

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Ruben Guajardo	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Howard Wade	Commissioner
	Leandro Villarreal	Commissioner
	Cristella De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
	Sergio Zavala	Assistant City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney
	Arcelia L. Felix	City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

Staff: Nereida Perez, Marisol Vidales, Tommy Ureste, Jose Figueroa, 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 Jacques said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Villarreal led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD NOVEMBER 20, 2018. B.) RATIFY RESOLUTION 2018- AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve all the items under consent agenda. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about an item on the agenda for establishing a special services division to rid the City of illegal drugs and changes to the organizational chart.

7.) PRESENTATION AND UPDATE BY FELIX RODRIGUEZ, VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE.

Samuel Perez provided to the Commission with a brochure of the services they provide to the veterans. Mr. Perez stated there are 5 veteran service officers in Hidalgo County with 2 of them helping in Mercedes. Mr. Perez presented the Commission with the numbers of the appointments and walk-ins they have had since being house at Mercedes City Hall. Mr. Perez stated there is a month's long waiting period in Mercedes compared to a week's long period in their McAllen office. At a question, Mr. Perez informed the Commission about the process needed in order to have them be present in the Mercedes office for additional days.

8.) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF “CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS COMBINATION TAX AND LIMITED PLEDGE REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2018”; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID CERTIFICATES BY THE LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY AND FURTHER SECURING SAID CERTIFICATES BY A LIEN ON AND PLEDGE OF THE PLEDGED REVENUES OF THE SYSTEM; PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAID CERTIFICATES AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE, PAYMENT, SECURITY, SALE, AND DELIVERY OF SAID CERTIFICATES, INCLUDING THE APPROVAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT PERTAINING THERETO; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PAYING AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT AND AN OFFICIAL BID FORM; COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LETTER OF REPRESENTATIONS PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED WITH THE DESPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ANY NECESSARY ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY’S FINANCIAL ADVISORS AND/OR BOND COUNSEL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORDINANCE NO. 2018-41).

Dusty Traylor from RBC Capital Market addressed the Commission regarding projects for the City that has been previously discussed. The City was not to exceed the \$10 Million threshold which Mr. Traylor stated they the City will be receiving a deposit of \$9.595 Million. Mr. Traylor stated the City received a low interest rate of 3.73% and explained the approval process from the Attorney General’s office. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of “City of Mercedes, Texas combination tax and limited pledge revenue certificates of obligation, series 2018.” Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT AN AMBULANCE ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding appointing members to an ambulance advisory board. The committee consists of 7 members total, 3 Community members, 1 medical director, 1 Fire personnel, 1 Police personnel, and 1 Commissioner. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Sherry Garza, Norma Cantu, and Veronica Bustamante for the Community member seats and to appoint Olga Maldonado as the Police personnel, Tommy Ureste as the Fire personnel, and Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo for the Commissioner seat. Mayor Hinojosa stated they are still looking for a medical director and to bring that seat at a later meeting. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding a Count Committee to educate and market the need of Mercedes’ population. Mr. Zavala stated the importance of the committee since an accurate population will reflect funding for the City for highway funding and school funding. The Committee will consist of a minimum of 5 members from the Community. Mayor Hinojosa stated that the committee should consist of 1 school board member, 1 member from the Housing Authority, 1 City member, 1 member from the Chamber of Commerce, and 1 Community member. No action was taken on this item.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL BY TEXAIR COMPANY, INC. IN THE CONCEPT OF MATERIALS AND LABOR TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN THE A/C UNITS ON SAFETY DOME.

Mr. Figueroa addressed the Commission regarding the proposal by Texair Company for labor, repairs and material on the A/C units at the Safe Dome. Mr. Figueroa stated the Texair Company is on Buyboard and other companies were more expensive. At a question Mr. Figueroa stated Texair has done the assessment on the units and will be looking into a maintenance contract with the company. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the proposal by Texair Company. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SOLICIT REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR USE OF CITY’S (FUTURE) SOCCER FIELDS BY SEMI-PRO SOCCER LEAGUES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about soliciting for RFP’s for the Soccer Field. Mr. Zavala stated the organization will help youth and the City’s revenues will increase. Mr. Zavala said the City of Mercedes will not incur

any cost. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve staff to solicit for RFP's. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MOU BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN JUAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY OF MERCEDES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding an MOU between the City of San Juan Police Department and the City of Mercedes. Mr. Zavala stated the MOU is for Law Enforcement from San Juan and Mercedes to have a task force for illegal drug busts. Mr. Zavala stated that Law Enforcement from both Cities will be able to assist each other on this task. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the MOU between the City of San Juan Police Department and the City of Mercedes. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

14.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTON ON PROPOSED POLICY TO HAVE NEW YEAR'S EVE AS A HOLIDAY.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding having a New Year's Eve Holiday in order to increase moral. At a question Mr. Zavala stated this will be a new added holiday. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve a New Year's Eve holiday. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

15.)REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS REGARDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MERCEDES SPORTS COMPLEX.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that he met with Architect Sam Garcia and LeFevre Engineering regarding publishing for bids on the Park Improvements to the Mercedes sports complex. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve advertising for bids. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

16.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY CITY COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SOLICIT FOR BIDS REGARDING STREET PAVING, SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, AS THEY RELATE TO CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION FUNDED PROJECTS.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding soliciting for bids on street paving, sanitary sewer improvements, water line improvements, and sidewalk improvements. Mr. Zavala stated LeFevre Engineering will open the bids on January 4, 2019. Israel Gaona with LeFevre Engineering addressed the Commission that the bids will be for 6 projects. At a question, Mr. Gaona stated there are approximately 30 to 40 streets to be overlaid. Commissioner Wade stated he would like any issues with the infrastructure be taken care of before the overlay is done and would like Rene Garcia, Utilities Supervisor to be involved in the project. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve item 16. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

17.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT AN AGENT OF RECORD.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to not appoint an agent of record. Commissioner Hernandez stated the City saves money by not appointing an agent. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

18.)OPEN FORUM:

Jose Gomez addressed the Commission regarding the certified letter he mailed to the Commission. Mr. Gomez stated he would like a response.

Leonel Benavidez signed up to speak about open records and City Attorney, however did not speak as per Mayor Hinojosa.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into executive session at 6:49 pm. No action will be taken at this time.

19.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

-DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY MANAGER APPLICATIONS – SECTION 551.074 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT BUXANI – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING MERCEDES INVESTMENTS, LP PROJECT UPDATE. (KAMEL) – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:39 P.M.

20.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSION 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.

21.) ADJOURN.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.