

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
CITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in regular session on **Tuesday, October 27, 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

The following City Commission members were absent from said meeting.

Mr. John Betancourt	City Commissioner
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The following staff members were present:

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Mr. Richard S. Talbert	City Attorney
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Planning & Community Dev. Director
Ms. Kin I. Mendoza	Finance Director
Ms. Esmeralda R. Sánchez	City Secretary

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

At 6:32 P.M., Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr. asked Commissioner John Betancourt to give 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**

Mayor Gonzalez announced the public comment period open. Three individuals signed up to address the Commission. Mr. Louie Frost requested to speak regarding the Bailey H. Dunlap Memorial Library. Mr. Frost resides at 27639 Mile 3 Road East. He wanted to follow up on the concerns raised at the previous City Commission meeting. He shared additional concerns regarding echo from entrance making it noisy in the older part of the library; lack of access as an individual patron to the upstairs meeting room; stained tiles, trees hanging low, black residue on the building eaves; uncomfortable chairs, and too many distractions. Mayor Gonzalez informed Mr. Frost that he would follow up with the City Manager regarding his concerns.

Ms. B. Jean Kuemmel resides at .700 E. First Street in La Feria. Ms. Kuemmel distributed pictures of the ditch behind her home, expressing concern regarding maintenance of the ditch. Mayor Gonzalez stated the ditch belonged to the railroad and asked Mr. Philip to follow up on the matter.

Ms. Dolores Fuller resides at 1000 S. Chelo Drive in La Feria. She addressed a need to create a rule to make people responsible for cleaning up the grass clippings, leaves, and dirt that end up in the curb and street.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015**

Following review, Commissioner Guevara made a motion to approve the minutes of proceedings of the special meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commission Hernandez and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015**

Following review, Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commission Maldonado and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**RECOGNITION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARDED TO THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF LA FERIA BY THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.**

The Finance Department received the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. This is good for the City since bond investors look at such achievement. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is prepared in-house by the Finance Department and reviewed by the auditors. Mr. Philip expressed congratulations to the Finance Department and to the City for this accomplishment for twelve consecutive years.

The Commission expressed congratulatory remarks. Mayor Gonzalez declared no official action was required as a result of the recognition.

**RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURT CLERKS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BY COURT CLERK ROSA GARCIA, LEVEL I AND MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATE JUDGE CYNTHIA WEAVER, LEVEL II.**

Mr. Philip discussed the role of the Municipal Court Clerk and Administrator. Rosa Garcia currently serves as the Municipal Court Administrator. Ms. Garcia attends courses offered the Texas Municipal Court Clerks Certification Program and has achieved a Level I designation in this field. Ms. Garcia has been employed with the City for 25 years and does a great job in dealing with the public and addressing the needs of the Municipal Court. Mr. Philip expressed congratulations to Ms. Garcia and Mayor Gonzalez presented her with a Certificate of Recognition for her achievement.

Associate Municipal Court Judge Cynthia Weaver also participates in the Texas Municipal Court Clerks Certification Program and has achieved a Level II designation. Judge Weaver was not present at the City Commission meeting to receive her Certificate.

The Commission expressed congratulatory remarks. Mayor Gonzalez declared no official action was required as a result of the recognition.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA TEMPORARILY CLOSING A PORTION OF SOUTH CANAL STREET BETWEEN WEST SPRUCE AVE. AND WEST JESSAMINE AVE. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA AND MODIFYING TRAFFIC PATTERNS ON CERTAIN STREETS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THE SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT 500 SOUTH CANAL STREET ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 AM AND 10:00 PM.**

A copy of the Ordinance was reviewed by the Commission. Following discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Lozano to read the caption of Ordinance 2015-17. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maldonado and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present. Mr. Talbert read the caption of Ordinance 2015-17.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Hernandez to approve Ordinance 2015-17, temporarily closing a portion of South Canal Street between West Spruce Ave. and West Jessamine Avenue within the limits of the City of La Feria and modifying traffic patterns on certain streets to ensure the safety and general welfare of the public during the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Festival to be held at 500 South Canal Street on Saturday, November 7, 2015 between 8:00 AM and 10:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maldonado and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SIGNATORIES FOR REQUEST FOR PAYMENT FORMS TO DRAW FUNDS GRANTED BY TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE CONTRACT NO. 12-211-000-5511/DRS210089 PERTAINING TO HURRICANE DOLLY DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING.**

The City received disaster recovery funding for drainage improvements to recover from Hurricane Dolly. These funds are administered by the Texas General Land Office. A new

resolution authorizing the City Manager, City Secretary, Finance Director, and Planning Director needs to be submitted to the administering state agency to update our files. Following discussion, Commissioner Guevara made a motion to read the caption of Resolution 2015-26. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hernandez and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present. Mr. Talbert read the caption of Resolution 2015-26.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Maldonado to approve Resolution 2015-26 authorizing signatories for request for payment forms to draw funds granted by Texas General Land Office Contract No. 12-211-000-511/DRS210089 pertaining to Hurricane Dolly Disaster Recovery Funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guevara and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**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; 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.**

Mayor Gonzalez declared the meeting in Executive Session at 6:56 PM. The Commission returned from Executive Session to resume the open meeting at 9:10 PM.

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

Mayor Gonzalez declared that no action was necessary as a result of Executive Session.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

Finance Director Kin Mendoza reviewed the reports as presented for the month of September 2015. Following review and discussion, Mayor Gonzalez announced the reports would be filed for audit.

**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**
- **UPDATE ON UNGER PARK PROJECT**

Mr. Philip reported that the drainage projects are under construction and continue progressing toward completion. The system improvements were tested by the recent rain event and overall drainage is working. Although several locations experienced ponding, the water receded in good time. Alfonso Gonzalez, project engineer visited the sites of concern with Mr. Philip on Sunday after the rain event and will review the areas of concern with the contractor to assure work is completed according to plans and specifications. Maintenance concerns for all of the drainage improvements are being contemplated and may be best addressed through creation of a drainage district in the future. In an effort to communicate more efficiently with the public and the Commission, Staff will utilize social media and the City website to relay pertinent information in the event of inclement weather.

Cornett Construction is working on the water lines to the west side and Saenz Brothers Construction is working on wastewater lines. Both projects are progressing. The safe rooms continue under construction with the intervention of the surety company. Various items for Unger Park have been received and installation is underway. The elements fabricated by the contractor have been completed according to specifications.

Following discussion, Mayor Gonzalez declared that no official action of the Commission was required.

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

Commissioner John Betancourt was absent due to a work schedule conflict. A motion was made by Commissioner Lozano to excuse the absence of Commissioner Betancourt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guevara and approved by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Lozano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maldonado and passed by unanimous vote of the City Commission present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 9:21 PM.

**APPROVED:**

Victor Gonzalez, Jr., Mayor

**ATTEST:**

Esmeralda R. Sánchez  
**Esmeralda R. Sánchez, City Secretary**

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria at 4:00 P.M. on November 3, 2015, as official record.

Esmeralda R. Sánchez  
**Esmeralda R. Sánchez, City Secretary**