

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 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
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. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Capital Projects Coordinator
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 6:35 P.M., Mayor Steve Brewer gave 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.

**PRESENTATION OF STATE OF TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESOLUTION TO LA FERIA NEWS IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Mayor Steve Brewer introduced Michelle Villarreal, District Director for State Representative Oscar Longoria, who read the resolution honoring La Feria News. Ms. Villarreal said she was present on behalf of State Representative Oscar Longoria, who could not be present tonight. She said they requested and received a resolution from the Speaker of the House and she then read the following: "Whereas, locally owned and operated newspapers are vital resources in the towns and the cities of the Lone Star State and in 2013 the La Feria News is celebrating 90 years of serving the community; and Whereas, dedicated to covering life in an agricultural town, the La Feria News was founded in 1923 by Preston West Smith. The weekly paper passed through a number of owners until 1996 when after 73 years of continuous publication it was shut down for six months; and Whereas, in early 1997 Donald R. and Mary Elizabeth Tankersley Wright, residents of the Rio Grande Valley bought the paper and committed themselves to its

revival, paying off its debt and updating its technology, The La Feria News now has a circulation of 5,000 as well a Website, a Facebook Page, and a Twitter Account; and Whereas the Wrights have lived in the Valley since 1974, Don Wright has considerable experience in sales and marketing and Mary Beth Wright has been a journalist since her high school days in Mercedes, and she wrote a column for the local newspaper. More recently, the couple has started to publish two more local papers in Los Fresnos and Rio Hondo; and Whereas, La Feria News provides a lot of news and information, entertainment and inspiration to the 7,000 residents of the community; and it is fitting on this special anniversary to celebrate its important role in the life of its readers; Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the 90th Anniversary of the Founding of The La Feria News be commemorated and that Don and Mary Beth Wright and their staff be extended sincere and best wishes for continued success in their important work.” Ms. Villarreal also presented Don and Mary Beth Wright with a flag that was flown over the State Capitol. Mr. Don Wright expressed their deep and sincere appreciation for the City of La Feria. Mr. Wright said that their first beginning in La Feria was only successful by the support of La Feria’s City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip and the City’s business in its entirety and the City Commission. Mr. Wright said they were more than happy to help spread the news in the City, and it has been a community that has advanced itself more than any other community he knew of in the State of Texas, because of a cooperative City Commission. Mr. Wright said that many communities this size have a line drawn down the center and everything that comes up for a vote is 51/49 or 35/65. He said this community works together and this City Commission works together. Mr. Wright said that his sweet wife has followed the City Commission very closely. Ms. Mary Beth Wright said that they do appreciate all the support that they have received from the City and the School and that they do not report all the news, because they like to report positive news. Mr. Wright said that other newspapers think that they are the heartbeat of the community, but La Feria News doesn’t, they know that they are the pulse of the community and the City is the heartbeat. Photos were taken.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Lori Weaver moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Lori Weaver moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday,

September 10, 2013. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REPORTS BY TXDOT ON LA FERIA RELATED PROJECTS AND DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY COMMISSION

Mr. Juan A. Bernal, P.E., CFM, Transportation Engineer from the Pharr TxDOT office, reported that the Safe Routes to School Project is pretty much complete. He said the inspector from TxDOT and the Contractor inspected the project and they found just a few minor items that need to be corrected. Mr. Bernal said that the City will also do a walk through of the project and create a punch list of any items that need to be corrected. Mr. Bernal said TxDOT would like to know the status of the concrete blocks. Mr. Philip said that the City is making plans to start on the project very soon. Mr. Bernal said that at the next meeting he will bring the final cost of the project. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia inquired about a flashing school zone sign on Canal Street at an area where there is no school and if it would be moved. Mr. Bernal said he would look into that. Commissioner John Betancourt thanked Mr. Bernal for his attendance at the meetings and reporting to the City Commission directly concerning the La Feria projects. The Commission echoed Commissioner Betancourt's comments.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY RESOLUTION VOTING ON THE CANDIDATE FOR POSITION NINE ON THE CAMERON APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that the Commission had a copy of the resolution and a copy of the ballot for the Appraisal District Board of Directors. Mr. Philip said the last time (two years ago) the Commission voted for Ricardo Morado. Commissioner Victor Gonzalez, Jr. moved to vote for Mr. Ricardo Morado again. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to read the resolution by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia 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 2013-32. After reading of the caption, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve Resolution 2013-32 voting for Mr. Ricardo Morado for position nine on the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW CHAPTER 551, GOVERNMENT CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN SECTION 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY RELATING TO CAPITAL FUND CONTRACTS REGARDING ALLIED WASTE AND THE LITTLE LIGHTHOUSE REHAB CENTER; SECTION 551.072 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PURCHASE/SALE/ DONATION OF REAL ESTATE BY THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/CITY OF LA FERIA; AND SECTION 551.087 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

This item was tabled on a motion by Commissioner John Betancourt and a second by Commissioner Lori Weaver. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY AS THE RESULT OF EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION DELIBERATIONS

This item was tabled on a motion by Commissioner John Betancourt and a second by Commissioner Lori Weaver. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION

- Update on Drainage Improvement Project
- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project
- Progress of Fire Station Expansion and Substation Project
- Status of Dome Construction Project
- Generator Purchase and Installation Project
- Sidewalk Improvement Project
- EDA Grant for Technology and Success Center
- Unger Park Improvement Project
- Trail Improvement Project

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported on the following.

- Update on Drainage Project – The Commission awarded the contract to R.M. Walsdorf for the Rabb Road improvements and also drainage improvements for AN49 and the levee crossing and they have started the work already. The pumps have been delivered and staff will be scheduling a demonstration, but no final location has been found yet. Mr. Philip said the City wants to exercise the pumps on a monthly basis. The next projects in line would be the Kansas City Road Improvements and drainage improvements for AN47.
- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project – At the last City Commission meeting, the Commission awarded the contract to Cornet Construction of San Benito. The Texas Water Development Board has put a big emphasis on how the City and the contractor have done a good faith effort in recruiting minorities. Cornet Construction has done a good job in recruiting minorities, but they have not done a good job of documenting that, because it was never asked of them. Planning and Community Development Director Ms. Paula Rodriguez has worked with them to document their activities. And that is very close to being approved. The water meter purchase and the radio system have been approved. Mr. Philip said that the next item would be the replacement of a 10” AC (Asbestos Cement) line from the water plant to the water tower with a 12” pipe. Mr. Philip said this is possible under the new project because it qualified as a “Green Project.” The next item going out for bids will be a lift station on the west side of Rabb Road on the south side of Business 83 and a pressure main from there to the wastewater treatment plant. There are two additional grants secured, one is through the County to install the sewer line in the Colonia on the west side and also to add improvements at the water plant such as the Ultra Violet and replace the old electrical panel. That one has a two year window for completion. Mr. Philip said the goal is to finish the complete project by the end of 2014.
- Fire Station Expansion and Substation Project – Waiting on the final okay from USDA to close on the loan and then the City can start on the construction.
- Dome Construction Project – Olga sent out the advertisement to the newspaper and the opening of the bids will be on November 26, 2013 and the City is asking for a mandatory pre-bid conference on November 18, 2013 because the Dome is a very

unique construction project. Mr. Philip said that through a TCEQ grant the parking lot is already built for the Dome on the Pancho Maples site.

- Generator Purchase Project – The generator is being installed.
- Sidewalk Improvement Project – Already discussed by TxDOT representative.
- EDA Grant for Technology and Success Center – the City will be working on that to get the project moving.
- Unger Park Improvement Project – The idea is to finalize that in December. Need to get a final estimate on it. Staff will be evaluating whether to do this piece meal or turn it over to a contractor. Verizon said they will have their cables down by the end of the year 2013.
- Trail Improvement Projects – This project needs to coincide with the drainage project. Ms. Paula Rodriguez said a representative from Parks and Wildlife visited and drove the trail and said that the City should be looking forward to receiving the contract sometime around Thanksgiving. The environmental is done, but they are requesting an archeological survey of the last 200 meters of the trail.

Mayor Steve Brewer said that Our Lady of the Lake is having an event on Saturday at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 2:30 P.M., a religious capitulation of their students including those that are about to graduate, those that are just starting, and those that are in the PHD process.

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

There was no action needed on this item.

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 Lori Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Steve Brewer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

APPROVED:



Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 1:55 P.M. on November 12, 2013 as official record.


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1	JUAN BERNAL		202-6165
2	Michelle Villarreal		1040-9875
3	Ruth Deaunjer		797-1401
4	Ms Whyte		
5	Don Wright		956-330-6838
6	Betty J DUNLAP	P.O. Box 995 La Feria	
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