

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 19, 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
	Ruben Guajardo	Commissioner
	Armando Lopez	Commissioner
	Ricardo Garcia	City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

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

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.

A local pastor gave the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Lopez led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

Petra Vidales read a statement regarding religion and Israel. Joe Perez asked for more police protection in the bar district since his building has been burglarized. Ramon Mejia asked for more police protection of political signs posted around town because several have been vandalized or stolen.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD AUGUST 5, 2014. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-12 - AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES. C.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-13 AMENDING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014. D.) RATIFY REQUEST FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER ON AUGUST 17 & 18, 2014 BY MISD.

Commissioner Guajardo 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 REQUEST BY GL TEXAS KAJUKENBO & VALDIVIA'S LITTLE KENPO.

This event brings competitors from all over the state and proceeds go towards cancer research. Last year the city purchased a \$300 sponsorship ad . Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT CONTRACT WITH LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR SOLID WASTE PROJECT (#2014/08/19A).

The City has received a grant in the amount of \$9,414 to be used toward the purchase of solar powered trash cans that compact trash. The trash cans will be placed at the baseball fields where they will be best utilized. Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to approve the Interlocal agreement contract with Rio Grande Valley Development Council for solid waste project (2014/08/19A). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

9.) PRESENTATION OF 2014 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PLACE A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE ON A FUTURE AGENDA.

The current tax rate is .775 and staff is proposing to decrease it to .76. This tax rate would leave the City with a budget surplus of around \$495 thousand. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to place a proposal to adopt the .76 tax rate on the agenda for the City Commission meeting scheduled for September 2, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez. The motion passed with

Commissioners Guajardo and Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and Mayor Hinojosa voting in favor of it. Commissioner Gomez voted against the motion.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO 2015, 2016, AND 2017 COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM. (#2014/08/19B)

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve an amendment to 2015, 2016 and 2017 cooperation agreement with Urban County program (32014/08/19B). 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 6:36 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 ANNEXATION (CAUSE NO. C-5929-13-H- SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – LITIGATION.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING CASA MATAMOROS PROJECT – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

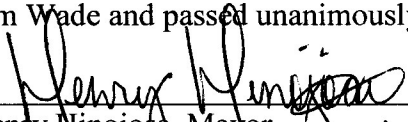
There was no action taken during Executive Session.

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

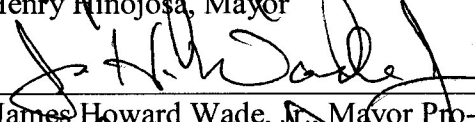
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:30 p.m. There was no action taken on this item.

14.) ADJOURN.

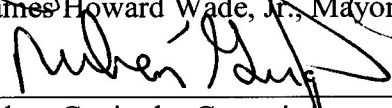
There being no further business, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and passed unanimously.



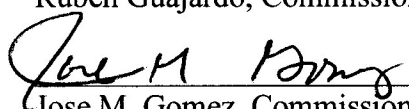
Henry Hinojosa, Mayor




James Howard Wade, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem



Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner



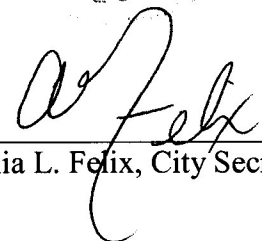
Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner



Armando Lopez, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary