

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
Tuesday, August 21, 2018**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in a Workshop on **Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:00 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.

DETERMINE QUORUM PRESENT AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER – MAYOR

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Olga H. Maldonado	Mayor	Present
Jesse Zuniga	Commissioner	Present
Julian Guevara, Jr.	Commissioner	Absent
Esmeralda Lozano	Commissioner	Present
Donato Garcia	Commissioner	Present

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Jaime Sandoval, City Manager
 Ms. Amanda Morales, City Secretary
 Mr. Frank Rios, Finance Director
 Mr. Cesar Diaz, Police Chief
 Mr. David Phinney, Fire Chief
 Mr. Armando Gonzalez, Police Captain

4. WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019.

Mayor Maldonado began by stating that while the city has several years of financial recovery ahead, she understands that all City staff works hard to provide the best service to the citizens of La Feria. She also noted that the Commission wants to make sure that employees are compensated at a fair rate for their work. Mr. Sandoval noted that nearly one million dollars of vehicles and equipment are needed by the Public Works, Police and Fire departments. The fire department only has one semi-reliable unit that can be used to respond to fires and other emergencies. The recent floods made it apparent that the city needs more high-profile vehicles to assist in rescues and basic operation during emergency situations. All of the police patrol units are in disrepair and need either extensive work or to just be replaced due to the expense of constantly repairing them. That is in addition to other infrastructure needs around the City such as replacement of outdated waterlines and extensive street repairs. The City is also struggling to maintain employment levels and curb high turnover rates due to not being able to offer competitive wages and benefits. Unfortunately, there simply is not any money available in the budget to address all of these needs.

Mr. Rios explained that the City Commission has an opportunity to add funding to the budget by increasing the emergency services flat fee applied to all utility accounts. Depending on the option selected by the Commission, an increase in the fee would yield between \$164,064 and \$246,096 in additional revenue. These funds would only be used for the fire and police departments to purchase needed vehicles or equipment and provide an 8% pay increase to police officers and dispatchers. The fee will also help cover the City's responsibility with regard to four full-time firefighters that will be hired as part of a SAFER grant awarded to the city. Mr. Rios also proposed a one-time pay increase of 3% to all other employees that would be distributed in December. Commissioner Garcia asked that Mr. Rios explore options to increase that amount to 4 or 5 percent, if possible. Other options to increase revenues for the city include hiring a full time court collections clerk to focus on collection of

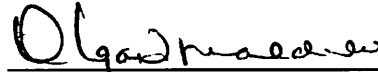
outstanding municipal court fees and warrants. The city currently employs a part time clerk to work on these collections and has seen a significant increase in the revenue from fees collected when compared to the previous year.

Mr. Rios is not recommending increases to the tax rate or water and sewer rates that would more severely impact citizens. There was no action on this item.

5. **ADJOURN.**

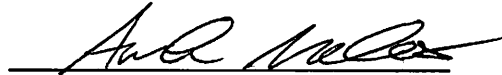
There being no further business to consider, Commissioner Zuniga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Olga H. Maldonado, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amanda Morales, City Secretary