

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in Regular Meeting on **Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:30 PM** in the City Commission Meeting Room, 115 E. Commercial Avenue, La Feria, TX 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.

DETERMINE QUORUM PRESENT AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER - MAYOR

Mayor Gonzalez declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Betancourt	Commissioner Position 1	Absent	
John Hernandez	Commissioner Position 2	Present	
Olga H. Maldonado	Commissioner Position 3	Present	
Julian Guevara Jr.	Commissioner Position 4	Present	
Esmeralda Lozano	Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5	Present	
Victor Gonzalez Jr.	Mayor	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Delores Fuller of 1000 S. Chelo Dr, La Feria, Texas addressed the Commission regarding the importance of the police dispatcher's position. She stated there were lies about Innovative Block and police cars. She stated that the dispatcher who has been here for over 15 years and gets paid \$1.00 more than the cleaning lady. Mrs. Fuller stated she worked to get the police officers a key to the back door since the cleaning lady had such. While most people blame Sunny, she stated she does not blame him because he is the manager and the City Commissioners are the bosses. She has quit blaming Sunny. We have not added more police and we do need them. Before the annexation there was a greater police presence in her neighborhood.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Julian Guevara Jr., Commissioner Position 4
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved as noted to table this item.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE MARTHA GONZALES FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN VARYING CAPACITIES TO THE CITY OF LA FERIA.

City of La Feria employee, Martha Gonzales was recognized for 20 years of service to the City of La Feria. Mayor Gonzalez presented Ms. Gonzales with a certificate of recognition.

RESULT:	NO ACTION REQUIRED
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RECOGNITION OF LA FERIA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIREFIGHTER REYNALDO (R.J.) LOPEZ, JR. FOR HIS ACTIONS BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

La Feria Volunteer Firefighter R.J. Lopez was recognized for his efforts above and beyond the call of duty by maneuvering his vehicle in front of an erratic vehicle to prevent an accident. Firefighter Lopez was driving his wife home after being discharged from Valley Baptist Medical Center. His heroic action prevented a more serious traffic situation upon realizing that the driver of the other vehicle was not in control and appeared to be passed out while the vehicle was in motion. Fire Chief Greg Hernandez participated via conference call and Assistant Fire Chief Ron Cathey was present at the meeting. Mayor Gonzalez presented Firefighter Lopez with a certificate of recognition.

RESULT:	NO ACTION REQUIRED
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PROCLAMATION DECLARING TUESDAY APRIL 5, 2016 AS MAYORS DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE IN THE CITY OF LA FERIA TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT OF AMERICORPS, SENIOR CORPS, AND OTHER NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS IN TACKLING LOCAL PROBLEMS AND TO THANK NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND IMPACT.

The City Commission approved a Proclamation declaring Tuesday April 5, 2016 as Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service in the City of La Feria. The request was submitted by The National & Community Service Senior Corps. This agency provides services to residents in La Feria through local volunteers. Ms. Cynthia Rios of Senior Corps was present to receive the Proclamation. Commissioner Lozano shared her own experience with National & Community Service organization.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ACCEPT FROM THE CITY SECRETARY THE CERTIFICATION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA SPECIAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, 2016 FOR COMMISSIONER POSITION THREE (3). EXAMINAR Y TOMAR MEDIDAS PARA ACEPTAR DE PARTE DE LA SECRETARIA DE LA CIUDAD LA CERTIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS ÚNICOS SIN OPOSICIÓN EN LA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL PREVISTA PARA EL 7 DE MAYO 2016 EN LA CIUDAD DE LA FERIA PARA EL CARGO DE COMISIONADO POSICIÓN TRES (3).

The Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the City of La Feria Special Election for Commission Position 3 scheduled for May 7, 2016 was presented to the Commission. This document certifies that Victor Gonzalez, Jr. was the only candidate who filed for the position, therefore considered unopposed under the provisions of Section 2.052(a) of the Texas Election Code. Section 2.052 (b) requires the City Secretary to submit a certification to the presiding officer of the City stating such. Following discussion, the Commission moved to accept the Certification as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE AN ORDER TO CANCEL THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CITY OF LA FERIA COMMISSIONER POSITION THREE (3) SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, 2016 AND DECLARE VICTOR GONZALEZ, JR., AN UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE, ELECTED COMMISSIONER POSITION THREE (3). EXAMINAR Y TOMAR MEDIDAS PARA APROBAR UNA ORDEN PARA CANCELAR LA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL PARA LA CIUDAD DE LA FERIA COMISIONADO POSICIÓN TRES (3) PREVISTA PARA EL 7 DE MAYO 2016, Y DECLARAR VÍCTOR GONZÁLEZ, JR., CANDIDATO SIN OPOSICIÓN, ELEGIDO COMISIONADO POSICIÓN TRES (3).

Mr. Philip explained that the Commission has the option to cancel the special election via an Order when a candidate has been certified unopposed. A copy of the order was provided to the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission moved to approve the Order to Cancel the Special Election as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Julian Guevara Jr., Commissioner Position 4
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ACCEPT FROM THE CITY SECRETARY THE CERTIFICATION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY OF LA FERIA GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, 2016 FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER POSITION TWO (2). EXAMINAR Y TOMAR MEDIDAS PARA ACEPTAR DE PARTE DE LA SECRETARIA DE LA CIUDAD, LA CERTIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS ÚNICOS SIN OPOSICIÓN EN LA ELECCION GENERAL PREVISTA PARA EL 7 DE MAYO 2016 EN LA CIUDAD DE LA FERIA PARA LOS CARGOS DE ALCALDE Y COMISIONADO POSICIÓN DOS (2).

The Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the City of La Feria General Election for Mayor, Commissioner Position Two scheduled for May 7, 2016 was presented to the Commission. This document certifies that Olga H. Maldonado and Eric Hoff were the only candidates who filed for the positions of Mayor and Commissioner Position Two, respectively, therefore considered unopposed under the provisions of Section 2.052(a) of the Texas Election Code. Section 2.052 (b) requires the City Secretary to submit a certification to the presiding officer of the City stating such. A correction was noted to the position listed for Eric Hoff. The position number will be corrected to Two instead of Three as documented. Following discussion, the Commission moved to accept the Certification with correction as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Julian Guevara Jr., Commissioner Position 4
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE AN ORDER TO DECLARE OLGA H. MALDONADO, AN UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE, ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF MAYOR, AND ERIC HOFF, AN UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE, ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER POSITION TWO (2), IN THE CITY OF LA FERIA GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, 2016. EXAMINAR Y TOMAR MEDIDAS PARA APROBAR UNA ORDEN PARA DECLARAR OLGA H. MALDONADO, CANDIDATA SIN OPOSICIÓN, ELEGIDA PARA EL CARGO DE ALCALDE, Y ERIC HOFF, CANDIDATO SIN OPOSICIÓN, ELEGIDO PARA EL CARGO DE COMISIONADO POSICIÓN DOS (2) , EN LAS ELECCIONES GENERALES DE LA CIUDAD DE LA FERIA PREVISTAS PARA EL 7 DE MAYO 2016.

Mr. Philip explained that Texas Election Code 2.053(b) authorizes the Commission to declare a certified unopposed candidate in the General Election scheduled for May 7, 2016 elected to the office sought by order. A copy of the Order was provided to the Commission declaring unopposed candidates Olga H. Maldonado and Eric Hoff elected to the positions of Mayor and Commissioner Position Two, respectively. Following discussion, the Commission moved to approve the Order to Declaring Unopposed Candidates Elected to Office as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Julian Guevara Jr., Commissioner Position 4
SECONDER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ORDERING THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS TAX NOTES, SERIES 2016 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW GARBAGE TRUCK; SPECIFYING THE TERMS AND FEATURES OF SUCH NOTES; LEVYING A CONTINUING DIRECT ANNUAL AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID NOTES; AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE, PAYMENT, AND DELIVERY OF A PAYING AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Commission authorized the purchase of a new garbage truck on February 23, 2016. The purchase requires an ordinance issueing tax notes to complete the purchase. A copy of the Ordinance was provided to the Commission. BBVA Compass is offering 2.53% financing over seven years, with the first payment due February 2017. The first payment will be due outside the current budget year. Following discussion, motions were made to read the Caption and Approve the Ordinance as noted.

MOTION TO READ THE CAPTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-02

A motion was made to read the caption of Ordinance 2016-02 as noted.

Mr. Talbert then read the caption.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-02

A motion was then made to approve Ordinance 2016-02 authorizing issuance of tax notes 2016 for the purchase of a new garbage truck as noted.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Julian Guevara Jr., Commissioner Position 4
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

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/LEASE/SALE/DONATION OF REAL ESTATE BY THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/THE LA FERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/CITY OF LA FERIA; SECTION 551.087 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS; SECTION 551.074 TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL; SECTION 551.074 TO DISCUSS THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session, no action was taken.

RESULT:	NO ACTION REQUIRED
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CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY AS THE RESULT OF EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION DELIBERATIONS.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session, therefore no action was necessary.

RESULT:	NO ACTION REQUIRED
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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

- Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- Franchise Tax
- Performance Indicators

Finance Director Kin Mendoza presented the Financial Report for the month of February. A copy was provided to the Commission. The Commission discussed information on the deficit and the performance indicators for the library. Several questions were raised about the number of material checked out and how the software tracks such, including whether the numbers start over annually. Kin will follow up on the questions asked and provide a response at a later meeting.

Following discussion, Mayor Gonzalez declared the reports filed for audit.

RESULT:	NO ACTION REQUIRED
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REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION.

- Drainage Improvement Projects
- Water/Wastewater Improvement Projects

- Unger Park Grand Opening
- Carmen Tinajero Memorial Tiny Town Park Rededication-new date
- Status of park funding application-Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Pony Baseball/Softball League Program & Financial Update

Mr. Philip reported on the items identified as follows:

The drainage projects continue to progress. The budget is being reviewed to identify remaining funds as well as needs in critical areas around the City for future projects. A concern was raised regarding the contractor's cleaning up after the construction site. The Engineer and project inspector will follow up with contractors to assure they are cleaning up.

Water /Wastewater projects are also underway. The most recent project was advertised this week. The new office building at the water treatment plant is moving slow and the motor control center at the plant will need to be replaced. A concern was raised about the number of TTHM notices this fiscal year. Mr. Philip informed the Commission that TCEQ has new requirements and reviewed the testing process. The number this year is unusual and we are working on improvements to the system that should address these type of violations.

Unger Park is under construction and may require additional patrols due to people wanting to use the park now. Mr. Philip shared a comment from a Winter Texan stating how he has been in La Feria for 22 years and is pleased with the parks the Community has undertaken. Additional input is needed from the Commission to determine policies regarding signage and allowance of certain animals, etc. At a comprehensive planning meeting, the people in attendance expressed how they liked the parks in the Community.

Carmen Tinajero Memorial Tiny Town Park rededication has been moved to April 30, 2016. Ms. Tinajero's family has been informed of the change.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has recommended funding for the sports complex in the amount of \$500,000. The funding has a match requirement of \$500,000. The park funding offers recreational opportunities for our children. Funding for other parks may be available through future application cycles. A concern over keeping the park designated area on the east side of town as green space was discussed as well as the possibility of providing play equipment. Outreach to the neighborhood may be helpful in future planning of an adult or kiddie park. Funding from TPWD is based on a score. Certain elements score higher than others, therefore the application should be prepared to maximize scoring potential. Plans for a park on the north side of town are being developed. There will be an opportunity for input from the Community during the public hearing phase and the need for community outreach regarding park needs were discussed.

A budget for the Baseball/Softball league was presented. The importance of sponsorship was discussed as well as potential cost savings. The program needs to work on seeking sponsors early and making the community aware of the needs of the program.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and approved as noted to excuse Commissioner John Betancourt's absence from the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and approved as noted to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Esmeralda Lozano, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Position 5
SECONDER:	Olga H. Maldonado, Commissioner Position 3
AYES:	Hernandez, Maldonado, Guevara Jr., Lozano
ABSENT:	Betancourt

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gonzalez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

APPROVED:


 Victor Gonzalez, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


 Esmeralda R. Sánchez, City Secretary

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 5:00 PM on May 24, 2016, as official record.


 Esmeralda R. Sánchez, City Secretary