

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015 -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, Jaime Sandoval, Antonio Aguilar, Arturo Garcia, and Olga Maldonado.

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.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

Esmer Cano spoke about new businesses not being what the city needs and also said that the EDC is wasting money on several projects.

Petra Vidales spoke about not getting notice of the City Commission's special meeting to give employees a one-time salary increase. She also had a complaint about an open records request and the state of several streets in the city.

Joe Perez spoke about not understanding the wording of agenda items and asked that more information about city meetings be published in the newspaper.

Ramon Mejia asked that the City stop spending on other city projects and spend more on street improvements. He also asked the commission to do more to lower utility bills and taxes for residents.

Armando Garcia of the Keep Mercedes beautiful committee gave the Commission an update on the group's most recent Adopt-a-highway Clean up.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to deviate from the agenda and move to item #8. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and it passed unanimously.

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 2015"; 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; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PAYING AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT AND A PURCHASE AND INVESTMENT LETTER; COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE LETTER OF REPRESENTATIONS PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED WITH THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORDINANCE NO. 2015-01)

A Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and seconded by Mayor Hinojosa that the City Commission adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of "City of Mercedes, Texas combination tax and limited pledge revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015". The motion passed with Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Guajardo voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Gomez voting against it.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD JANUARY 6, 2015. B.) APPROVAL OF INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN CAREERS INSTITUTE. (#2015/01/20)

Mayor Hinojosa 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 REGARDING THE UPDATE OF PARK MASTER PLAN.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. This public hearing is the third in a series to solicit input from residents regarding any updates or changes they would like to see in the City's parks. Carlos Colina-Vargas spoke about the work that his firm is doing to update the city's Park Master Plan. The updated plan will include new objectives and plans for beautification in all of the city's parks. Joe Perez asked that another public hearing be scheduled because he did not understand what was being discussed. Petra Vidales asked for details on a grant that the city could possibly apply for in the future. Ramon Mejia asked about costs for park improvements. Joe Perez asked that a walking trail be constructed from the Civic Center Park to the expressway and also that a permanent stage be installed at the Civic Center park. Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

B.) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-01 TO AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF AN UPDATED PARK MASTER PLAN TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve resolution #2015-01 to authorize the preparation and submission of an updates park mater plan to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

9.) PRESENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC. MONTHLY REPORT.

EDC Executive Director Hernan Gonzalez updated the Commission regarding several projects including the opening of My Home Furniture Store and The Grind Gym. He also spoke about several construction projects in the City including the construction of a dome shelter, Expressway landscaping, aqueduct replacement, and a new city parking lot. There was no action taken on this item.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT FOR MERCEDES INVESTMENTS SUBDIVISION.

This subdivision is located at 311 Vogel Dr. and is being re-subdivided to allow for more business development. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to the preliminary and final plat for Mercedes Investments Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT FOR RIO LIFE SUBDIVISION.

This subdivision is located at the corner of Mile 6 North Rd. and N FM 491. David Gomez is requesting the subdivision to construct a church building. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve the preliminary and final plat for Rio Life Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo. Commissioner Gomez abstaining because he is a member of the church making the request and his brother is the pastor. Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and Commissioners Guajardo and Lopez all voted in favor of the motion.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OR RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Ray Gonzalez and Jose F. Rodriguez as members and Vanessa Perez as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

13.) PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE FORMAL ACTION OF PROPOSED POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY WORN DIGITAL RECORDING SYSTEMS POLICY.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve the proposed Police Department body worn digital recording systems policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gomez and passed unanimously.

14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY OF HIDALGO PRECINCT 1, FOR REPAIRS TO VERMONT AVENUE FROM ARMORY AVENUE TO THE SAFE ROOM AND THE PARKING LOT. (#2015/01/20B).

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve the Interlocal agreement with County of Hidalgo Precinct 1, for repairs to Vermont Avenue from Armory to the Safe Room and the Parking Lot. (#2015/0120B). The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

15.) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

There was no action taken on this item.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

16.) 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 CONCERNING REAL ESTATE – FOUR TRACTS OF LAND OF LOT 2, BLOCK 65, CAPISALLO DISTRICT SUBDIVISION. - SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – REAL ESTATE.

There was no action taken during executive session.

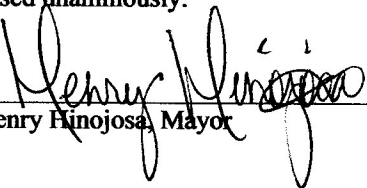
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m.

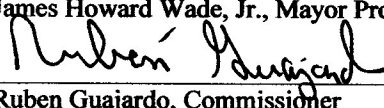
17.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to instruct staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.


18.) ADJOURN.

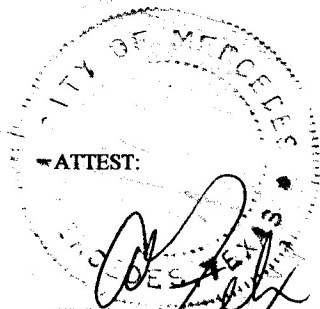
There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

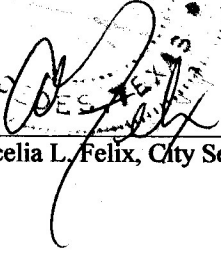
James Howard Wade, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner



ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary