

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
LA FERIA CITY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

Be it known that the City of La Feria City Commission met in Special Session on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. in the 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.

2 . DETERMINE QUORUM PRESENT AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER – MAYOR

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Olga H. Maldonado	Mayor	Absent
Maricela Zuniga	Commissioner	Present
Michael Martinez	Commissioner	Present
Julian Guevara, Jr.	Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner	Present
Esmerralda Lozano	Commissioner	Present
Donato Garcia	Commissioner	Present

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Frank Rios, Jr., City Manager
Mr. Alfonso Rodriguez, Public works Director
Ms. Amanda Morales, City Secretary
Ms. Allison Bastian-Rodriguez, City Attorney

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to go to item 4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SELECTION OF AN ENGINEERING FIRM IN RESPONSE TO RFQ APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION ON 06/24/2025, TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Mr. Rios explained that the only company to respond to the request for qualifications was Garver. During discussion of this item, Commissioner Lozano expressed dissatisfaction with the number of bids received, “with how wide a gap there was between the City Planner’s scores and the Director of Public Works’ scores”. The two staff members that reviewed the bid were the Public Works Director and Planning Director. Commissioner Lozano asked for an explanation as to why the scores differ by 11 points. Mr. Rios and Mr. Rodriguez explained that the scores were based on the personal opinions of the graders and were done independently from each other. Commissioner Lozano’s “question included ‘why was it not promoted Valley-wide; for instance, why wasn’t it included in The Monitor, why only Cameron County newspaper?’”. Mr. Rios also informed the commission that the request for qualifications was posted for two weeks in the Valley Morning Star, which is the newspaper of general circulation in Cameron County as well as on www.texaspublicnotices.com, in accordance with Texas Government Code Sec.2269.052. Mr. Rodriguez stated that his score was partially impacted by reports of projects not being completed on time. Isaac Huacuja, Garver Project Manager, explained that the only reason a project would be delayed is due to funding freezes at the federal and state level for certain projects. As this project will be funded by Certificates of Obligation, there should be no issues with funding delays.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to select Garver to provide services for Downtown Drainage Improvements and related general infrastructure projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. The motion passed with Commissioners Garcia, Martinez and Zuniga voting in favor. Commissioner Lozano voted against.

5. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO INCREASE THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONER TERMS FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS; ESTABLISHING AN EARLY VOTING LOCATION

AND POLLING PLACES FOR SAID ELECTION; AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS TO CONDUCT ELECTION; MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION; ADDRESSING RELATED MATTERS; AND PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney began the discussion by explaining that the Ordinance had been updated to specify that the charter amendment would take effect immediately upon approval by the voters. This means that if approved, the terms for “all five City Commissioners and the Mayor” would be extended “to four years, instead of three”. Commissioner Lozano stated that she wants to consider more parts of the charter that may need to be amended through holding workshops and public hearings and stressed a desire for community involvement. Commissioner Lozano “said multiple times that, as commissioners, we have a responsibility to review it thoroughly and make recommendations for edits for amendments to the charter”. The City Attorney was “still in the process of reviewing” the charter because “updates were needed to bring it up to code”. Commissioner Martinez stated that he has spoken with several community members regarding the proposed charter amendment and received positive feedback. He explained that the voters will have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the amendment during the election. Mayor Pro-Tem agreed that there were other sections of the charter that are outdated but extending their current terms was a priority. Commissioner Lozano made a motion to postpone this item until the May 2026 general election date. Commissioner Zuniga seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner Zuniga – For
Commissioner Martinez - Against
Commissioner Garcia – Against
Commissioner Lozano - For

There being a tie, Mayor Pro-Tem Guevara cast the deciding vote Against, and the motion failed.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05 ordering a special election to be held in the City Of La Feria, Texas on November 4, 2025, for the purpose of amending the city charter to increase the mayor and city commissioner terms from three years to four years; establishing an early voting location and polling places for said election; authorizing agreements to conduct election; making provisions for the conduct of the election; addressing related matters; and providing a severability clause and an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner Zuniga – For
Commissioner Martinez - For
Commissioner Garcia – For
Commissioner Lozano – Against

The motion passed.

5. ADJOURN.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

/S/ Olga Maldonado

Olga H. Maldonado, Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/ Amanda Morales

Amanda Morales, City Secretary