

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Monday, November 4, 2013**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in special session on **Monday, November 4, 2013, at 5:30 P.M.** at Fiesta Tex-Mex Restaurant, 101 W. Expressway 83, 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 Hernandez	City Commissioner
Mr. John Edward Betancourt	City Commissioner
Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	City Commissioner
Ms. Angelica P. Baldivia	City Commissioner

The following staff members were present.

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Planning and Comm. Dev. 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 5:42 P.M., Mayor Steve Brewer asked Mr. J. A. Magallanes to give the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Brewer introduced all the City Commissioners who were present constituting a quorum of the City Commission and he called the meeting to order.

WORKSHOP – DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF LA FERIA

Mayor Steve Brewer thanked everyone for their presence. He introduced La Feria Independent School District Superintendent Mr. Reynaldo Villarreal who presented a PowerPoint presentation on TRE which if approved by the voters would provide additional revenue to give the school district employees a pay raise and upgrade facilities. Mr. Villarreal said the passage of the measure would not increase taxes on taxpayers, rather it would move funds from the debt service account into the maintenance and operations account. Mayor Steve Brewer thanked Mr. Villarreal for his presentation.

Mayor Steve Brewer reviewed projects that the City of La Feria has completed and discussed how it takes much time to see a project to fruition. Among the projects discussed were the water and wastewater projects, solar panels, the nature park, the recreation center, the two safe room domes that the City will be receiving bids on very soon. Mayor Brewer asked City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip to discuss the generators and pumps that will be permanently installed to help alleviate flooding in certain areas in La Feria.

Mr. Philip explained details of four (4) generators installed at lift stations through Disaster Recovery funding and one generator installed to serve the Fire Station and Police Station through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant. Mr. Philip also explained about two pumps purchased for pumping out water from the southwest area of the city in the event that the floodway system is activated. Mr. Philip thanked the Mayor and City Commissioners for their leadership and the employees for their dedicated service. He also admired the support of residents for a variety of projects undertaken by the City.

Mayor Steve Brewer also discussed that the City will be building a fire substation on South FM 506 and expanding the existing fire station in the very near future. He mentioned that the construction of water and wastewater improvements projects were being constructed through a forgivable loan that the City received from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Mayor Brewer also discussed the expansion of City Hall which was built by funds raised through the issuance of Certificates of Obligation (CO's).

Mayor Brewer said he was proud of the City's parks, such as Tiny Town Park, the Nature Park, the Veterans Memorial Park/Sports Complex and soon to be constructed would be the Unger Park on the east side of town and then the North Park which will be constructed on 4th Street.

Mayor Brewer also said the City assisted in the formation of two (2) nonprofit entities, one for economic development (South Texas Emerging Markets Development Fund, Inc.) and the other one for housing (South Texas Collaborative for Housing Development, Inc.). He said the nonprofit for housing is doing very well and the 80 unit Sunflower Estates Apartments are the result of the work of the housing nonprofit. He also said the nonprofit would be building a 70 unit subdivision on the west side of town known as Sunrise Terrace. Mayor Brewer said it took many visits to Austin to testify before the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) about the housing needs in La Feria. Several times the City put together a delegation to travel to Austin and speak before the TDHCA Board.

Mayor Brewer discussed that during Hurricane Dolly the City experienced much flooding in and around the areas surrounding La Feria. He thanked Mr. Salomon Torres, who was the District Director for Congressman Ruben Hinojosa for helping the City of La Feria tremendously to secure funds for a major drainage project from Tío Cano all the way to the Arroyo Colorado.

Mayor Brewer said that there is a formula for success in a City Manager/City Commission form of government and that it was to let the City Manager run the day to day operations of the City and for the Mayor and City Commission to set policy. He also said that he worked on economic development and he had served as the President of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council which had opened his eyes as to how well the City of La Feria works together compared to other small cities where there is a lot of in-fighting. Mayor Brewer acknowledged that the Mayor cannot be successful without the Commissioners who have worked with him and have been there to work on the various projects for the betterment of the community.

