

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, June 23, 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 Hernandez	City Commissioner
Ms. Olga H. Maldonado	City Commissioner
Mr. Julian Guevara, Jr.	City Commissioner

Absent: Mr. John Edward Betancourt 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 Maldonado to give the invocation. After the invocation, Mayor Victor Gonzales, 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. No one signed up to speak before the City Commission, so Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. declared the public comments session closed.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015**

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, May 26, 2015. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

These minutes were not available for review at this meeting, so this item was tabled on a motion by Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano and a second by Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY COMMISSION ON PLANNED INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that the Independence Day Celebration is pretty much the same as last year. He said the Planning Committee had thought about having a two-day celebration, but had backed away from that. It will be a one-day celebration to be held on Saturday, July 4, 2015 from 1:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. The Barbecue teams will be coming in on Friday night to get situated. Some of the items planned for this year is to allow alcohol consumption during the celebration and an item for Commission approval is on this agenda. The Veterans recognition will be from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. with the Veterans raffle to be held at 7:00 P.M. There will be five different flags within the tent displaying the five branches of military service so that the Veterans can sit in their designated area. There will be live music in the evening, but during the day, the City will be using its small sound system to keep the music going. There are some games for the kids and adults. The fireworks display is organized by the City's Public Works Department and the Volunteer Firefighters. Donations or sponsorships were made by Whataburger, Trophy Plus, Sigler, Winston, Greenwood & Associates, Betty Jo Dunlap, and State Farm Insurance. Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano asked if the announcements for the cook off could be done after the Veterans recognition because once the barbecue winners are announced the crowd disappears. Mr. Philip said that the barbecue is a sanctioned event and being judged by a third party and that the teams want to leave as soon as the winners are announced so that they can then go to the City of Edinburg and compete there. Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. said he would speak with Ben Guerrero to see what could be done. He also asked Mayor Pro Tem Esmeralda Lozano to be prepared to carry on the duties for the day in his absence. There was no action needed as a result of this discussion.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK/SPORTS COMPLEX DURING THE HOURS OF CELEBRATION ON JULY 3 AND JULY 4, 2015 OR ON AN ALTERNATE DATE SELECTED BY THE EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that a copy of the ordinance was included in the package delivered to the City Commission. This will not authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages; it will only authorize the consumption of alcoholic beverages at the park. Mr. Philip said all standard precautions will be taken. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. moved to read the ordinance by caption only, in lieu of reading it in its entirety. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present. City Attorney Mr. Richard S. Talbert read the caption of Ordinance 2015-06. After reading of the caption, Commissioner John Hernandez moved to approved Ordinance 2015-06 authorizing the consumption of alcoholic beverages at the Veterans Memorial Park/Sports Complex during the hours of celebration on July 3 and July 4, 2015 or on an alternate date selected by the Event Planning Committee and approved by the City Manager for the City of La Feria Independence Day Celebration. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY AS PART OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2015 AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK/SPORTS COMPLEX

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that fireworks are not allowed in the city limits unless approved by the City Commission and all the safeguards are taken. The Public Works Department and the Volunteer Firefighters will be doing the fireworks display and they have done a very good job in the past. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to approve the fireworks display as part of the City of La Feria Independence Day Celebration to be held on Saturday, July 4, 2015 at the Veterans Memorial Park/Sports Complex. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2015

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

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed the financial reports for the month of May 2015 with the City Commission. Ms. Chavero reviewed the Budget vs. Actual Report monthly and year-to-date figures. 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 551.072 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

City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip said there was no need for an executive session, so no action was taken on this item.

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

No action was taken on this item since there was no executive session held.

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 on the following.

- Drainage Improvement Project -- all the projects are moving along good.
- The Evans Crossing contractor was able to pour the foundation in the bottom of the drainage canal area. Mr. Philip said that as soon as his back is better, he would set a time to drive the Commission around, because it is a monumental project and it takes seeing the work to comprehend the entire project. It will take about two hours to tour the projects.
- There is one advertisement for the Midway Project for improvements to Beddoes Road from the Expressway 83 to Business 83 which will widen the road including curb and gutter and drainage. A 16" pipe will be installed going south, underneath the railroad tracks and Business 83, then open up to meet with the east drainage ditch. Mr. Philip said this section of the project will cost approximately 2.5 million dollars.
- The Rabb Road area will be finished after school is out.
- The Countrywood area will drain to Rabb Road. There will be a small pump station installed on Pancho Maples Drive.
- Tío Cano area – The contractor is waiting on the gates; they have not been able to do much.
- Wilson Canal – the City is working with the Irrigation District to raise the banks.
- Green Bay South Subdivision will be the next part of the project.
- In the Mariposa area, the City is proposing a detention pond. Hoping for a lot of improvement in the Mariposa area after completion of all the drainage projects.
- One remaining item will be to design the pipe from Mariposa to the detention pond and submit a request to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) for an additional 3.4 million dollars. Since the request was submitted to the LRGVDC, they found out that there is additional money available through EDA and the City is shooting for \$600,000 to pave the La Feria Gardens which is outside the city limits.

Commissioner John Hernandez said there are a lot of improvements being made in the Harlingen ETJ and he inquired if Harlingen or the County is helping in any way? Mr.

Philip said that they are helping in that they are staying out of the way and allowing the work to be done.

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. inquired about the open ditch north of Sanchez Subdivision and asked if it would be piped or would it still be an open ditch. Mr. Philip showed on the map what area would be piped.

- Water and Wastewater Systems Improvements Project – There is no update from the last meeting. There are two contractors ready to start, but we are waiting on approval from the Texas Water Development Board.
- The Safe Rooms – The Contractor has had some delays because of various issues such as rain delays and they are going through some tough times. The City has been asking the State to reimburse the City so that the City can make payment to the contractor. From the very beginning the City knew that it would be a very challenging project.

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

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. inquired whether Commissioner John Betancourt had called. City Secretary/Human Resource Director Ms. Olga Oberwetter said she had not spoken with Commissioner Betancourt, but that Administrative Assistant Florence Reichle had called him and left a message. She did not actually speak to him either. Mayor Gonzalez said the item would be tabled. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado moved to table this item. Commissioner Julian Guevara, Jr. seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

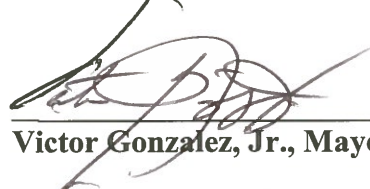
ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Olga H. Maldonado seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the City Commissioners present.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 7:20 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 July 10, 2015, as official record.


Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary