

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor
James Howard Wade, Jr. Mayor Pro-Tem
Jose M. Gomez Commissioner
Armando Lopez Commissioner
Ricardo Garcia City Manager
Juan Molina City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ruben Guajardo

Staff: Amanda Morales, Marisol Vidales, Hernan Gonzalez, Olga Rosas, Tony Aguilar, Alicia Aguilar and Frank Rios.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

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

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

A quorum of the commission was present with Commission Guajardo absent.

3.) INVOCATION.

Commissioner Gomez led the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

Gilberto Dominguez spoke about brush pickup for properties that do not pay for water services. He also spoke against fire fees and capital improvement fees added on to all utility bills.

Jose Luis Saucedo wanted clarification on whether the City's tax rate was being increased.

Joe Perez complained that the City meetings were not being publicized properly. Mr. Perez also asked that the City stop funding several projects and reduce the number of city employees.

Ramon Mejia asked that information regarding all items on the agenda including executive session information be more readily available to citizens.

David Garza spoke about a problem with brush pick up in his neighborhood and how it is causing an inconvenience for disabled people in the area.

Esmeralda Guerrero spoke about rude treatment she has encountered at City Commission meetings. She also asked that the tax rate be lowered more than what is being proposed.

Petra Vidales also spoke about treatment by the City Commission at open meetings and the time limits on open forum.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2014. B.) APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 TO THE CONTRACT WITH O. G. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LLC FOR 2013 STREET, DRAINAGE, & WATER IMPROVEMENTS. (#2014/09/16A). C.) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TEXAS NATIONAL BANK FOR BANK DEPOSITORY SERVICES. (#2014/09/16B) D.) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE. (#2014/09/16C) E.) APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014. F.) APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to approve all items under Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-14 ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015.

Among the budgeted expenses are sidewalk improvements, improvements to the parks and several street improvements. Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-14 adopting the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed with the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa voted aye; Mayor Pro-Tem Wade voted aye; Commissioner Lopez voted aye; Commissioner Gomez voted aye.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-15 ADOPTING THE 2014 TAX RATE.

The proposed tax rate is 76 cents for every \$100 property valuation. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 1.7 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$12.90. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-15 adopting the tax rate. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade. The motion passed by the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa voted Aye; Mayor Pro-Tem Wade voted Aye; Commissioner Lopez voted Aye; Commissioner Gomez voted no.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTING THE EMPLOYEE SCHEDULE AND 2014-2015 BUDGET FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC.

EDC Executive Director Hernan Gonzalez made a presentation regarding the development corporation's work plan for the coming fiscal year. Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to adopt the employee schedule and 2014-2015 budget for the Development Corporation of Mercedes, Inc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BIDS SUBMITTED FOR MERCEDES CWSRF NO. 73642 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT 2013 LEMC NO. 158.

Project Engineer Richard LeFevre addressed the Commission and explained that three bids had been received by: Southern Trenchless solutions, The 5125 Company and Quest civil constructors, Inc. The lowest bid was received by southern Trenchless Solutions in the amount of \$3,165,581.50. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to select southern Trenchless Solutions for Mercedes CWSRF No. 73642 sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project 2013 LEMC No. 158. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem wade and passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTING PROPOSED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR MERCEDES POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve the proposed policies and procedures for Mercedes Police Department. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION # 2014 - 07 FOR APPROVAL OF A BUYOUT OF SERVICE AREA FROM NORTH ALAMO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION.

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve resolution #2014-07 approving a buyout of service area from North Alamo Water Supply Corporation. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

13.) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

There was no action taken on this item. Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

14.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY MANAGER. - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 - PERSONNEL.
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- DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNEXATION. (CAUSE NO. C-5929-13-H- SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. - LITIGATION
- DISCUSSION REGARDING SKYVIEW PROJECT. - SECTION 551.087 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

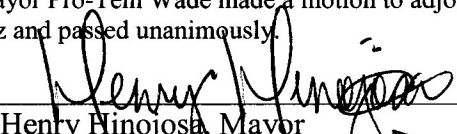
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 9:55 p.m.

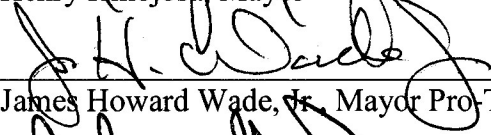
15.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN SESSION.

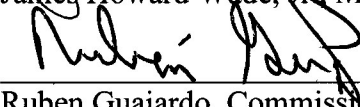
Commissioner Lopez made a motion to instruct the city Manager to proceed as discussed in executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor pro-Tem Wade and passed unanimously.

16.) ADJOURN.


There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


James Howard Wade, Jr. Mayor Pro-Tem

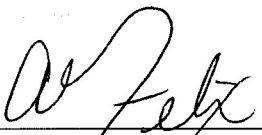

Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner



ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary