

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 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 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.) OPEN FORUM**

Commissioner Jose Gomez spoke about an item he wanted placed on the agenda. Petra Vidales had a complaint regarding the cost for open records. Leonel Benavides had a question regarding the budget for this fiscal year.

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

**A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD SEPTEMBER 15, AND SEPTEMBER 17, 2015. B.) REPORT BY BASKETSFULL. C.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO DECLARE SURPLUS INVENTORY AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL. D.) APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MISD FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER. (#2015/10/06) E.) APPROVAL REQUEST FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER BY MERCEDES EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY ON JUNE 2, 2016.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo noted a correction to item 9 in the minutes for the meeting held September 15, 2015. Commissioner Gomez also noted a correction to the minutes for the meeting held September 17, 2015. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under Consent Agenda with the corrections listed above. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojsa and passed unanimously.

**7.) PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT ON THE CITY'S NEEDS UNDER THE URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 29 (2016).**

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that the Urban County program provides grant funding for services in the City. This funding is used for public facilities needs, infrastructure needs, and public service needs among others. Petra Vidales spoke about streets and sidewalks in need of repair. It was explained to Mrs. Vidales that the Urban County funds are allocated to non-profit organizations that provide needed services in Mercedes. Leonel Benavides asked why there was not more money in the Urban County budget allocated for street improvements. Ramon Mejia asked if there was any funding allocated for parks. Representatives from Amigos Del Valle thanked the Commission for their support in the past and asked for continued funding. Amigos Del Valle delivers meals to elderly home-bound citizens. Victoria Medina of Children's Advocacy Center asked for continued funding in the amount of five thousand dollars to help provide services to child abuse victims from Mercedes. Marivel Contreras of Valley Metro also asked for continued funding for public transportation throughout the valley, including many stops in Mercedes. Christian Martinez of Nuestra Clinica Del Valle requested continued funding in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars to provide healthcare services to uninsured and under-insured citizens at their facility in Mercedes. There were no further comments and Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. There was no action taken on this item.

**8.) PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR AGENT OF RECORD.**

Representatives from Cuellar & Associates, Tamez Financial Group, and Arthur J. Gallagher made presentation to the Commission regarding their statements of qualification. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to select Arthur J. Gallagher for Insurance Agent of Record. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed by the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and Commissioner Lopez in favor; Commissioners Gomez and Wade against.

**9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NOMINATING OF CANDIDATE TO HIDALGO COUNTY APPRAISAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (RESOLUTION 2015-15).**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to nominate Fernando Dominguez to the Hidalgo County Appraisal Board of Directors (Resolution 2015-15). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

**10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE KEEP MERCEDES BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE.**

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to reappoint Bernie Saenz, Armando Garcia, Marcos Garcia, Leonardo Castaneda, and Jonathan Munoz and appoint Alicia Cortez and Sebastian Escobar to fill the two vacancies on the board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed unanimously.

**11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVING AN ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION FOR O. A. HEALTH REALTY L.L.C. (RESOLUTION#2015-16).**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve an enterprise zone designation for O. A. Health Realty LLC (Resolution 2015-16). The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:45 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 I.C.S. AGREEMENT. - SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. -POSSIBLE LITIGATION.**

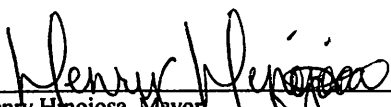
There was no action taken during executive session. Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:41 p.m.

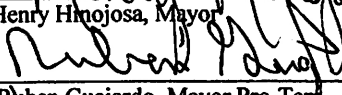
**13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

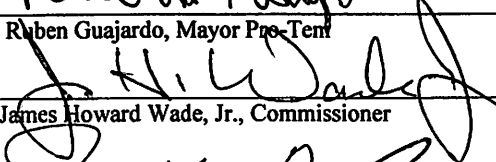
Commissioner Wade made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session and also to include the information requested by Commissioner Gomez. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


**14.) ADJOURN.**

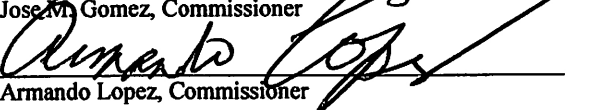
There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed unanimously.

  
Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

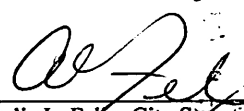
  
Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner

  
Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner

  
Armando Lopez, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary