

**Minutes of Proceedings
Regular Board Meeting
La Feria Utilities Board
Tuesday, June 12, 2012**

Be it known that the Board of Directors of the City of La Feria Utilities Board met in regular session on **Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at 5:15 P.M.** in the City Commission Meeting Room, 115 East Commercial Avenue, La Feria, Texas 78559. The purpose of said meeting was to consider and take action on those items of Utilities Board business as was duly posted by agenda in accordance with the State Open Meetings Law. The following Board Members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Adolfo Lopez	Chairman
Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap	Vice Chairman
Mr. Ralph Muse	Board Member
Mr. Ovidio Saldivar	Board Member

Absent: Mr. Steve Brewer Mayor/Ex-Officio Member

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Mr. Richard S. Talbert	City Attorney
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning & Community Dev. Director
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary

There were no other persons in attendance at this meeting.

At 5:18 P.M., Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez asked all present to rise and recite aloud the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. After this was done, Mr. Lopez declared that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA FERIA UTILITIES BOARD HELD
ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012**

After review of the minutes, Mr. Ralph Muse moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the La Feria Utilities Board held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 as presented in written form. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

**REVIEW BID TABULATION AND CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO
RECOMMEND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE SOLAR PANEL PROJECT
FOR THE WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS TO THE
LOWEST, MOST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER**

Mr. Philip explained that the City advertised for bids for the Solar Panel Project for the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City asked for a base bid for 135 KW system and a base bid for a 230 KW system. The City has a deadline of August 31, 2012 to complete the installation of the systems. Mr. Philip said the funds for this program originated from the Department of Energy and managed by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). The bids were as follows:

Bidder	135 KW Total	230 KW Total
Meridian Solar, Inc. 4109 Todd Lane, Suite 900 Austin, TX 78744	\$ 949,645.46	\$1,479,696.44
Axium Solar, Inc. 1609 Precision Dr., Ste. 110 Plano, TX 75074	\$1,019,151.00	\$1,562,768.00
Texas Solar Power Co. 1703 W. Koenig Lane Austin, TX 78756	\$1,022,494.00	\$1,618,845.20
D. Wilson Construction Co. P.O. Box 3455 McAllen, TX 78502	\$1,414,860.00	\$2,099,550.00
Mardel Souza, Inc. 4255 Old Hwy. 77 Brownsville, TX 78520	\$1,567,350.00	\$1,934,000.00

The lowest total amount was from Meridian Solar, Inc., 4109 Todd Lane, Suite 900, Austin, TX 78744, (512) 448-0055, in the amount of \$949,645.46 for the 135 KW system and \$1,479,696.44 for the 230 KW system.

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez inquired about the difference in unit price amounts on the bid for the 135 KW Photovoltaic Array (\$3,118.48 for Wastewater and \$3,147.80 for Water) and the 230 KW Photovoltaic Array (\$2,931.94 for Wastewater and \$2,971.13 for Water). City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that the difference is due to the fact that the solar panels for the Water Treatment Plant will be located on the north side of Dodd Lane; and therefore, the work will require that they run a line across the road from the water plant to the solar panels and the increase in unit price is to cover that expense.

Mr. Philip said that the amount available for construction for each plant is \$977,800.00. He explained that in order to maximize the funds, the City has the option of ordering two 135 KW systems for the Water Treatment Plant and two 135 KW systems for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. If that is approved, the two 135 KW systems for the Water Treatment Plant would be a total of \$953,772.34 and the two 135 KW systems for the

Wastewater Treatment Plant would be a total of \$945,518.58, which still leaves some amount left over in the overall funds which can be changed order to maximize the grant funds. Mr. Philip said that if this option is approved by the City Commission the Water Treatment Plant would have a system which would provide about 100% of the power needs for the plant with about \$1,000.00 left over to sell and the Wastewater Treatment Plant would have a system which would provide about 60% of the power need at the plant.

Mr. Philip said his recommendation is that the Board recommend to the City Commission that the award be made to Meridian Solar, Inc., Austin, TX. and to authorize that the City go with 2 – 135 KW for a total of 270 KW and to increase that to 285.60 KW, on one centralized inverter, to use up all the money for the Water Treatment Plant, and to authorize that the City go with 2 – 135 KW for a total of 270 KW and to increase that to 289.17 KW, on one centralized inverter, to use up all the money for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert read the recommended motion for the Board to consider on this item. Mr. Ralph Muse moved to recommend to the City Commission to enter into a contract with Meridian Solar, Inc. for \$953,772.34 for installation of two 135 KW photovoltaic arrays complete in place at the Water Treatment Plant including Alternate I in the bid in the proposals using a centralized inverter system and including authority to enter into all change orders deemed to be in the best interest of the City in accordance with applicable law provided, however, any such change order shall not obligate the Utilities Board and/or the City to expend funds on the project in excess of the \$217,800.00 previously approved by the Utilities Board and the City and to authorize the City Manager to execute all documents and make all disbursements relating thereto. Mr. Ovidio Saldivar seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

Next, Mr. Ralph Muse moved to recommend to the City Commission to enter into a contract with Meridian Solar, Inc. for \$945,518.58 for installation of two 135 KW photovoltaic arrays complete in place at the Wastewater Treatment Plant including Alternate I in the bid in the proposals using a centralized inverter system and including authority to enter into all change orders deemed to be in the best interest of the City in accordance with applicable law provided, however, any such change order shall not obligate the Utilities Board and/or the City to expend funds on the project in excess of the \$217,800.00 previously approved by the Utilities Board and the City and to authorize the City Manager to execute all documents and make all disbursements relating thereto. Mr. Ovidio Saldivar seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez declared the public comment session open. No one signed up to speak before the board, so Mr. Lopez declared the public comment session closed.

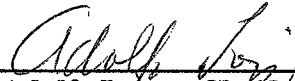
ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Ralph Muse moved for adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT – BOARD CHAIRMAN

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez adjourned the meeting at 5:50 P.M.

APPROVED:




Adolfo Lopez, Chairman

ATTEST:



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria as official record of the Utilities Board at 10:30 AM on July 20, 2012.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary