

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, November 18, 2014**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 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. Victor Gonzalez, Jr.	Mayor
	Mr. John Edward Betancourt	City Commissioner
	Mr. John Hernandez	City Commissioner
	Mr. Julian Guevara, Jr.	City Commissioner
Absent:	Ms. Esmeralda Lozano	City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem
	Ms. Olga H. Maldonado	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	Planning and Community Dev. Dir.
Ms. Esmeralda Sanchez	Capital Projects Coordinator
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary
Mr. Alan Ozuna	Attorney, Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal Hyde & Zech, PC

A copy of the signature roster of all others present is attached as a part of the minutes hereof.

At 6:34 P.M., Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked Commissioner John Betancourt to give the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the public comments session open and acknowledged Ms. Mirtala Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez spoke regarding her vehicles that were towed; a Ford Windstar and an F150. She was charged \$191.55 each to recover her vehicles. Ms. Rodriguez said the stickers were placed on her vehicles on June 5, 2013 and the vehicles were picked up on June 11, 2013. She wanted someone to look at the ordinance because she thought that she had 10 days in which to remedy any nuisance.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked Ms. Rodriguez for her comments. He told her to leave copies with the City Manager, and he would look into it. No one else signed up to speak before the City Commission, so Mayor Gonzalez declared the public comment session closed.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Julian Guevara moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the special meeting of the City Commission held on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION TO RECEIVE INPUT REGARDING THE CITY OF LA FERIA'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WHICH WILL BE CELEBRATED IN 2015**

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip said that City Secretary Ms. Olga Oberwetter distributed a 3-page Centennial Celebration outline which included all the items that the City Commission had suggested in prior meetings and the items that were suggested by the Event Planning Committee. Mr. Philip reviewed the outline and said that this needs to be developed within the next 30 days or so. The planning process is to reach out to some people for interviews, but it needs to be identified in this outline. He said that La Feria has a history of some American Indians and the committee might need to reach out to them. He said that there may be more items to be added. Mr. Philip said the Event Planning Committee will be meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014 and he welcomed anyone who would want to participate. Commissioner John Betancourt said that the High School Band has gotten very good with the jazz section, and suggested that maybe it wouldn't have to be the entire band, or that various band events could be presented. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. suggested that the event could recognize the veterans of La Feria. Mr. Philip said that the City has to raise the funds in order to hold some of these activities and that not all the activities identified would be done. Commissioner Betancourt suggested that someone contact the various churches to see if they have anything in their archives that they might want to share with the Event Planning

Committee. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. suggested that some of the items might be celebrated at different times throughout the year. He said the Centennial is not just the two day celebration, but a yearlong event that can be highlighted at different times of the year.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014**

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

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed the financial reports for the month of October 2014 with the City Commission. Ms. Chavero reviewed the Budget vs. Actual Report monthly and year-to-date figures which she said were the same figure since October is the first month of the new fiscal year. She then reviewed the City Investment Report, the Current Year Tax Collection Report, the Delinquent Tax Collection Report, the Court Fines Collection Report and the City Sales and Use Tax Comparison Report. After review and all questions answered, Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. announced that the reports would be filed for audit.

**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 TO DISCUSS LITIGATION, CAUSE 2014-DCL-07265, CONSUELO DE LA ROSA, LEONARDO MARTINEZ, JOSE GONZALEZ, BILLY GENE SCHWARZ, CAROL L. SCHWARZ VS. CITY OF LA FERIA IN THE 138<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT OF CAMERON COUNTY; SECTION 551.072 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PURCHASE/SALE/DONATION OF REAL ESTATE BY THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/THE LA FERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/CITY OF LA FERIA; AND SECTION 551.087 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the meeting in executive session at 7:07 P.M. After executive session deliberations, Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the meeting back in open session at 8:08 P.M.

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

There was no action needed as a result of the executive session deliberations.

**DISCUSSION ON CONSIDERATION OF THE CREATION OF A CITY OF LA FERIA ANNEXATION COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF LA FERIA**

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. explained that this item has been before the City Commission various times, and he asked that City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert give the City Commission some options as to how to handle this item. Mr. Talbert said that the Home Rule cities in Texas have the right to annex areas, and the state legislature cannot limit that right, but they can limit the procedures to exercise that right. Mr. Talbert said that the matter that is raised in this request is asking that the City Commission do more than is

required by the State. The suggestion that the committee be permanent could not be handled by ordinance, but would need an amendment to the City Charter. Mr. Talbert said the policy question for the Commission would be, "Do you want to go further than the State requires?" Home Rule cities already follow all the procedures that the State requires. The consensus of the Commission was to take no action, so that this item would not have to come back to the City Commission. There was no action taken on this item.

#### **REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION**

- **UPDATE ON DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
- **WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**
- **STATUS OF SAFE ROOMS (DOMES) CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

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

- The Drainage Project on Rabb Road is taking a little longer than anticipated. R.M. Walsdorf is going to step in and hopefully by December 15 they will be done. Mr. Philip explained the drainage project in detail and noted the different areas on the map.
- On the Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project, the installation of water meters has been completed, and the water looping project has been completed. The water main from the tower to the plant is being worked on at this time. The Alto Real project which is funded by a small grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program through Cameron County has been started. The building at the water plant to house the Ultra Violet System has been started. The City is advertising for sanitary sewer improvements to several areas, including the dome area on South Main Street. The Texas Water Development Board has cleared the project on the west side of town.
- Staff had a progress meeting with the Domes contractor today, and everything is doing okay. Staff had a preconstruction meeting with the Domes Technology contractor and tried to pinpoint a day for the inflation of the dome to announce to the public. None has been identified yet.

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

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. said that Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem Esmeralda Lozano's mother is still in the hospital and Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem Lozano could not attend this meeting. Commissioner John Betancourt moved to excuse Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem Esmeralda Lozano's absence from this meeting. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. also reported that Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado's City of Mercedes Commission meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and since La Feria changes its Commission meetings in November and December to the first and third Tuesdays, it created a scheduling conflict for Commissioner Maldonado. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. moved to excuse Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado's absence from this meeting. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

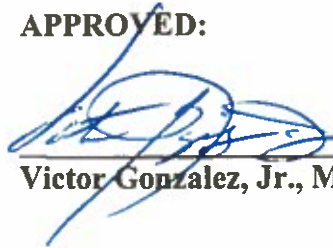
**ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner John Betancourt moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Gonzalez, Jr., Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 1:22 P.M. on January 10, 2015, as official record.

  
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Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary



**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**AT THE**  
**CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014, AT 6:30 PM**

WELCOME  
PLEASE SIGN IN

**NAME**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**HOME/WORK PHONE NO.**

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*Roberto Fuller 1000 E. Chelo*

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*Rtao DE LA ROSA 33298 FM 506 LA FERIA, TX*

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*Mirtala Rodriguez 200 Benfield Lane, La Feria*

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