P.M., Mayor Steve Brewer asked Commissioner Lori Weaver 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 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LFIDC) HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Lori Weaver moved to confirm the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) held on Thursday, November 3, 2011. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

REVIEW BID TABULATION AND TAKE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR FUEL SERVICES

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said there was only one bid received and it was from Gold Star Petroleum, Inc. Their bid price per gallon is OPIS Harlingen Rack Avg. plus

\$0.0799 per gallon. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to award contract for fuel services to Gold Star Petroleum, Inc. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA FERIA AND REYNA & ASSOCIATES FOR PREPARATION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) TO FUND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA AT A COST OF \$150,000.00

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that in the past the City has received EDA funding and the last grant was for \$1,000,000.00. However, there is not much funding available so it is not possible for the City to get another major grant from EDA, but there is an opportunity to apply for an Economic Development Planning grant in the amount of \$150,000.00. Petra Reyna is the consultant that would prepare the application, and her contract for this application is for \$10,000.00. One half is paid at execution of the contract and the other half is paid when the funding is awarded. Mr. Philip said that this is an application on behalf of the City, and that the LFIDC is applying to USDA for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). And one of the non-profits is applying to USDA for a grant to provide Web sites for all the businesses in the community.

Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve the contract between the City of La Feria and Reyna & Associates for preparation of an application to the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund development of a Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the City of La Feria at a cost of \$150,000.00. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FINAL PLAT FOR PEACEFUL ACRES SUBDIVISION, A 30 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OUT OF BLOCKS 66, 67 AND 68 OF THE PARKER SUBDIVISION

Planning and Community Development Director Ms. Irene Szedlmayer explained that this is the property where the Rio Grande Valley Assembly Hall is constructed and they are creating a Lot 2 which would be used for a local Kingdom Hall. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this plat at their December 8, 2011 meeting and they recommended approval subject to addressing right-of-way issues and creating a utility easement for the City's water line. Ms. Szedlmayer said that both of those issues have been taken care of and staff is recommending approval. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. moved to approve the proposed final plat for Peaceful Acres Subdivision, a 30-acre tract of land out of Blocks 66, 67 and 68 of the Parker Subdivision. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REQUEST BY ANTONIO CASAS, JR. TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF LOT 24, BLOCK 2, TRAYLOR SUBDIVISION (109 WEST 9TH STREET) FROM R-3 (SINGLE-FAMILY AND DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL) TO C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing open at 6:54 P.M. Planning and Community Development Director Ms. Irene Szedlmayer said that the address is 109 West 9th Street and it is the third lot in, west of Main Street on the south side of West 9th

Street. The Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending approval. Ms. Szedlmayer said that the notice of public hearing was published in the La Feria News on November 23, 2011. Mayor Brewer inquired of Tony Casas if his renter would be allowed to remain in the home. Mr. Casas said yes, but that his renter is already looking (for other accommodations). There being no further comments, Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing closed at 6:57 P.M.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY THE REQUEST BY ANTONIO CASAS, JR. TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF LOT 24, BLOCK 2, TRAYLOR SUBDIVISION (109 WEST 9TH STREET) FROM R-3 SINGLE FAMILY AND DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL TO C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND CITY OF LA FERIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that action on this item needed to be taken in the form of an ordinance and a copy of the ordinance was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to read the ordinance by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present. City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert read the caption of Ordinance 2011-24. After reading of the caption, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve Ordinance 2011-24 approving the request by Antonio Casas Jr. to change the zoning of Lot 24, Block 2, Traylor Subdivision (109 West 9th Street) from R-3 Single Family and Duplex Residential to C-2 General Commercial and amending the Zoning Map and the City of La Feria Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF LA FERIA FAIR HOUSING ACTION STATEMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing open at 6:58 P.M. Planning and Community Development Director Ms. Irene Szedlmayer said this is the same document that the Commission reviewed back on September 24. It was submitted to the General Land Office and they have approved it. The next step was to hold this public hearing and if the Commission approves the Plan it will become the official City of La Feria Fair Housing Action Statement and Action Plan. There being no further comments, Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing closed at 7:00 P.M.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF LA FERIA FAIR HOUSING ACTION STATEMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. moved to adopt the City of La Feria Fair Housing Action Statement and Action Plan. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2011

- **REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**
- **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**
- **INVESTMENT REPORT**
- **TAX COLLECTION REPORT**

Mayor Steve Brewer inquired of the Commission if they had any questions concerning the financial reports. No one had any questions, so he thanked Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero for the reports and announced that these reports would be filed for audit.

REPORTS BY STAFF

- **Indoor Recreation Facility Construction Progress**
- **Air Conditioning Replacement Project funded through SECO**
- **Update on Christmas Parade and Winter Festival**
- **Update on Fiesta de La Feria 2012**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported on the following.

- The Indoor Recreation Facility construction slowed down a bit due to the high winds. Change orders to the project have added additional costs. Later on staff will bring forth a plan for the operation of the facility which will be a combined effort between the City and School District.
- The Air Conditioning Replacement Project – The air conditioning units must meet the grant requirements of “made in America.” All units except one have been found, and the project may go forward with the ones available. The City will allocate funds for the remaining unit.
- The Christmas Parade and Winter Festival had to be postponed from Saturday to Sunday due to rainy weather. Sunday cleared up a bit and the events went well.
- The Fiesta Planning Committee is meeting next week to start planning the Fiesta Directory. The music lineup is finalized, and there will be a variety of music.

Mayor Steve Brewer said that Kenny’s Funland set up the carnival for the Winter Festival and then donated a sizeable amount of the proceeds to the City. He said the City really appreciates their contribution to the Winter Festival and the cash donation.

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON ATTENDANCE STATUS OF MAYOR AND/OR COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia’s absence from this meeting. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Steve Brewer adjourned the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

APPROVED:




Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 5:30 P.M. on January 7, 2011, as official record.


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

1871-1872



CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1 <i>Velma Betancourt</i>	<i>500 Liberty Ln</i>	<i>793-2839</i>
2 <i>Tori Betancourt</i>	<i>500 Liberty Ln</i>	<i>778-8825</i>
3 <i>Lulu Cow</i>		
4 <i>Tony Casas Jr</i>	<i>12858 E. Rio Carol Rd</i>	<i>454-7215</i>
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