

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 26, 2013**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, March 26, 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 – Late 6:33 PM
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. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning and Community Dev. Dir.
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 6:31 P.M., Mayor Steve Brewer asked Commissioner Lori Weaver to give the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Steve 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 MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 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, March 12, 2013. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY COMMISSION AND STAFF REGARDING THE DESIGN DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED STORM SHELTER DOMES

City Manager Sunny K. Philip introduced Mr. John Percy and Mr. Benito Lozano with the firm of Megamorphosis Architecture and Interior Design and Mr. Joe B. Winston of Sigler, Winston, Greenwood and Associates who are working with the storm shelter domes. Mr. John Percy presented a PowerPoint presentation with an introduction of

Megamorphosis and some of the projects that the firm has done throughout the Valley. Then Mr. Percy discussed the uniqueness of the dome projects and said that Megamorphosis hired a team of experts out of Kansas who have affiliations with people who build these types of structures. A 20,000 square foot dome will be located on South Main Street and a 15,000 square foot dome will be located on Pancho Maples Drive. Mr. Percy said that FEMA funds are being utilized for this project and that they will only pay so much and they don't care what the City uses the facilities for when not being used as a storm shelter. The domes will withstand a 250 miles per hour wind. Mr. Winston said that the domes would be structurally very, very sound. There was no action needed as a result of this presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON THE CITY OF LA FERIA APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM FOR FUNDING OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA POLICE STATION

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing open at 7:38 P.M. City Manager Sunny K. Philip explained that a proposed application to USDA is for the expansion of the Police Station. He said that the idea is to tear down the metal building and incorporate the old water tank into the expansion. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap inquired if the expansion would be upward on the existing building. Mr. Philip responded that it would be on the east side of the existing building. There being no other comments, Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public hearing closed at 7:38 P.M.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA POLICE STATION THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM

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 2013-08. After reading of the caption, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve Resolution 2013-08 authorizing the submission of an application to the United States Department of Agriculture for funding in the amount of \$1,204,000 for the proposed expansion of the City of La FERIA Police Station through the Community Facilities Program. Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY A RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF 10 RESIDENTIAL LOTS TO SOUTH TEXAS COLLABORATIVE FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THAT WERE PURCHASED BY THE CITY ORIGINALLY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMES THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

City Manager Sunny K. Philip told the Commission that staff was not asking that the Commission take action on this item tonight, but rather that it would be brought back before the City Commission at a later date. Mr. Philip distributed a list of the properties and said these properties are in the City's name and they are tax exempt. Mr. Philip discussed that the city has three options, one is to advertise and sell them all, another option would be to work with the housing non-profit, South Texas Collaborative for

Housing Development to have affordable housing for the area, and the third option is that the City can approve an ordinance stating that if there is a non-profit in town, that the City can sell the properties and that within a three year period of time the non-profit would build homes. Once the City Commission approves an ordinance, it would set the standard. Mr. Philip said that at the next meeting, staff would bring back two items, an ordinance and a resolution related to this item. There was no action taken on this item.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ADOPT PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING APRIL AS "FAIR HOUSING MONTH"**

City Manager Sunny K. Philip said this is similar to the proclamations adopted in past years. Commissioner Angelica P. Baldivia moved to adopt proclamation proclaiming April as "Fair Housing Month." Commissioner Lori Weaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2013

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

The financial reports for the month of February 2013 were filed for audit.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION

- Update on Drainage Project
- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project
- Progress of Library Expansion Project
- Progress of City Hall Expansion Project
- Progress of Fire Station Expansion Project
- Generator Purchase Project
- Sidewalk Improvement Project

City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported on the following.

- Update on Drainage Project – The City is still waiting on approval from GLO before starting the advertisements.
- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project – Staff is completing the acquisition of the easements with one or two remaining to be acquired.
- Library Expansion – Applied for funding for furniture; working on the roof.
- City Hall Expansion – The contractor is making good progress.
- Fire Station and Substation Expansion Project – The City submitted the plans and they have been approved, but they have a few more questions on the project. However, they are going to schedule a closing. The Substation plat was approved and one of the next items will be to annex the area. The City will be going out for bids, but it is at least 30 days away from advertising.
- Generator Project – The generator has been received and it is stored at the warehouse.
- Sidewalk Improvement Project – At the last City Commission meeting, TxDOT came and expressed a few items. Some adjustments need to be made and it will be at an additional expense. Some people have already commented positively on the project.

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

All Commission members were present so there was no action needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Steve Brewer declared the public comments session open and acknowledged Ms. Amanda Rodriguez who spoke to the Commission regarding the drought and water conservation measures. Mayor Steve Brewer thanked Ms. Rodriguez and invited her to stay after the meeting and talk to staff about her comments. There being no one else to speak before the Commission, Mayor Steve 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 7:55 P.M.

APPROVED:



Steve Brewer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 5:40 P.M. on April 8, 2013, as official record.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1 AMANDA RODRIGUEZ	15260 Ewing Drive HGN, TX 78552	(956) 792-3061
2 Betty Jo Dunlap	PO Box 995 La Feria TX 78559	956-873-0297
3 Liana Brewer		
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