

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2014 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Jose M. Gomez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	James Howard Wade, Jr.	Commissioner
	Rodolfo Z. Rodriguez	Commissioner
	Ruben Guajardo	Commissioner
	Ricardo Garcia	City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff: Michelle Leftwich, Amanda Morales, Marisol Vidales, Jesse Villarreal, Frank Rios and Hernan Gonzalez.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

A Quorum of the Commission was present.

3.) INVOCATION.

Commissioner Rodriguez made the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

Ed Robinson of the South Texas Music Festival presented a certificate of appreciation to City Manager Ricardo Garcia for his work with the music festival. Mr. Robinson also asked that the Commission consider sponsoring the event in the next budget year.

Jodie Martinez requested that the animal control ordinance be amended to allow some livestock on residential property over one acre.

Berta and Gena Cantu presented a petition against the proposed Historic district and asked that their property not be included.

Juan Martinez also asked that the commission consider amending the animal control ordinance to allow livestock on his property.

Chad Roy asked that his property also not be included in the historic district.

Joe Bono asked that the commission work together with citizens and each other to make decisions that everyone will benefit from.

Ramon Mejia stated his support for the amendment to the animal control ordinance and agreed that homeowners should be allowed to choose whether to be included in the historic district.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD MARCH 3 AND MARCH 7, 2014. B.) APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RACIAL PROFILING REPORT - (#2014/03118A).

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

7.) PRESENTATION BY ZACH SILVA FROM COASTAL COMMUNITY RECYCLING,

Zach Silva of Coastal Community Recycling made a presentation regarding their curbside recycling services. The service fees would be between \$5.99 and \$7.99 and each customer would be provided with a 14-gallon bin where they can deposit cardboard, paper, tin,

aluminum, steel, plastic and glass. There was no action taken on this item.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-03 ESTABLISHING MERCEDES HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT # 1 CONSISTING OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 236 S. MISSOURI AVE. AND 300-441 S. MISSOURI AVE., MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS W 100'S95', BLOCK 10, MERCEDES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE SUBDIVISION, LOTS 13-18, BLOCK 15; LOTS 1-5, BLOCK 16; LOTS 1-6, BLOCK 21 AND LOTS 7- 12, BLOCK 22, MERCEDES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE SUBDIVISION, MERCEDES, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-03 establishing Mercedes Historic Overlay District # 1 with the stipulation that only the homeowners that wish to participate may do so. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROJECT. (MERCEDES LANDSCAPE ENTRYWAY).

The City of Mercedes received a Landscape Enhancement Grant from TxDot that would cover 80% of the cost of the project. The costs for construction have changed and the City is now responsible for \$115,116. Since this was not a budgeted line item, the money will need to come out of the general Fund balance. Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve additional funding for transportation enhancement grant project (Mercedes Landscape Entryway). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BID RECEIVED FOR RENOVATION TO MUNICIPAL POOL AND KIDDY POOL.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to select the bid submitted by F&S Paving for the amount of \$47,200 to renovate the Municipal pool and kiddy pool. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

11.) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

There was no action taken on this item.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF OUT OF SCOPE LETTER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH CH2MHILL OMI. (#2014/03/18B).

After some discussion regarding the pricing and fees associated with the project, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve the Out of Scope Letter agreement amendment to contract with CH2MHill OMI (#2014/03/18B). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER RELEASE OR PARTIAL RELEASE OF LIENS FOR PROPERTIES AT 1118 RUBY AVE., 1348 S. INDIANA AVE., 838 S. MISSOURI AVE., 403 BROOKS ST., 1004 MARYLAND AVE., 1148 MARYLAND AVE., 224 N. MICHIGAN AVE., 1014 JONES, WEBB ST., 127 N. WASHINGTON AVE., GEORGIA AVE.

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to reduce the amount owed from \$19,763.96 to \$7,500. Commissioner Guajardo then rescinded his motion and made a motion to approve a 50% reduction of the amount owed. Commissioner Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT WITH COUNTY OF HIDALGO ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT FOR 2014 CITY OFFICER'S ELECTION. (#20 14/03/18C)

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve the contract with County of Hidalgo elections department for 2014 City Officer's Election (32014/03/18C). Commissioner Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

15.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PERSONNEL. - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 - PERSONNEL.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNEXATION. (CAUSE NO. C-5929-13-H- SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. - LITIGATION.

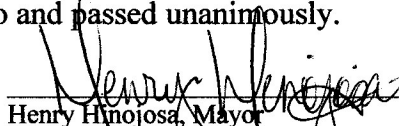
There was no action taken during Executive Session. Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 9:44p.m.

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

There was no action taken on this item.

17.) ADJOURN.

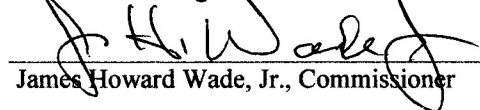
Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

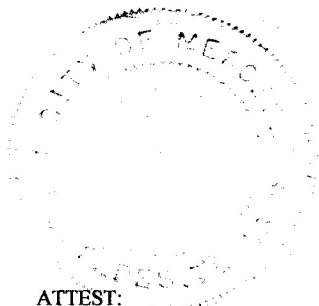

Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


Jose M. Gomez, Mayor Pro-Tem

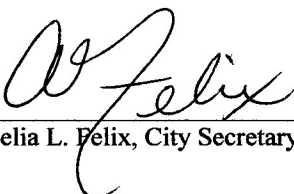

Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Rodolfo Z. Rodriguez, Commissioner


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner



ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary