

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 3, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa Ruben Guajardo Howard Wade Leandro Villarreal Cristella De Leon Hernandez Sergio Zavala Juan Molina	Mayor Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Assistant City Manager City Attorney
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MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

Staff: Nereida Perez, Marisol Vidales, Jose Figueroa, Tommy Ureste and Joselynn Castillo.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa welcomed everyone to the meeting 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.

Reverend Juan De Los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD JUNE 19 AND JUNE 20, 2018. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-24 AMENDING BUDGET TO RATIFY INTERIM CITY MANAGER’S ACTION TO PLACE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE FROM THE LIBRARY FUND TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND. C.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-25 AMENDING BUDGET TO FUND A 10-TON AC UNIT AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. D.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO RENEW INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UTRGV FOR REGIONAL TASK FORCE REPRESENTATION TO COMPLY WITH TCEQ’S PHASE 11 STORMWATER RULES. (#2018/07/03) E.) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT RFQS FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR THE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18. F.) APPROVAL TO RATIFY THE ACTION OF THE INT. CITY MANAGER TO ENGAGE MIKE MESA REGARDING TIME-SENSITIVE SERVICES TO FILE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DISASTER RELATED DAMAGES OF CITY INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES/LABOR.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve items A-D and vote separately on items E and F for discussion. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve item E. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed with Commissioner Hernandez voting nay. Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about engaging Mike Mesa, grant writer, to help file for reimbursement of disaster related damages of City infrastructure & facilities/labor. At a question by Commissioner Hernandez, Mr. Zavala stated it would not be a conflict of interest due to a grant writer not being needed for item 9 on consulting services although he is mentioned in the SOQ. Mr. Mesa stated he is a grant writer and will not be needed for the general government consulting services. Mr. Mesa said he will help the City fill out the necessary forms in order to get help from FEMA as soon as possible. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve item 5F. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed with Commissioner Hernandez voting nay.

6.) PRESENTATION BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (EMC) TOMMY URESTE ON STORM MOBILIZATION & RELIEF EFFORTS.

Tommy Ureste informed the Commission of the relief efforts that were needed due to the flood on June 20, 2018. Mr. Ureste recognized all the organizations that assisted with water rescues, shelter, and food and water distribution. He stated that there were over 300 water rescues, over 400 homes were affected by the flood, and 50 to 100 homes destroyed. EMC Tommy Ureste said a few words expressing appreciation to the volunteers, organizations, and city departments for their help. He concluded by stating that the firefighters are certified divers and certified in swift water rescue.

At this time the City Commission deviated from the agenda and partially discussed item 8, but returned to item #7.

7.) PRESENTATION BY COUNTY OF HIDALGO’S COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY’S EXECUTIVE JAIME LONGORIA ON CSA PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE TO MERCEDES PARTICIPANTS.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to table the presentation by County of Hidalgo’s Community Service Agency due to Mr. Longoria being out of town. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE ACTION OF THE INT. CITY MANAGER TO PROCURE NEEDED 100 HP PUMP REPLACEMENT FOR MAIN LIFT STATION #5.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about Lift station #5 which serves an area on the north side of Mercedes. Mr. Zavala said that the lift station needs 2 pumps, but is currently functioning with only 1 pump. The City received 4 quotes from: Pumps of Houston, Inc who bid \$22,097; Xylem Water Solutions who bid \$30,959.82; Odessa Pumps who bid \$31,104; and Precision Pump System who bid \$33,000. Due to this need being time-sensitive to regain full control of the lift station, Mr. Zavala recommends ratification of the procurement of the lift station pump from the lowest bidder, Pumps of Houston, Inc. for the amount of \$22,097, as recommended by OMI and LeFevre Engineering. At this time the City Attorney informed the Commission that they had skipped item 7 at which time that proceeded to return and take action. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve Pumps of Houston, Inc's bid of \$22,097. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RFQ'S RECEIVED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTING SERVICES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL BUDGETING.

Mayor Hinojosa stated that Estrada Hinojosa had withdrawn their RFQ and Ramiro Garza was out of town on a prior commitment but a presentation would be made on Mr. Garza's behalf. Mayor Hinojosa asked Cast Consulting to begin their presentation with the other Consulting firms stepping out of the room.

-Francisco Castellanos from Cast Consulting, LLC presented his background on national and state government rather than local government. Mr. Castellanos informed them of his past job experiences and past situations in organizations that the company had led and assisted. At a question by Commissioner Hernandez, Mr. Castellanos stated as a consultant he has not been sued.

-Lyle Garza from Silva, Otting and Silva was present to answer any questions from the Commission. Commissioner Hernandez asked Mr. Garza if Silva, Otting, & Silva have ever been sued, at which Mr. Garza's response was that the RFQ included that answer, which was that the company has not been sued by a former employer. Commissioner Hernandez then asked about a pending court hearing. At a question by Mr. Zavala, Garza stated that Mr. Silva has experience since 1987 but the LLC started in 2003. Mr. Zavala also asked about the number of professionals needed for the service. Mr. Garza stated they put together a team of professionals that will be able to do a good job for the city, although not all professionals will be needed, they will at least have them on staff. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo commented that the pay would be discussed once the decision is made on whom to engage. City Attorney Molina stated the city is looking for a numbers cruncher not a city manager. Mr. Garza said that he would not answer questions about Ernesto Silva.

-Adelita Ozuna with RGV Economic Advisors stated Mr. Garza has 19 years of experience and has previously worked as a City Manager and Economic Development Director. Commissioner Hernandez likewise asked whether there were any lawsuits against Mr. Garza at which Ms. Ozuna indicated that there were none. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to select Silva, Otting & Silva for General Government Consulting Services. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion. Commissioner Wade commented that it is better to work with one expert than to have to wait for a response from a company that has 6 employees. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo said that a team brings a better value; at which Commissioner Wade said there was only a need for one person and not multiple. At a call for a vote by Mayor Hinojosa the motion did not pass with Commissioner Hernandez, Commissioner Wade, and Mayor Hinojosa voting nay. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to select Ramiro Garza from RG Economic Consulting Services for general government consulting services. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion which passed with Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and Commissioner Villarreal voting nay.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE NORTH VERMONT DRAINAGE DESIGN.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission requesting authorization to solicit bids for the North Vermont Drainage Design to alleviate standing water. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to authorize staff to solicit bids for the North Vermont Drainage Design. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:47 P.M.

11.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER. – SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL.
-DISCUSSION OF PROJECT WERBISKI – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS. – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:42 P.M.

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

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve Project Werbiski. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13.) ADJOURN.

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