

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 22, 2012**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, May 22, 2012, 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
Ms. Angelica P. Baldivia	City Commissioner
Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	City Commissioner

The following staff members were present.

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Mr. Richard S. Talbert	City Attorney
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning and Community Dev. Dir.
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Capital Projects Coordinator
Ms. Florence Reichle	Administrative Assistant

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 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 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

This item was tabled by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present on a motion by Commissioner Lori Weaver and a second by Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia.

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, MARCH 8, 2012

Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia moved to confirm the minutes of proceedings of the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation held on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MR. DENNIS AMSTUTZ FOR HOSTING THE RELAY FOR LIFE AT THE LA FERIA HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM IN LA FERIA, TEXAS

Mr. Dennis Amstutz was not present to receive the certificate, so it was accepted by Mr. Darrel Guerra.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MR. DARREL GUERRA FOR HOSTING THE RELAY FOR LIFE AT THE LA FERIA HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM IN LA FERIA, TEXAS

Mayor Steve Brewer said Mr. Dennis Amstutz was at the school auditorium tonight and acknowledged Mr. Darrel Guerra from the School District. On behalf of the City, Mayor Steve Brewer thanked Mr. Dennis Amstutz and Mr. Darrel Guerra for organizing a successful Relay for Life for the Cancer Society at the High School Stadium. Mayor Steve Brewer presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Darrell Guerra and asked Mr. Darrell Guerra to accept the Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Dennis Amstutz and to have Mr. Dennis Amstutz come at a later date to take a picture with the City Commissioners. Mr. Darrel Guerra said he wished to accept the award on behalf of the La Feria Independent School District including the maintenance department, custodians and Robert Rivera, Director of Operations for participating in this event. It took team effort from all to make Relay for Life a success for our community.

REPORT BY STEVE SALINAS FROM THE LA FERIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN LA FERIA

Mr. Steve Salinas, Project Manager with the La Feria Independent School District reported that for a number of years the school district had been working on getting an extension site for some kind of university or college to set up shop in La Feria but have not been successful. Early this year, the school met with representatives of our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) and after sharing ideas and desires the Vice President, Dean of Instruction from OLLU, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the school district. This MOU will initially be able to offer workshops and seminars and later academic courses to our community and surrounding area. Mayor Steve Brewer added that it is the dream of our community to have higher education brought to La Feria and with the continued collaboration between the City and the school district the dream of a 2-year college education in La Feria may be a reality.

PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 20, 2012 THROUGH MAY 26, 2012 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

City Manager Sunny K. Philip requested City Attorney Richard S. Talbert to read the proclamation. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve the Proclamation proclaiming the week of May 20, 2012 through May 26, 2012 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission. (At this time the Mayor, Commissioners and the fire fighters were asked to pose for photographs). Mayor Steve Brewer thanked all the fire fighters for their service. City Manager Sunny K. Philip recognized Fire Chief Rick Garcia and members of the volunteer firefighters and first responders present and said Fire Chief Rick Garcia would like to make a presentation. Fire Chief Rick Garcia made a quick recap of how things were when he first joined the La Feria Volunteer Fire Department in 1989 and how much progress has been made since then. On average the fire department responds to 18 calls a month averaging 216 calls

per year and in the last 20 years they have responded to over 4,300 calls. Now that the fire department is in the Trinity Alliance, the firefighters are able to continue with their EMS training and certification. With the new substation being built to the south of town, the certified personnel and dedicated men and women will be there to offer their service to the community. Fire Chief Rick Garcia recognized some of his administration staff who were present, Assistant Chief Nunley, Captain Castaneda, Captain Blackwell, Lieutenant Garcia III, and Lieutenant Delgado. He also announced that currently in the department there are 3 ECA-certified firefighters, 9 EMTs, 2 EMT Intermediate, 2 paramedics, making a total of 16 certified firefighters in the department of 40 firefighters. Fire Chief Rick Garcia then recognized Roxanne Pena a 17-year veteran firefighter for her outstanding service, dedication and support to the department. Roxanne Pena is now the coordinator for the TSTC in EMS Training. Fire Chief Rick Garcia presented a plaque to Roxanne Pena. Mayor Steve Brewer said the City is very proud of the service provided by the volunteer firefighters and the advanced training of the firefighters. Mayor Steve Brewer also complimented Fire Chief Rick Garcia on the performance of his team and his leadership. Commissioner John Betancourt also thanked the firefighters again and said Chief Rick Garcia and the department must be doing something right to have such a large number of volunteer firefighters serving the community.

