

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2020 – 1:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Oscar Montoya Mayor
Leandro Villarreal Mayor Pro-Tem (Via-WebEx)
Leonel Benavidez Commissioner
Cristella De Leon Hernandez Commissioner
Jose M. Gomez Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Sergio Zavala City Manager
Jose Figueroa Public Works Director
Anthony Troiani City Attorney
Nereida Perez Finance Director
Hugo Perales I.T Director

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2) ESTABLISH QUORUM

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

3) INVOCATION

City Manager Zavala said the invocation.

4) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5) OPEN FORUM-

- Ms. Laura Alvarado addressed the Commission about the City Manager's resignation and expressed her recommendation to allow people to apply for the position.

6) CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCE. 98-21):

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2020.

Commissioner Benavidez stated some corrections to the minutes and added that there was no agent of record for the health insurance. He stated that some items have not been put back for the Commission to review. Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve the items under consent agenda with the corrections stated. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Zavala recognized Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collin, & Mott and Troiani & Sossi law firm for the turkeys they provided to the employees. Mr. Zavala announced the 2nd annual tree lighting event which would be held virtually due to COVID.

8) PRESENTATION BY POLICE CHIEF TO COMMEND SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ISAAC MORA FOR HIS CALL TO ACTION ON NOVEMBER 17, 2020.

Police Chief Chavez recognized Investigator Mora for a narcotics investigation which instilled a foot pursuit. Investigator Mora was injured in the line of duty and is recovering at home, he was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Hinojosa thanked the Investigator for all his work and stated he would be praying for a quick recovery. Commissioner Benavidez thanked Investigator Mora at the turkey giveaway. This is not an action item.

9) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF MOBILE SURVEILLANCE TOWER

Police Chief Chavez informed the Commission of the quotes the City received for the purchase of a mobile surveillance tower. The quotes are as follows:

Toughdog Security	\$29,995
Dana Safety Supply	\$37,237.75

Best Enterprise, Inc.

\$39,076.75

Mr. Chavez stated that this item would be purchased with Stonegarden grant funding. At a question, Mr. Chavez stated there was \$90k available and only \$30k would be used for the tower and the other funding could be used for overtime.

After discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the quote by Toughdog Security for \$29,995. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A STANDARD DESIGN MANUAL FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUSIVE OF A PARK DEDICATION PROCESS

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about the Standards Manual for Public Infrastructure Improvements. He stated that the manual will be a standard guide for contractors to follow. The developer will have a fee for the park zone in the subdivision for residential areas. Mr. Zavala stated there is a proposal of 4 park zones and any new subdivisions will need to follow the requirements for that park zone in the area. At a question, Mr. Zavala stated that LEMC and R. Gutierrez Engineering have both reviewed the manual.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 10. Commission Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONVERT A RECORDED (BUT DEVELOPED) STREET ROW FROM REMERA (M.O.T) SUBDIVISION INTO A UTILITY EASEMENT

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about some acreage owned by the City to be used for a detention pond. The land is currently recorded as a street ROW and is being proposed to change into a Utility easement. Mr. Isaac Huacuja from SWG Engineering stated that there would be space to clean the property, there would be the fence line a space and then the property line, and added there is a ditch in existence already. They have had help from the Irrigation district to maximize the resources.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve item 11. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Montoya called the into executive session at 1:34 pm.

12) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. DELIBERATION ON THE APPOINTMENT OR DUTIES OF THE CITY MANAGER – SECTION §551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED – PERSONNEL

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY WITH ASSISTANCE CITY MANAGER – SECTION 551.072 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED – REGARDING VALUE, FEASIBILITY AND USE OF REAL PROPERTY AND TO RECEIVED PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(1)

C. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.128(B-4) FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING INFORMATION REGARDING SYSTEMS REVIEW AND PRIVILEGED ATTORNEY CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(1).

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 3:16 pm.

13) ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM A

A.

14) ADJOURN

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm.