

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
LA FERIA CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in Regular Session on **Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.** in the La City Commission Meeting Room, 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 Maldonado declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Olga H. Maldonado	Mayor	Present
Maricela Zuniga	Commissioner	Present
Devin Martinez	Commissioner	Present
Julian Guevara, Jr.	Mayor Pro-Tem/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. Amanda Morales, City Secretary
Ms. Rebecca Hayward, City Attorney
Mr. Frank Rios, Finance Director

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Maldonado thanked all City staff involved in the funeral for former Mayor Victor Gonzalez, Jr.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 25, 2021.

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

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2021-10 APPOINTING ONE MEMBER TO THE LA FERIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

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

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DECLARE SURPLUS INVENTORY AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL.

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to authorize the surplus inventory to be disposed of by Department heads. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING RECREATION PROGRAMS AND CITY EVENTS.

Mr. Sandoval explained that he was seeking guidance from the Commission regarding how to proceed with City events and summer recreation activities. There are currently no employees to staff a recreation program and the employment process to fully staff all facilities would take over a month. He also stated that finding Lifeguards for the swimming pool would be difficult because all certified lifeguards have already secured jobs in other cities. Commissioner Lozano expressed concern that COVID cases were still surging in parts of the Valley and suggested waiting to staff the recreation center and hold events until the new fiscal year.

Mayor Maldonado noted that an Independence Day Celebration could still be possible as it would be held outside for a short period of time and at a minimal cost. Mr. Sandoval noted that the celebration would have to be held on Monday July 5 due to the fireworks vendor being booked by other communities over the holiday weekend. There was no action taken on this item.

Mayor Maldonado called the meeting into Closed Session at 6:57 PM.

9. **CLOSED SESSION:**

- CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEX. GOV'T CODE SEC. 551.071 TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING THE CITIES LEGAL DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS SURROUNDING THE CITY'S WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS.

There was no action taken during Closed Session. Mayor Maldonado called the meeting back to order at 7:58 PM.

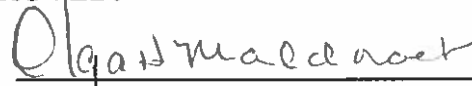
10. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONTRACT WITH INFRAMARK FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES.**

Mr. Rios explained that Inframark had provided different scenarios regarding the division of responsibilities and cost sharing between the City and Inframark. He has asked for a stipulation in the contract to adjust the monthly payments to accommodate the times of year that the City has more revenue coming in. He suggested that the City could pay more in months that there is higher revenues and less in months when revenues are low. Mr. Ed Schwab, of Inframark stated that the company could accommodate that request. He also explained that the Company plans to hire the existing staff to continue operating the water and wastewater facilities, but the employees have a choice to seek other employment instead. There was some discussion regarding the financing of large repairs that may be needed at the facilities. Mr. Schwab explained that all major repairs or purchases would need to be approved by the city. They can offer some financing options to help cover the costs of large projects if needed. Commissioner Lozano stated the Commission was only comfortable with the contract if it was what Mr. Sandoval and Mr. Rios thought was best for the community. Mr. Sandoval stated that he was comfortable with the cost of the contract and with the proposed services. He recommended approval of the contract. Mr. Rios said that he was also comfortable with the cost of the operation of the city's facilities. The city has struggled with fines for violations by the TCEQ. Inframark has agreed to pay any fines for violations going forward and will work to eliminate the violations overall. Commissioner Lozano made a motion to approve the contract with Inframark for operation and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities with the stipulation that the payment structure be altered as requested by Mr. Rios. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zuniga and passed unanimously.

11. **ADJOURN.**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Lozano 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