REVIEW BID TABULATION AND TAKE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE ADDITION TO THE BAILEY H. DUNLAP MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY TO THE LOWEST MOST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said the bid opening was held on May 15, 2012 and 11 bids were received with Rigney Construction being the lowest at \$820,000.00. The building is a two story building with an elevator. We have checked the references for Rigney Construction, and the reports received have been good. City Manager Sunny K. Philip said the contract should be awarded to Rigney Construction, but this is contingent on Rigney Construction providing satisfactory performance and payment bonds. Mayor Steve Brewer asked the representative from Rigney Construction if there is any problem completing the job in a timely fashion and where they are located. The representative from Rigney Construction said they do not foresee a problem completing the job, and Rigney Construction is based in Edinburg. Commissioner John Betancourt asked about their projects and the representative said they are completing two IDEA academies, one in Alamo and one in Mission, and they recently completed the San Juan Public Library. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia asked about the approval from USDA. City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that he had developed a time frame and with the bid award, USDA will be notified, and the City is communicating with USDA to request a ground breaking on June 29. The construction will start sometime in July. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to award the contract for the addition to the Bailey H. Dunlap Memorial Public Library to Rigney Construction, the lowest most responsible bidder in the amount of \$820,000.00. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY THE PURCHASE OF 2011-2012 CHEVROLET CAPRICE PPV 1EW19 VEHICLE THROUGH BUYBOARD FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FUNDED THROUGH THE STONE GARDEN GRANT

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that at the previous meeting it was reported that the vehicle would be purchased by the County, but they have since discovered that transferring the title to the City would be problematic and so the County has now notified

us that the purchase needs to be done by the City. The City Commissioners need to authorize the City to make the purchase through BuyBoard. Mayor Steve Brewer said the vehicle to be purchased should be the latest one, a 2012 make. Commissioner John Hernandez moved that the City purchase a 2012 Chevrolet Caprice PPV 1EW19 vehicle through BuyBoard at the total purchase price of \$32,389.00 for the Police Department funded through the Stone Garden Grant. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OR LA FERIA APPROVING COOPERATION WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITIES SERVED BY AEP TCC TO REVIEW AEP TEXAS CENTRAL COMPANY'S REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST RECOVERY FACTOR; HIRING LEGAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMPANY AND DIRECT ANY NECESSARY LITIGATION AND APPEALS; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO LEGAL COUNSEL

City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained what the resolution is all about and said the rate increase is negotiated through a coalition representing cities. The City is asked to join the group and approve the resolution. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to read the resolution by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission. City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert read the caption of Resolution 2012-28. After reading of the caption, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve Resolution 2012-28 approving cooperation with the steering committee of cities served by AEP TCC to review AEP Texas Central Company's requested approval of an adjustment to its energy efficiency cost recovery factor; hiring legal and consulting services to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; and requiring notice of this resolution to legal counsel. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012

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

The copy of the financial reports for the month of April 2012 was included in the packet delivered to the City Commission. There was no discussion on these reports, so Mayor Steve Brewer announced that these reports would be filed for audit.

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

There was no action needed on this item.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION

- **Indoor Recreation Facility Construction Progress**
- **Water and Wastewater System Improvements Project**
- **Status of Drainage Improvements Project**
- **Status of Fire Station and Fire Substation Project**
- **Status of City Hall Expansion Project**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported the following:

- Indoor Recreation Construction Progress – The construction of sidewalks for access to Main Street is in progress but the site is not accessible yet.
- Water and Wastewater System Improvements Project – The Solar PV panel (SECO) project is moving along and the engineering and environmental reports were submitted to the state. There are several companies interested in the solar projects and the projects have to be completed by August 31, 2012. The advertisement for bids has been advertised and the bid opening will be held on May 31, 2012. There will be a meeting with prospective contractors at the site tomorrow, and in order not to delay the project, the trees that were planted will be removed and relocated. The solar panels will cover two acres and the original specification was 135 KW, but it will now be a 200-230 KW project.
- Status of Drainage Improvements Project – An amendment was submitted and we are working on a budget revision which will be submitted so that the GLO can release the environmental review. Meantime, the engineers are working on the design which is ongoing for the project.
- Status of Fire Station and Fire Substation Project – The plans are progressing well and the plats for the subdivision are under review. One of the generators situated between the fire station and police department will be moved to the substation site to provide back-up service.
- Status of City Hall Expansion Project – The first advertisement for bids will appear in the newspapers next week, and after 14 days we will be able to open the bids.

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 Angelica P. Baldivia 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 7:10 P.M.

APPROVED:




Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

**These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 5:00 P.M. on May 29, 2012,
as official record.**


Florence Reichle, Administrative Assistant

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

AT THE

CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

HOME/WORK PHONE NO.

1 CARLOS OJUNA 7011 N SEMINARY Rb. Edinburg (956) 301-6916

2 Edy Gonzalez 225 Ching St 712-2199

3 Lance Mireles 3025 Melissa lane (915) 833-3628

4 Alex Garcia P.O. Box 924 Com. Bx TX 78589 797-2480

5 Reynaldo Lopez P.O. Box 764 Santa Rosa TX 517-9691

6 Erica Mendez P.O. Box 1694 345-3102

7 Benjamin Herrera 110 E. Williamson Ave 78550 456-2128

8 Abraham Aubrey P.O. Box 1111 78593 873-0348

9 Ron L. Cathery 26810 Palomino Ave 78559 792-4783

10 Roxanne Peña 100 E Magnolia 78559 793-8020

11 Darrell Guerra P.O. Box 1697 78559 956-245-5444
Santa Rosa TX

12 Fernando Esquivel P.O. Box 1531 78593 956-970-1799

13 MaryBeth Wright LAFERIA NEWS

14 Liana Brewer

15 Dave Blackwell city of La Feria

16 Betty Jo Dunlap P.O. Box 995 LAFERIA TX 797-2501

17 Steven Salinas 26902 Palomino Ave. La Feria, TX 797-1279

18 Paul Castaneda 27461 S. Solis Rd La Feria, TX 535-0122