At the end of the discussion about the City of La Feria, Mayor Steve Brewer announced that he would be officially running for the Cameron County Commission Precinct 4 seat and that the next meeting of the City Commission would be his last meeting as Mayor.

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip spoke about Mayor Brewer and the City Commission's accomplishments through their leadership. He stated that Mayor Brewer has been very vocal about the needs of the community and has helped to lead the community to the next level while securing support from the City Commission and the community.

Mayor Brewer said he would still work for the good of La Feria and the communities in Precinct 4, but at a higher level and he asked for everyone's support.

Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by Mayor Brewer and his family.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Steve Brewer adjourned the meeting at 6:42 P.M.

APPROVED:



Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 8:40 A.M. on November 12, 2013 as official record.


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary



CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

email

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>	
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3	<i>Verla Felle</i>	<i>300 W. Macmillan Ave</i>	<i>956-245-3902</i>	
4	<i>Zelma Ford</i>	<i>24867 N. Pamm Lane HARLINGEN, TX 78552</i>	<i>956-423-2364</i>	
5	<i>A. Rodriguez</i>	<i>1008 Tanager LaFeria TX</i>	<i>797-8324 work</i>	
6	<i>Lani Weaver</i>	<i>204 E. Jessamine</i>	<i>498-9012</i>	
7	<i>R. Villarreal</i>	<i>2001 BASS BLVD</i>	<i>830 261 9717</i>	<i>rey.villarreal@lafayetteisd.org</i>
8	<i>Cindy Torres</i>	<i>27424 Kelly Court S. LaFeria</i>	<i>245-0883</i>	
9	<i>Velma Betancourt</i>	<i>500 Liberty</i>	<i>LaFeria</i>	<i>793-2839</i>
10	<i>J.A. McCallister</i>	<i>1713 Boca Chica Pkwy, TX</i>	<i>78520</i>	
11	<i>Susan K. Shelp</i>	<i>City of LaFeria</i>		
12	<i>Desi Martinez</i>	<i>Economist</i>	<i>956-778-89-29</i>	
13	<i>Anna Flores</i>	<i>City of Santa Rosa</i>	<i>956-636-1819</i>	
14	<i>Ronald Hernandez</i>	<i>300 N. Kansas City</i>	<i>" 244-6443</i>	
15	<i>Angela J.</i>	<i>Santa Rosa, TX</i>	<i>956-636-1819</i>	
16	<i>Victor Gonzalez</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	
17	<i>[Signature]</i>			
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4	Frances Garcia	420 E Pine 78559	536-2776	panchita@pink102@hotmail.com
5	Tony Alon	Buena Vista	636-1819	
6	Gail Brandt	28296 Orange Grove Road	357-9948	gbrandt@att.net
7	Robert Oute	1408 Genevieve Ave	(956) 499-4430	
8	Patsy Oute	" " "	(956) 454-7994	
9	Ramona Baw	28793 McLelland Dr, HRL	956-245-5371	
10	NBWright	LFN	797-9920	
11	DuWright	LFN	233-9928	
12	Elsie Ireland		797-2964	
13	Joni Garcia		757-3266	
14	Joni Garcia		757-2766	
15	Ram Rivero		956-975-0392	
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7	Lony Guevara	26402 N. White		KANCI+
8	DORIT GUEVARA	" "	" "	
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10	Janie Ayala	PO Box 1216. LaFeria, TX	78556	
11	Nora A DeLos Santos	P.O. Box 1589, LaFeria	TX 78559	
12	Alon Norky	800 Palm Ave	LaFeria	78559
13	Belinda Lopez	PO Box 463, Santa Maria	TX 78592	(256) 684-9594
14	Iwan Lutz	" "	" "	" "
15	John Ruth Dearinger	600 E Exp. 83 LaFeria		rvdearinger@yahoo.co
16	MIND Zurek	Santa Maria TP		
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