

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
LA FERIA RECREATION CENTER  
Tuesday, August 27, 2019**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in Regular Session on **Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.** in the City Commission Meeting Room, 115 E. Commercial Ave., 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.

**3. DETERMINE QUORUM PRESENT AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER – MAYOR**

Mayor Pro-Tem Zuniga declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

| Attendee Name       | Title                      | Status  |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Olga H. Maldonado   | Mayor                      | Absent  |
| Jesse Zuniga        | Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner | Present |
| Devin Martinez      | Commissioner               | Present |
| Julian Guevara, Jr. | Commissioner               | Present |
| Esmeralda Lozano    | Commissioner               | Present |
| Donato Garcia       | Commissioner               | Present |

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Jaime Sandoval, City Manager  
Ms. Allison Bastian, City Attorney  
Ms. Amanda Morales, City Secretary  
Mr. Frank Rios, Finance Director

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:**

Mr. Sandoval announced that City Hall would be closed on September 2, 2019 in observance of Labor Day.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD JULY 23, 2019.**

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve the items under consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

**7. PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018.**

Quentin Anderson of Carr, Rigs, Ingram presented the financial Audit for the City and component units. He noted that revenues have decreased compared to previous years due to the completion of grant funded projects. With the projects completed, reimbursements will come to an end in the coming fiscal year. He also spoke about the restricted funds that were depleted by the previous administration and still have yet to be repaid. Mr. Rios explained that the City

is working to replenish the fund, but it will take several years to do so. Mr. Anderson also spoke about corrective actions recommended by his firm to help streamline the accounting process for the City, including procurement procedures. Commissioner Lozano made a motion to accept the financial audit for fiscal year ending September 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

**8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-13 ESTABLISHING HOLIDAYS TO BE OBSERVED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.**

Mr. Sandoval explained that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Columbus Day and Easter Monday were being added to the list of holidays observed in the previous fiscal year. Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-13 establishing holidays to be observed during fiscal year 2019-2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-14 REGARDING AEP TEXAS, INC.'S REQUESTED INCREASE TO ITS ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION RATES AND CHARGES.**

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to deny the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

**10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA FERIA AND RATES/RGV FOR REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT TO THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY STORMWATER TPDES REGIONAL TASK FORCE.**

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve entering into a memorandum of understanding between the City of La Feria and RATES/RGV for representative appointment to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater TPDES Regional task Force. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

**11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-15, INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CAMERON COUNTY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN SECURING URBAN COUNTY DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO THE U.S. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).**

Mr. Sandoval explained that the establishment of Urban County designation would need to be approved by most Cities in Cameron County in order for it to work. There is a possibility that cities could see less funding through Urban county that they currently receive through the current CDBG funding process. Commissioner Lozano made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

**12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-16 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD.**

Commissioner Guevara made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lozano and passed unanimously.

**13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE CERTIFICATION REGARDING ANTICIPATED TAX COLLECTION RATE AND DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2019 (FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020).**

Mr. Rios explained that the calculations are provided by Cameron County based on property appraisals for the year. Commissioner Guevara made a motion to accept the certification regarding anticipated tax collection rate and debt service requirement for tax year 2019 (fiscal Year 2019-2020). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

**14. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2019 (FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020) AND SET DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

The tax rate will remain at .76000, however since the rate is higher than the effective tax rate, two public hearings will be required in accordance with state law. Public hearings to receive input regarding the proposed tax rate will be held on September 10 and September 17 at 6:30 P.M. Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve a proposed tax rate for tax year 2019 (fiscal Year 2019-2020) and set dates for public hearings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

**15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-17 REGARDING THE CITY'S INVESTMENT POLICY.**

Commissioner Guevara made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-17 regarding the City's investment policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

**16. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-18 AMENDING CITY COMMISSION MEETING DATES TO THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019.**

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-18 amending city Commission meeting dates to the first and third Tuesday of October, November and December 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

**17. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST FROM CAMERON COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM FOR EARLY VOTING FROM OCTOBER 21 TO NOVEMBER 1 AND ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 5, 2019.**

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve the request from Cameron County Elections Department for use of the City Commission Meeting Room for early voting from October 21 to November 1 and Election Day November 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

**18. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE, LIFE INSURANCE AND AD&D.**

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to accept the proposals submitted by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas for employee group Health Insurance, Life insurance and AD&D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guevara and passed unanimously.

**19. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2019-19 AUTHORIZING LOCAL BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPTING FUNDING.**

This grant will provide ten thousand dollars to be used for overtime for police officers. Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-19 authorizing Local Border security Program grant application and accepting funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lozano and passed unanimously.

20. **PRESENTATION FROM ENGINEER DAVID FLYNN REGARDING LA FERIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND WATER DISTRICT RATES.**

Mr. Flynn explained the process used to calculate the maintenance costs for each foot of irrigation from the City to the outfall at the Arroyo. There was no action taken on this item.

21. **ADJOURN.**

There being no further business to consider, Commissioner Guevara 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