

**Minutes of Proceedings  
Special Board Meeting  
La Feria Utilities Board  
Tuesday, July 24, 2012**

Be it known that the Board of Directors of the City of La Feria Utilities Board met in special session on **Tuesday, July 24, 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. Steve Brewer	Mayor/Ex-Officio Member

Absent: Mr. Ovidio Saldivar Board Member

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning & Community Dev. Director
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Capital Projects Coordinator
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary

There were no other persons in attendance at this meeting.

At 5:19 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, JUNE 12, 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, June 12, 2012 as presented in written form. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the board members present.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2012**

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed the financial reports with the board, reviewing the monthly figures for April and May, and both the monthly and year-to-date figures for the month of June. Ms. Chavero then reviewed the Performance Indicators for

the three months. After review and all questions answered, Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez announced that the reports would be filed for audit.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO CONFIRM APPROVAL OF  
EMERGENCY WORK TO REPAIR 12" GRAVITY SANITARY SEWER LINE  
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,352.00 TO BE COMPLETED BY JM  
CONSTRUCTION CO**

Mr. Ralph Muse moved to approve the emergency work repair of the 12" gravity sanitary sewer line in the amount of \$22,352.00 to be completed by JM Construction Company. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the board members present.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSS WITH THE BOARD THE STATUS OF THE WATER  
AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said that staff is finishing up all the acquisition of the easements. He said Capital Projects Coordinator Ms. Paula Rodriguez and Mr. Bill Friend, Right of Way Agent, have been working on it, and the City is getting the majority of the easements donated. The engineers and staff are having a monthly meeting to review the progress. The Environmental Review still needs to be reviewed and cleared by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and until that is done, the City cannot go out for bids. The project timeline was to go out for bids in August, but there is no Environmental Review approval yet. Mr. Philip said he hoped the Environmental Review would be on the TWDB agenda for the September meeting. The first project is the water meter replacements. The specifications are already prepared and staff is reviewing them at this time. Mr. Philip said that once the Meter Company is selected, the City crew would do the installation. The City crew has installed the meters in the pilot program project that the City has right now, and they are familiar with the installation process.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSS WITH THE BOARD THE STATUS OF THE WATER  
TREATMENT PLANT SOLAR PANEL PROJECT AND THE WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT PLANT SOLAR PANEL PROJECT**

At the previous Utilities Board Meeting, the Board recommended to the City Commission to award the contract to Meridian Solar, Inc. for the solar panel projects. They have signed the contract and they provided the bonding documents satisfactory to the City and they have started work. They have identified all the areas where the panels will be installed and they have started drilling at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will be installing a ground cover so that the weeds under the panels will be contained. Mr. Philip said they are dealing with the connectivity issue to the inverter and also working with the SCADA System. Mr. Philip said it is critical that the project is monitored and that there is a reduction in the power used. He said this is a new type of project and there are all kinds of issues that the City is still working on.

At the Water Plant, there will be some excess energy once the panels are installed and one of the ideas is to use that energy to power a new facility that will be constructed as a Shelter on FM 506 and Dodd Lane. The City pays 7 cents per kw, however, if the excess

power is put into the grid, the City would receive 3 cents per kw. Mr. Philip said that the deadline for completion of the project is August 31, but the contractor has been given until August 20, 2012. The state has agreed to give the City up to September 30, 2012 to complete the project, but there is no contract amendment in writing yet. When the agreement is received in writing, the contractor will be notified of the extension.

#### **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, Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap moved for adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Ralph Muse seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the board members present.

#### **ADJOURNMENT – BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez adjourned the meeting at 5:40 P.M.

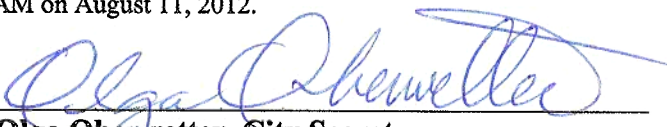
**APPROVED:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adolfo Lopez, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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 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 August 11, 2012.

  
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 Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

