

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Friday, September 5, 2014**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in special session on **Friday, September 5, 2014, at 5:30 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.

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| Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Jr. | Mayor |
| Ms. Esmeralda Lozano | City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem |
| Mr. John Edward Betancourt | City Commissioner–Late: 5:45P.M. |
| Mr. John Hernandez | City Commissioner |
| Mr. Julian Guevara, Jr. | City Commissioner |
| Ms. Olga H. Maldonado | City Commissioner |

The following staff members were present.

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 |

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

At 5:30 P.M., Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. gave the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Gonzalez 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

Mrs. Delores Fuller was late arriving to the meeting and did not have an opportunity to fill out a comment form to speak before the Commission. She stated to City Secretary Ms. Olga Oberwetter that since she didn't fill out the form and she couldn't speak during Public Comments that she was going home. Mayor Gonzalez inquired what the conversation was about and when advised what Mrs. Fuller said, he asked City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert if it would be appropriate to allow Mrs. Fuller to speak. Mr. Talbert said it was up to the Commission's discretion. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano moved to allow Mrs. Fuller to speak during Public Comments. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the public comments session open and acknowledged Mrs. Delores Fuller. Mrs. Fuller said she had requested information through the "Freedom of Information Act" and had received the wages of the custodian

who makes \$12.75 and the policemen's wages. She said that the dispatcher who has been with the City 14 years is only making \$11.79 (Eliza Mendez Rodriguez is the dispatcher Mrs. Fuller was referring to and she is the Communications Office Supervisor at an hourly rate of \$13.79, not \$11.79). Mrs. Fuller said that she hoped that since this is the budget workshop that the people who protect the public's safety should be number one in wages. She said she was not complaining about the custodian's hourly rate, because that was not a lot. But she said that the priority should not be in making people comfortable and buying chairs and furniture and building things, but to pay better wages to the police employees since they are the ones that risk their lives to protect the public. She said that before the new Commissioners came on board, the old Commission gave themselves a 300% increase on their pay (stipend). Mrs. Fuller questioned where all the people were who during all the political talk said they loved La Feria and have not shown up at the meetings. She said people need to show up to make sure that the new Commission does what they are supposed to do. She also stated that for 12 years, the only man's voice at the meetings was "that man". Mayor Gonzalez asked Mrs. Fuller which man and she said, "Mr. Philip." Mrs. Fuller also said that the City should purchase a Breathalyzer so that the Police can issue DWI's instead of PI's. Mayor Gonzalez called Mrs. Fuller on her time and thanked her for her comments. No one else signed up to speak before the City Commission, so Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the public comment session closed.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REVIEW PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE AND TAKE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST QUALIFIED BIDDER AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENT

City Secretary/Human Resource Director Ms. Olga Oberwetter explained the bids received for the employee group insurance and mentioned that the lowest bid was Allegian which used to be Valley Baptist Health Plans, with the exception that the Aetna bid was \$0.57 less on Employee Only. She mentioned that the second page showed that Allegian is proposing the exact same plan, but at an increased premium. She introduced Mr. Lee Helm with Allegian who was sitting in for the City's agent Ms. Joannie Bianchini. City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that though the Employee Only was \$0.57 cents less for Aetna, their Employee and Children (\$686.00) was much higher than the Allegian Employee and Children (\$607.86) and that if the City saved a few cents, the employee would end up paying a lot more. Mr. Philip said there are at least five employees that pay for dependent children. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano inquired if staff knew why it was that only a few employees had dependent coverage, and whether it was because they could not afford it. Mr. Philip responded that staff didn't know why, but it could be that some spouses work and their insurance would be more affordable through their insurance plans. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano asked Mr. Lee Helm if the prescription benefit included a deductible which would have to be met before the employee could take advantage of the prescription benefit. Mr. Helm responded that though they have those kinds of plans, this plan did not require a

deductible for prescriptions. Commissioner John Hernandez asked for the difference in the increase. Ms. Oberwetter said that Employee Only increased by \$17.09, from \$311.48 to \$328.57 and Employee and Children increased by \$31.62, from \$576.24 to \$607.87. Ms. Oberwetter said the only two active categories are Employee Only and Employee and Children. Ms. Oberwetter clarified that since the City pays the Employee Only portion and the employee pays the difference of the Employee and Children amount, the employee would only pay \$279.29 a month whether it was one child or 10 children. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to award the employee group health insurance contract to Allegian and to appoint Ms. Joannie Bianchini as the agent. Commissioner Julian Guevara seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

REVIEW PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR BANK DEPOSITORY SERVICES AND TAKE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO THE ENTITY WITH THE BEST PROPOSAL RECEIVED

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip said that by State law, the City must go out for bids for Bank Depository Services and the Request for Proposals was advertised and only one proposal was received. That proposal was from BBVA Compass Bank. Mr. Philip said a copy of the proposal was included in the Commission's packet. He added that BBVA Compass Bank is very convenient for the City since deposits are made at least twice a day and they have worked well with the City in the past. Mr. Juan Loya and Ms. Melissa Leal from BBVA were present to answer any questions. Mr. Loya addressed the Commission and also thanked Mr. Philip and Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero. He said he appreciated working with them almost on a daily basis. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. moved to award the Bank Depository Services contract to BBVA Compass Bank for the next five years. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked if the Commission would consider moving Item 10 Executive Session before Item 8 Budget Workshop. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to consider Item 10 before Item 8. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW CHAPTER 551, GOVERNMENT CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS TO DISCUSS JOB PERFORMANCE OF CITY MANAGER

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the meeting in Executive Session at 5:56 P.M. After Executive Session deliberations, Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the meeting back in open session at 7:06 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.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 AND CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND DISUCSSION WITHY THE CITY COMMISSION

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip said there were very few minor changes from what was discussed at the previous workshop. He said the medical insurance premium savings was incorporated in the new figures. There is \$130,000 for administration of the grant. Staff reduced the administration fee paid to the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) from \$118,000 to \$59,000. Mr. Philip reviewed the total revenues and total expenditures and said this was a balanced budget. He also mentioned that in developing the budget, staff always goes on the conservative side. Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero mentioned that the janitorial supplies line item was corrected, because the City Council janitorial supplies figure and the Court janitorial supplies had been switched in the previous report. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano inquired how the janitorial supplies budget was allocated to each department and also what was the total in dollar amount. She asked Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero for a formula. Ms. Chavero will report back. Mr. Philip also reviewed the Capital Projects by line item. Mr. Philip said that of \$56,579,168 in capital improvements, \$45,502,372 has been accomplished by grants. Mr. Philip mentioned that there were also some Motorola radios financed through other sources that were not included in this list. Mr. Philip also said there is one more item that will need to be considered and that is the water tower on Business 83 which was built in 1973 and recently had a leak that had to be repaired. He had requested a cost estimate for repairs which is approximately \$400,000. If a new one needs to be built it would make sense to build a 500,000 gallon capacity tank instead of just replacing the 250,000 gallon tank. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano said that for the record she wanted to address item number 42 which was Tablets for City Personnel & City Commission and she wanted noted that she was not in favor of that item. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado said she was not in favor of it either, that the money could be used for the employees. Mr. Philip said that money is earmarked under the Bond Issue and that could not be used for anything else other than the items specified. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano said that she would be in San Antonio and would be running late for the meeting of September 9, 2014, but she would be in attendance. There was no action needed on this item.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA DESIGNATING VETERAN'S DAY AS A HOLIDAY FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that the Commission had a copy of the ordinance adding Veterans' Day as an additional holiday for the City employees. Commissioner John Hernandez moved to read the ordinance by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner John Betancourt seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission. City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert read the caption of Ordinance 2014-08. After reading of the caption, City Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approve Ordinance 2014-08 designating Veteran's Day as a holiday for the City of La Feria. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

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

All Commission members were present, so there was no action needed on this item.

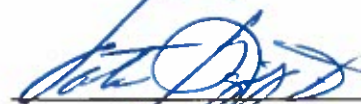
ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 7:45 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 6:30 P.M. on September 8, 2014, as official record.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary



CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014, AT 5:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>MAILING ADDRESS</u> | <u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u> |
|----|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | JUAN LOYA | JUAN.LOYA@BBVA.COM | 956/547-3961 |
| 2 | LEE HELM | 2005 ED CAREY, HGN 78550 | 956-389-2257 |
| 3 | Yolanda Fuller | 1000 SCHOEN | 956 777-9201 |
| 4 | Robert Lopez | | |
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