

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 -6:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff: Amanda Morales, Hernan Gonzalez, Jaime Sandoval, Frank Rios, Arturo Garcia, and Carlos Olivares.

**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.**

Rev. Juan De Los Santos led the invocation.

**4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Commissioner Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

**5.) OPEN FORUM**

Esmer Guerrero expressed her concerns regarding the selection of Delinquent Tax Attorney and the Mayor making motions during City Commission meetings.

Petra Vidales spoke about the city's authority to approve EDC projects.

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

**A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD AUGUST 18, AND SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2015. B.) CONTRACT RENEWALS: 1.) JUAN R. ALVAREZ (MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE) 2.) BETTS OIL & BUTANE, INC. (FUEL PURCHASE SUPPLIER); 3.) FULBRIGHT JAWORKSKI, LLP (BOND COUNSEL); 4.) GUZMAN & MUNOZ ENGINEERING (CITY ENGINEER), 5.) HARLINGEN HUMANE SOCIETY (ANIMAL SHELTER); 6.) LONG, CHILTON, LLP (AUDITORS); 7.) MATA, GARCIA ARCHITECTS (CITY ARCHITECT); 8.) JUAN R. MOLINA (CITY ATTORNEY); 9.) RBC-DAIN RAUSCHER, INC. (FINANCIAL ADVISORS) 10.) BENJAMIN SALINAS (HEALTH OFFICER); 11.) STAR EMS (AMBULANCE SERVICES); 12.) TML-IRP – LIABILITY/E&O/PHYSICAL, PROPERTY/MOBILE/FLOOD. 13.) SHEPARD, WALTON, KING INSURANCE GROUP (WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE). C.) APPROVAL OF FIELD CHANGE DIRECTIVE TO CONTRACT WITH OG CONSTRUCTION LLC. (#2015/09/01N). D.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR FUNDING BY GL TEXAS KAJUKENBO & VALDIVIA'S LITTLE KENPO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 FOR LIGHT OF HOPE. E.) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH PERDUE, BRANDON, FIELDER, COLLINS & MOTT, LLP FOR DELINQUENT TAX ATTORNEY SERVICES. (#2015/09/01P).**

Commissioner Lopez noted a correction to item 15 of the minutes for the meeting held August 18, 2015 and Commissioner Wade noted a correction to the minutes for the special meeting held August 27, 2015. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under Consent Agenda with the corrections noted above. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

**7.) PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT IN PREPARATION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT FOR AN OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS.**

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Petra Vidales of 425 Mockingbird Lane asked for details on the grant funding and the application process. Esmer Guerrero of 9657 N Mile 2 West asked who the land for the proposed park was being purchased from and whether the Commission was concerned about the levee near that area being damaged. Ramon Mejia of 948 S. Vermont asked how much land would be purchased and at what cost. Mr. Mejia also asked where the additional funding for the project would come from. City Manager Mr. Garcia stated that the City would be applying for a grant in the amount of \$500,000 and the city would match the funds from the City's general fund and other grants that the City has received. He also explained that the City was still in negotiations regarding the purchase of the 35 acres needed for the park. Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

**8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ADOPTING RESOLUTION #2015-14 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE FIRM OF CARLOS COLINA-VAGAS AICP & ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION.**

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve resolution #2015-14 authorizing an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for outdoor recreation grant in the amount of \$500,000, and further authorizing the firm of Carlos Coina-Vargas AICP & Associates to prepare and submit the application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

**9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CITY'S INTENT WITH ALTERNATIVE GENERATION.**

Commissioner Wade made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed unanimously.

**10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO AMIGOS DEL VALLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (#2015/09/01 O).**

Commissioner Wade made a motion to re-appoint Commissioner Lopez as the member and Commissioner Gomez as alternate

member of the Amigos Del Valle Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed unanimously.

**11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE KEEP MERCEDES BEAUTIFUL BOARD MANUAL.**

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve amendments to the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Board Manual. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

**12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-10 CREATING AN HISTORIC OVERLAY ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING TRACTS OF LAND: 320 S. MISSOURI AVE., MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS N ½ - 15 & S ½ - 16 BLK 15, 337 S. MISSOURI AVE, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 16, 441 S. MISSOURI AVE., MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 6 BLK 21, AND 440 S. MISSOURI AVE., MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 7 BLK 22, MERCEDES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE SUBDIVISION, MERCEDES, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

This item had previously been tabled at the meeting held July 21, 2015. Commissioner Wade made a motion to untable the item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gomez and passed unanimously. The owners of the properties located at 337 and 440 S. Missouri have expressed that they wish to be excluded from the Historic District. The homeowners of 320 and 441 S. Missouri have not responded to City staff on several occasions regarding their participation in the Historic district. After some discussion, Commissioner Wade made a motion to also exclude the properties at 320 and 441 S. Missouri from the Historic District. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

**13.) 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.

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

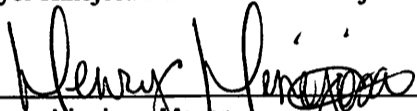
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

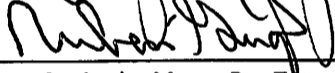
**14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

There was no action taken on this item.

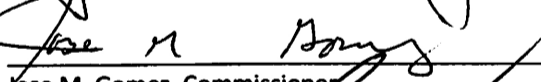
**15.) ADJOURN.**

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

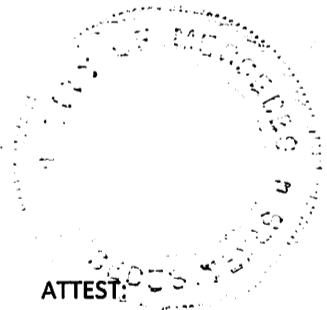
  
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Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

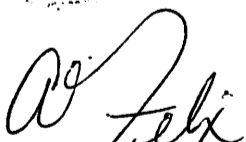
  
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Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
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James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner

  
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Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner

  
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Armando Lopez, Commissioner



  
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Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary