

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 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
Juan Molina City Attorney
Ricardo Garcia City Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff: Amanda Morales, Marisol Vidales, Hernan Gonzalez, Jaime Sandoval, Antonio Aguilar, Arturo Garcia, Eduardo Trevino 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.

Commissioner Gomez led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING OPEN FORUM SECTION OF THE AGENDA.

City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that new policies are needed to protect the Commission and City from any legal liability stemming from comments made during the open forum section of Commission Meetings. The City attorney said that the suspension would be temporary so that he and City staff could prepare new policies for Open Forum. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to suspend open forum until new policies were created. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed by the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa – Aye; Mayor Pro-Tem Wade- Aye; Commissioner Guajardo – Aye; Commissioner Lopez- aye; Commissioner Gomez- Against.

6.) OPEN FORUM-

There were no comments made during this item.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2015.

B.) APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RACIAL PROFILING REPORT - #2015/03/03). C.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER ON MARCH 26 BY TEXAS MENTORING COMMUNITIES.

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

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR CITY OF MERCEDES-PARK PAVILION AT HEB PARK AND INTERIOR PREP WORK FOR A CAFÉ AT THE HECTOR P. GARCIA MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Six bids were received for these projects. The low bid of \$280,000 (\$235,000 for the pavilion and \$45,000 for the Library café) was submitted by Pietra Construction of Harlingen, Texas. At a question from Commissioner Gomez, it was explained that the bids came in higher than the Architects original estimates but are still well within the total amount budgeted by the City for theses and other projects. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Pietra Construction. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR CITY OF MERCEDES 2015 STREETS PROJECT.

The six bidders for this project were O.G. Construction, REIM Construction, Inc., Jimmy Closner and Son's Construction Company, Inc., JM Construction, 2GS, LLC, and L&G Construction. The City Engineer is recommending that the City select the lowest bid submitted by OG Construction for the base amount of \$2,214,469 plus Alternate bid items 1,2,3,4 &7 for a combined bid amount of \$2,102,021. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to accept the submitted by O.G. Construction including alternates 1,2,3,4 &7. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and passed unanimously.

10.) PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF SHERI DRIVE BEGINNING ON THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF MELISSA DRIVE, SOUTH TO THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE OF MILE 7 NORTH.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:16 p.m. City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that the properties in question were owned by the Development Corporation of Mercedes and the easements were not needed anymore. Ownership of the abandoned easements will be transferred to the adjacent property owners. Mary Salas asked if any improvements would be made to Mile 1 East. Mr. Castro stated that Eastland Drive is in need of repairs. Petra

Vidales stated that Mile 1 ½ East needs to be paved. Esmer Guererro asked what type of projects are coming to the area. Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

- FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03 - ABANDONMENT OF SHERI DRIVE BEGINNING ON THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF MELISSA DRIVE, SOUTH TO THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE OF MILE 7 NORTH.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wade made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2015-03 – abandoning Sheri Drive beginning on the south property line of Melissa Drive, South to the North property line of Mile 7 North. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DESIGNATING A MEMBER AND ALTERNATE TO HIDALGO COUNTY URBAN COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

#2015/03/03.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to appoint himself as the member and Mayor Pro-Tem Wade as the alternate member to the Hidalgo County Urban County Advisory Council (#2015/03/03). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

12.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT MEDICAL II - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT MEDICAL I - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE. – SECTION 551.087 AND SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT HOSPITALITY. – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT 150 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE. – SECTION 551.087 AND SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE.

-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.

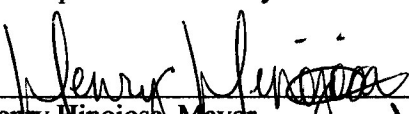
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:56 p.m.

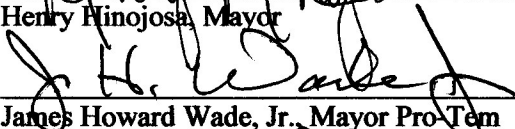
13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

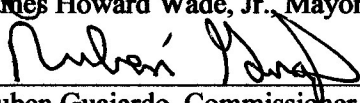
Commissioner Lopez made a motion to instruct staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

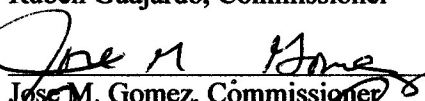
14.) ADJOURN.


There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Wade and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

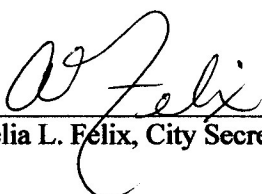

James Howard Wade, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner




Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary