

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Ruben Guajardo	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Howard Wade	Commissioner
	Leo Villarreal	Commissioner
	Cris De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
	Sergio Zavala	Assistant City Manager
	Arcelia Felix	City Secretary
	Juan R. Molina	City Attorney
MEMBERS ABSENT:	NONE	

Staff: Marisol Vidales, Nereida Perez, Javier Gracia, Olga Maldonado, David Lopez, Saul Rodriguez, Richard Morin, Martin Johnson, and Joselynn Castillo.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

All members of the Commission were present, which constituted a full quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

Assistant City Manager Sergio Zavala said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Howard Wade led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCE NO. 98-21):

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD DECEMBER 19, 2017. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-23 ADOPTING UPDATED BUILDING & OTHER RELATED PROPERTY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CODES. C.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-24 AMENDING TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE NO. 2014-10. D.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-25, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE “TEMPORARY STRUCTURES USED FOR TEMPORARY PURPOSES” IN NEWLY ANNEXED ZONING DISTRICT. E.) REQUEST APPROVAL OF FINAL PAYMENT TO BURTON MCCUMBER & CORTEZ LLP FOR THE DCM FORENSIC AUDIT.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6.) PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT HEADS: (A) PLANING DEPARTMENT; (B) LIBRARY DEPARTMENT; (C) POLICE DEPARTMENT; (D) FINANCE DEPARTMENT; (E) FIRE DEPARTMENT; (F) RECREATION CENTERS; (G) PUBLIC WORKS; (H) I.T. DEPARTMENT; AND (I) CITY SECRETARY DEPARTMENT.

The following department heads made oral presentations about this past year accomplishments and goals for next year.

7.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2007-23 REGARDING OUTDOOR SALES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about some discrepancies on the Outdoor Sales Ordinance No. 2007-23. Mr. Zavala made some changes that will correct and improve the ordinance and is more flexible to the City’s needs. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the amendment to Ordinance No. 2007-23 regarding outdoor sales. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2018-01 TO AMEND THE CITY OF MERCEDES SPEED HUMP POLICIES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about the changes made to the Speed Hump Policies. Mr. Zavala stated that any petitions and files be kept in the Planning Directors office, speed hump placements were changed to include other areas and the rating system was deleted to allow flexibility to provide speed

humps where a high hazard situation exists. Mr. Zavala recommends approval to amend the City's Speed Hump Policies. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the Mercedes speed hump policies. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9.) PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE AND POSSIBLE SELECTION OF AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that the City of Mercedes received 3 proposals for ambulance service provider from Scripture EMS, Med-Care EMS, and Hidalgo County EMS. Each company made a presentation which included response times, any litigation, and about their organization. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to select Med-Care EMS for ambulance services for City of Mercedes due to their proposed \$0 subsidy. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Villarreal and Commissioner Hernandez voting nay.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT APPLICATION(S) FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO. 9 OF THE CITY-CONTROLLED PROPERTIES IN AND AROUND THE MERCEDES LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about relocating an existing irrigation line that crosses the North West area of the Mercedes Industrial Plat. In speaking with the General Manager from the Irrigation District, Mr. Zavala stated that an option to reduce the cost would be to exclude the city-controlled properties from the irrigation district in which Mr. Zavala recommends applying for the exclusion. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve authorizing staff to submit application(s) for exclusion. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT AND/OR REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE MERCEDES INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION BOARD.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about four members of the MIF boards whose terms have expired. Mr. Zavala stated that the four current members expressed interest in continuing to serve on the board and two citizens submitted an application to serve on the board as well. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to reappoint all four current members. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about the expired terms for three members of the DCM board. Mr. Zavala said the three members have interest in continuing to serve on the board but there were also 6 citizens who also expressed interest in serving. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to reappoint the three current members. Motion died due to lack of a second. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to reappoint Rogelio Ortega and Jose Flores Jr. and to appoint Antonio Anzaldua III. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SPONSOR THE 2018 SMOKIN ON THE RIO EVENT AS A CITY MARKETING MEASURE.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that the City received a request to sponsor the Smokin on the Rio event. In previous years the City has sponsored and the requested sponsorship is in the amount of \$12,500. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to sponsor Smokin on the Rio with \$12,500 donation. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SOLICIT CONSULTING SERVICES FOR CITY'S INTENT TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that he has met with the City Attorney and no action is needed at this time. Mayor Hinojosa omitted the item on Consulting services from the agenda.

15.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INITIATING THE REZONING TO CLASS "B" BUSINESS ZONE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES FOUND ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF TEXAS AVENUE JUST NORTH OF THE RAILROAD: LOTS 4-14, BLOCK 47, MERCEDES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about an error in zoning. Mr. Zavala stated that some properties along the west side of Texas Avenue are zoned Class "B-2" Residential and should be commercially zoned. Mr. Zavala recommends approving the item to authorize staff to initiate the rezoning process. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve item 15. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

16.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE ENHANCED DRAINAGE PLAN FOR THE MERCEDES LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVISION PLAT.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about approving the drainage plan for the Mercedes Light

Industrial Park Subdivision Plat in order to move forward towards getting the plat presented to the board and getting it approved and signed. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve the master plan for the Mercedes Light Industrial Park Subdivision Plat. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor called meeting into executive session at 8:53 pm.

17.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPOSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER. – SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 10:20 pm.

20.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADDENDUM

-APPROVAL TO RESCHEDULE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2018 TO JANUARY 23, 2018.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to reschedule regular meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

-DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROPOSED CHANGE ORDER FOR THE MERCEDES INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT'S CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about a reduction of costs for the location of a storm line along Anaquitas. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve the Change Order for the Mercedes Industrial Park Development Construction. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

-DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO JUMMY CLOSNER & SONS CONSTRUCTION CO. INC., FOR WORK COMPLETED THUS FAR AT THE MERCEDES INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVSION.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

21.) ADJOURN.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm.