

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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
Ruben Guajardo Commissioner
Ricardo Garcia City Manager
Juan Molina City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

Staff: Olivia Moore, Marisol Vidales, Hernan Gonzalez, 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.

3.) INVOCATION.

Commissioner Lopez led the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Hinojosa read a proclamation in honor of the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

Esmer Guerrero spoke about several different topics including the sales tax rate, the city managers salary, filling the position of the Assistant City Manager, the Botas de Mercedes project and raises for the EDC staff.

Petra Vidales spoke regarding the rules of decorum enforced during the open forum section of the Commission meetings. She also spoke against the city's pension plan for employees and EDC staff salary increases.

A representative from Llano Grande trailer park complained about the construction on Mile 2 taking too long and the residents of the park not being consulted before the construction began.

Joe Martinez thanked the Commission and City staff for their help with a neighborhood clean up on the north side of the city. He also invited everyone in attendance to join the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Committee for a clean up on October 25, 2014.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD OCTOBER 7, 2014. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014- 16 RE-ZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 932 S. MISSOURI FROM "B-TWO FAMILY RESIDENCE" TO "A-BUSINESS".C.) APPROVAL OF PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH VIDA. (#2014/10/21A). D.) APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH EARTHCO FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING SERVICES FOR THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEMS REHABILITATION PROJECT TWDB-CWSRF PROJECT NO. 73642. (# 2014/10/21B). E.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY TO USE CIVIC CENTER PAVILION ON NOVEMBER 15. F.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF THE CIVIC CENTER PAVILION BY ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve all items under Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

7.) Public Hearing to solicit input on the City's needs under the Urban County Program Fiscal Year 28 (2015).

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

Lydia Rodriguez of Amigos Del Valle requested funding for their meal program to provide hot meals to 12 elderly Mercedes Residents.

Shawna Rodriguez of senior community Outreach services asked for funding to provide care for senior citizens.

Chris Martinez of Nuestra Clinica Del Valle asked for funding to continue providing healthcare services to uninsured families in the area.

Jesus Sanchez of Estrella's House Children's advocacy center requested funding to continue working on services for victims of child abuse in Mercedes.

Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

8.) Discussion and possible action of resolution 2014-09 approving the Development Corporation of Mercedes, Inc. applying for the Texas Leverage Fund.

This resolution would allow the Mercedes EDC to apply for a Texas leverage fund loan for land acquisition and other commercial projects. The amount to be requested will be about \$1,075,000. The loan will be paid back with sales tax revenues at 3% interest. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve resolution #2014-09 approving the Development Corporation of Mercedes, Inc. applying for the Texas Leverage Fund. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and passed by the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa in favor; Mayor Pro-Tem Wade in favor; commissioner Guajardo in favor; Commissioner Lopez in favor; Commissioner Gomez against.

9.) Discussion and possible action on Fire Department getting state registered as 1st responders.

Commissioners Gomez and Guajardo requested that this item be placed on the agenda. City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that he and the Fire chief have been discussing this issue and there are several factors to consider in the process of getting all firefighters certified as First Responders. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to table the item. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa. The motion passed unanimously.

10.) Discussion and possible action on appointment/reappointment of members to the Mercedes Historic Preservation Commission.

The terms of three members of the Historic Preservation commission are set to expire in October. All three members have expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the Commission. One member has resigned from the Commission and there is one applicant to fill the vacated position.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to re-appoint Jodie Oliver Martinez, Jose Luis Muniz and Dr. Hilda Thompson for three year terms and appoint Steven L. McGarraugh to fill the unexpired term of Raquel Gomez which will expire in October 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

11.) Presentation of department monthly reports.

There was no action taken on this item.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.

12.) 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 Project Hospitality. - Section 551.087, Texas Government Codes Annotated. - Economic Development.

Discussion regarding Texas Valley Communities Foundation-- Section 551.072 Texas Government Codes Annotated - real estate.

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

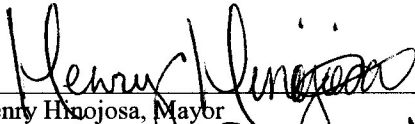
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:58 p.m.

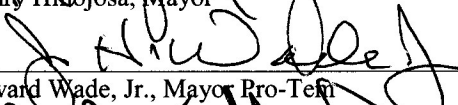
13.) Discussion and possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

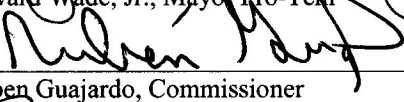
Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to proceed as discussed in Executive Session regarding project hospitality and Texas Valley Communities Foundation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

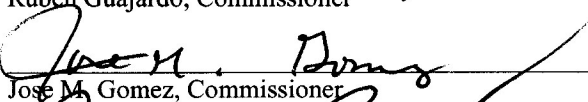
14.) Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

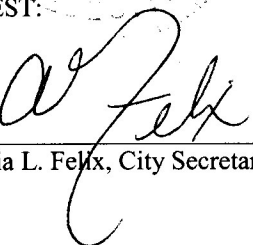

James Howard Wade, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary