

**Minutes of Proceedings
Regular Board Meeting
La Feria Utilities Board
Tuesday, July 8, 2014**

Be it known that the Board of Directors of the City of La Feria Utilities Board met in regular session on **Tuesday, July 8, 2014, 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. Ovidio Saldivar	Board Member
Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	Mayor/Ex-Officio Member

Absent: Mr. Ralph Muse Board Member

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Planning and Community Dev. Director
Ms. Esmeralda Sanchez	Capital Projects Coordinator
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary

There were no other persons present at this meeting.

At 5:22 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 10, 2014**

After review of the minutes, Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the La Feria Utilities Board held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 as presented in written form. Mr. Ovidio Saldivar seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the board members present.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2014

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed the financial reports for the month of June 2014 with the board, reviewing both the monthly and year-to-date figures. Ms. Chavero explained that the negative bottom line for the month is due to the fact that the payment request to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is processed by the City after the check has been cut and the TWDB takes about a week or so to release the funds. City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip added that the TWDB releases the funds on a

reimbursement basis, so the City has to pay the bill first and submit the request for reimbursement. Board member Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap inquired about the utilities expense and Ms. Chavero explained that the new provider Gexa Energy is playing catch-up on their billing, so that the figure shown is for two or two-and-a half months' billing. Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez inquired about the solar energy. Mr. Philip said that the City has done everything that it needs to do to make sure that the energy generated is being used, but the City is not getting the credit for it. AEP has verified that they are sending all the information to the billing company. Mr. Philip said he and Ms. Chavero met with the vendor, Gexa Energy, when they were in McAllen, and they said they would work with the City on this. Mr. Philip said that if the situation is not resolved through that entity, the City may have to pull the account from them and work with another vendor who will honor the credits. Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap inquired about the repairs/maintenance line item. Ms. Chavero responded that there were some repairs made at the Water Treatment Plant and Mr. Philip said there were also some repairs made on the motors at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Gonzalez inquired about the budgeted amount for Professional Services and why it was much more than the actual amount used. Ms. Chavero responded that it is only a budgeted amount. The estimated yearly total is divided by 12 months and the figure is entered for the month. Ms. Chavero then reviewed the Performance Indicators for the month. After review and all questions answered, Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez announced that the reports would be filed for audit.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH THE BOARD

- **Water and Wastewater Systems Improvement Project**

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip reported the following:

- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvement Project – Cornett Construction is working on the water main installation project on the north side of the Expressway and after that they will be doing testing and clearing up the sections of the water line so that residents can be hooked up to the system. Then there is a major item left on Beddoes Road which is hooking up the system from the Expressway to Rancho Blanco to circulate the water.
- Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. said he knew that sewer lines for North Beddoes Road north of the Expressway was not part of the project, but he inquired whether Sunny had asked the engineers to review and give a cost estimate to provide sewer service to the area. He also asked if there would be any funding available for such a project. Mr. Philip responded that he had not requested the cost estimate from the engineers and that he would have to look to see if funding for such project would be available. Mr. Philip said he would be working on this.
- The City is currently advertising for the water line replacement for the AC water line from the water plant to the water tower. The bids will be opened on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. There will need to be a special meeting of the Utilities Board on July 22, 2014 to review the bids and make a recommendation to the City Commission. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. inquired about the size of the water line. Mr. Philip said the old line was 10 inches and the new line will be 12 inches.
- Water Meter Replacement Project – as of last week about 1,600 meters have been installed.

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. Ovidio Saldivar 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 5:45 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 4:32 PM on July 19, 2014.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

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