

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 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, Tommy Ureste, David Lopez, 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 Leo Villarreal led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD JANUARY 23, 2018.

B.) APPROVAL OF SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02 AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES ORDINANCE NO. 2016-08. C.) APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RACIAL PROFILING REPORT – (#2018/02/06). D.) REQUEST APPROVAL TO PAY CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE SUBSIDY FROM HUMANADENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY TO COLONIAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATE FIRMS AMERITAS AND DAVIS. E.) APPROVAL OF 2018 STOCKSHOW SPONSORSHIP. F.) APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE TO ISSUE BUILDING PERMIT TO KAMEL ON UN-RECORDED LOT 1, HARBOR SUBDIVISION. G.) REQUEST TO APPROVE DESIGN AMENDMENT TO BUILD A WIDE CONCRETE APRON AT FRONTAGE ROAD/MICHIGAN AVENUE INSTEAD OF A VALLEY GUTTER AT THE MERCEDES LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVISION (UNDER CONSTRUCTION).

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

6.) PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION BY FIRE CHIEF TOMMY URESTE.

Fire Chief Tommy Ureste made a presentation honoring four firefighters for outstanding courage for rescuing a citizen from a canal bank.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03 APPOINTING TIRZ BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CITY COMMISSION) AND PRESENTATION BY LANCE ELLIOTT OF TIRZ MILESTONES.

Lance Elliott addressed the Commission about the importance of having a TIRZ board and the responsibility of the board. Mr. Elliot stated that money generated by a Zone would be used to secure grants for the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to appoint the Commission as the board and allow the County to appoint the 6th member. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about 3 seats that will be expiring on the Planning & Zoning board. The members serve a two year term. Mr. Zavala recommended reappointing Bryan Acosta and John Gonzalez and to appoint a new member to the 3rd seat. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion reappoint current members Alonzo Calvillo, Bryan Acosta, and John Gonzalez. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed with Commissioner Hernandez voting nay.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF ISRAEL PEREZ AS MARKETING FACILITATOR FOR THE MERCEDES COMMUNITY.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission following up on the direction received by the city commission regarding a marketing facilitator, which would be paid by Hotel /Motel taxes. He referred to a two page document which included the full scope of work, the salary structure and the fact that the city reserves the right to terminate at any time. Mr. Zavala recommended to engage Mr. Israel Perez as marketing facilitator for the City of Mercedes. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to appoint Israel Perez as Marketing Facilitator. There was considerable discussion on this matter. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion. Mr. Perez addressed the commission saying he had 12 years of experience in banking and would be able to bring in more clientele to the City of Mercedes. After reading all the duties of the Marketing Facilitator and Mr. Perez saying that he would be working after 3 PM, Commissioner Wade said that he would like to go out for proposals for the position and proceeded to ask about his background, what marketing or business degrees he had and whether he had experience in marketing. Mayor Hinojosa, likewise said he had some concerns. Commissioner Hernandez directed questions to Mr. Perez and she asked Mr. Zavala if he had met and discussed the issues with Mr. Perez and felt comfortable with recommending him, at which Mr. Zavala said yes. Mr. Zavala also stated that if Mr. Perez at any point is not producing, he may be terminated. The motion passed with Commissioner Wade and Mayor Hinojosa voting nay.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo stepped out for the next 2 items. (10 & 11)

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AMENDING THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR URBAN COUNTY YEAR 31 (2018). RESOLUTION #2018-03.

Mr. Zavala recommended approval of the amended workplan and budget for Urban County Year 31. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve amending the workplan and budget for Urban County Year 31. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT REQUEST BY JIMMY CLOSNER & SONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE MERCEDES LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVISION (EDA PROJECT).

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the payment request by Jimmy Closner & Sons. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo arrived after stepping out and was present for the rest of the meeting.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DESIGNATING ALTERNATE AND OR/PROXY FOR HIDALGO COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION. – RESOLUTION #2018-04.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about the designating an alternate and or proxy to the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Commissioner Wade as the alternate. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSILBE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO 2018-04 AMENDING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 FOR VTX PAYMENT.

Nereida Perez addressed the Commission about the VTX payment that had not previously been budgeted. Ms. Perez informed the Commission that the money would be allocated from the following departments; \$7,500 from planning's surplus budget and \$55,000 from the one time raise for a total \$62,500. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve amending the budget for VTX payment. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

14.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER. – SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING PERSONNEL. – SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL
- DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC FACILITY ISSUES. – SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – POTENTIAL LITIGATION.
- DISCUSSION OF WALKING TRAIL – SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – POTENTIAL LITIGATION.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING OLD WATER IRRIGATION DISTRICT OFFICE. – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – SIEMENS. – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo left after executive session and did not return for open session.

Mayor Hinojosa called meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

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

Commissioner Wade made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

16.) ADJOURN.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.