

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 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
Ms. Esmeralda Lozano	City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. John Edward Betancourt	City Commissioner
Mr. John Hernandez	City Commissioner
Ms. Olga H. Maldonado	City Commissioner
Mr. Julian Guevara, Jr.	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

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

At 6:30 P.M., Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado 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. Mayor Gonzalez asked Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem Esmeralda Lozano to read the items on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the public comments session open and acknowledged Mrs. Delores Fuller who introduced herself and said she lives at 1000 South Chelo Drive, La Feria, Texas 78559. Mrs. Fuller said that she would not be appearing before the City Commission regarding answers for anyone else's concerns as she has done in the past; that they would need to come and speak for themselves. Mrs. Fuller then spoke in regards to Drunk Driving Laws and drugs and said that she would be working on a petition to present to legislators to change the laws in regards to drunk driving and drugs. 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, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

After review of the minutes, Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Commissioner John Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

DISCUSSION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL IN LA FERIA

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip briefed the Commission on what he knew about the Veteran's Memorial project for La Feria. He said the gentleman who had come before the City Commission at a previous meeting spoke about the money that they had raised for the project and how the project had not moved. Mr. Philip explained that some time ago a volunteer group of people including veterans and veteran supporters got together and raised approximately \$10,000. The original plan was to have some kind of a granite memorial. Mr. Philip said that the City is not in control of the \$10,000; it is in the hands of the gentleman that was at the meeting speaking about the project. Mr. Philip said that Commissioner John Hernandez was very active in raising that money. He said Commissioner John Hernandez and Lori Weaver met with him and asked if the City would be able to assist in the construction of this memorial. Mr. Philip engaged the services of Megamorphosis to design the memorial in the triangle area across FM 506 to the west of City Hall. What Megamorphosis designed was a heavy metal laser cut memorial at an estimated cost of about \$8,000.00, but then there would be the other costs such as the concrete foundation, benches, and other things to make it accessible to the public. Mr. Philip said that Megamorphosis was not charging for their design work. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked if there was a set of specs so that he can present to a concrete provider for an estimate of what the cost would be for that. Mr. Philip responded in the affirmative and said he would provide that. Commissioner John Hernandez reported that the group had a great start at the beginning, but it dwindled down to where then there were only three or four people showing up for the meetings. He said that they had a commitment from Innovative Block of South Texas to provide the brick needed for the memorial. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado said it is something that the City should have in order to show appreciation to the City's veterans. She said most other Valley cities have a memorial, even if it is a small one. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano expressed concern about the material being metal and how it would hold up in time. Mr. Philip said what Megamorphosis has designed would be rustic looking and coated so that it would withstand the elements. A workshop was suggested in order to have more discussion and invite some of the veterans to attend and provide input. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked that the City notify the gentleman that the City is working on it. Commissioner John Hernandez said he would let him know, because he would be heading back to Indiana.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY A REQUEST BY MEDIA CHOICE, LLC FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A CHANGING VARIABLE ELECTRONIC MESSAGING (CVEM) SIGN WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY OF LA FERIA

ORDINANCE 2015-01 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE ORDER

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip said that this was discussed before when the City Commission had amended the Zoning Ordinance and the electronic sign ordinance, allowing five signs within the city limits as long as the City is allowed a free message on each sign. Mr. Philip said that the location where the company wants to install the sign is owned by the La Feria Industrial Development Corporation (LFIDC) and though the documents are done, they have not been signed by the LFIDC, so that this item needs to be tabled until a later meeting. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to table this item. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS ABANDONING A TEN (10) FOOT BY TWO HUNDRED (200) FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT THAT IS LOCATED ALONG THE EAST PROPERTY LINE OF LOT 1, DEPOT SUBDIVISION AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip referred to the plat included in the City Commission packet and said that the easement between Lot 1 and 2 needs to be abandoned since there is nothing under it, and CVS will be building their new building over it. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to read the ordinance by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano 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 2015-04. After reading of the caption, City Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approve Ordinance 2015-04 abandoning a ten (10) foot by two hundred (200) foot utility easement that is located along the east property line of Lot 1, Depot Subdivision and providing an effective date. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. 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 551.072 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 (closed) session at 7:13 P.M. After executive session, Mayor Gonzalez declared the meeting back in open session at 7:58 P.M.

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

There was no action needed on this item.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION

- **UPDATE ON DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
- **WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS ONGOING PROJECT**
 - **12 Inch AC Line Replacement**
 - **Contract Award for SCADA System**
 - **Water Line to West Colonias**
 - **Alto Real Sewer System Improvement Project**
 - **Wastewater Lines & Sewer Main (FM 506, Strader Lane, Arroyo Alto Lift Station Improvement, Beddoes Road Sewer Main, Kansas City Lift Station, Parker Road Lift Station)**
 - **UV System Building**
 - **Cathodic Protection for Clarifiers & Elevated Tank**
 - **Water Looping (Cornett Final Change Order)**
- **STATUS OF SAFE ROOMS (DOMES) CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

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

- Drainage Improvement Project - The contractors are making good progress other than the rain delays caused by the weather. Mr. Philip mentioned a memo he had sent the Commission regarding the additional \$1,000,000 grant received through Hazard Mitigation Grant for cost overruns on Rabb Road. The City had requested 1.2 million dollars, and they approved \$1 million. The other item on drainage is that there is major work to be done on the Wilson Canal project starting from the reservoir going all the way close to Santa Rosa, and the City is working with the La Feria Irrigation District to do the work. The proposed improvements will allow drainage from the Tío Cano area to drain to the south also. There will need to be a contract and a memorandum of understanding drawn up before this project can proceed.
- Cornett Construction, the contractor replacing the 10" water main with a 12" line from the tower to the plant has three crews working on that project. The work may be 50% complete.
- The SCADA system awarded by the City Commission at the last meeting will be for three lift stations: Parker Road, Canal Street, and the repair of the Lilac Avenue lift station. The SCADA system is a signaling system to gauge conditions within the lift stations and send the signal to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Water Line to West Colonias – Cornett Construction submitted the low bid. Staff is working with the Texas Water Development Board for their approval of the bid. Construction would be starting by the end of the month. Cornett Construction wants to finish the AC line replacement so that then they can move on to this project.
- Alto Real Subdivision sewer improvements are being done through the Community Development Block Grant Program through Cameron County. This is not going to be connected to the City's sewer plant at this time, but all homes will be hooked up to the sewer system and the City will use its Vector truck to clean the system. All hookups will be free of charge to the residents in the area.
- Wastewater Lines & Sewer Main – Mr. Philip identified the areas on the map. He said the improvements on FM 506 will provide service to the new dome.

- UV System Building located at the Water Treatment Plant is complete. The Ultra Violet Treatment System will kill the bacteria in the water. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano inquired if this would improve the taste and odor of the water. She said she had received various inquiries concerning the water. Mr. Philip said that it should improve it.
- The contract for the Cathodic Protection for Clarifiers & Elevated Tank has been signed, and the next step is for them to order and schedule the work. This will protect against rust and corrosion.
- Water Looping is complete (Cornett Final Change Order).
- There are still three projects that need to be bid out.
- Status of Safe Rooms (Domes) -- The contractor is moving along good. Earlier there was a problem with getting the money from the State, but that is improving.

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

There was no action needed on this item.

ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:30 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 April 8, 2015, as official record.



Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary



CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
AT THE
CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015, AT 6:30 PM

WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN IN

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME/WORK PHONE NO.</u>
1	Alfonso A. Gonzalez, P.E.	611 Bill Summers Blvd.	(956) 968-2194
2	Veronica Martinez	604 E 1st St	—
3	Dean Kimmel	—	—
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