

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2017 -6:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
Armando Lopez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Howard Wade, Jr.	Commissioner
Ruben Guajardo	Commissioner
Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
Juan Molina	City Attorney
Arcelia L. Felix	City Secretary

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**Staff:** Arturo Garcia, Marisol Vidales, Tommy Ureste and Hernan Gonzales from EDC.

**1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.**

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.**

All members of the Commission were present after Commissioner Guajardo entered during item #6, which constituted a quorum.

**3.) INVOCATION.**

Pastor De Los Santos said the invocation.

**4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Commissioner Lopez led in the pledge of allegiance.

**5.) OPEN FORUM.**

Ms. Laverne Pena addressed the Commission saying she had not been notified of her appeal at the previous meeting and requested that the item be brought back to the Commission. Mayor Hinojosa stated that he would meet with legal counsel to see if it can be done.

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

**A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER 20, 2016.  
B.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER ON JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> BY MERCEDES  
ISD TIGER BAND BOOSTERS.**

Regarding the minutes, Commissioner Wade noted that Commissioner Gomez had led in the Pledge and that he, Frank Rios, and Jaime Sandoval were not at the meeting. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the items under consent with the corrections to the minutes as stated. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERCEDES AND MAGIC VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERTIVE, INC.**

City Attorney Molina stated that he had discussed the agreement with City Manager Garcia and that the 4%, 20% and audit is typical and standard. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the franchise agreement between the City of Mercedes and Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (#2017/01/03A)

**8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF AMENDMENT #1 TO THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERCEDES AND HIDALGO COUNTY – RURAL EMERGENCY SERVICES. #2017/01/03.**

Mr. Molina explained that he had reviewed the amendment to the rural emergency services which takes into account the new city limits. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve amendment #1 to the interlocal cooperation agreement with the County of Hidalgo for rural emergency services. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC.**

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to go member by member for the three expired positions. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioner Guajardo commented about the importance of attendance on this board. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to reappoint Fernando Dominguez to the EDC for a two year term. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion. Commissioner Gomez then asked for an opportunity to appoint someone. Commissioner Guajardo then made a motion to not reappoint Mr. Galvan and appoint Mr. Roel Villanueva to replace Mr. Galvan on the EDC board. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion. Commissioner Wade then questioned whether each member was going to be voted on individually. Commissioner Guajardo then made a motion not to reappoint Mr. Roland Arriola and appoint Jaime Gonzales to replace Roland Arriola to the EDC board. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion. Following Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez' comments, it was mentioned that Mr. Arriola expressed that he did not mind if he was not reappointed. Both Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez and Commissioner Wade commended the service of the board members. At a call for a vote for the motion to reappoint Mr. Fernando Dominguez to a two year term on the EDC the motion passed unanimously. At a call for a vote for the motion to not reappoint Mr. Richard Galvan and appoint Roel Villanueva to the EDC board, the motion passed with the Commissioner Wade and Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez voting against the motion. At a call for a vote for the motion to not reappoint Dr. Roland Arriola and appoint Jaime Gonzalez to a two year term to the EDC board, the motion passed with Commissioner Gomez and Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez voting against the motion.

**10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF GRANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF MERCEDES AND HOLLIS RUTLEDGE & ASSOCIATES.**

This item had been tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Hollis Rutledge addressed the Commission going over the projects that he has assisted the City with and what he is currently working on.

After some discussion, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve a one year grant research and development agreement between the City of Mercedes and Hollis Rutledge & Associates. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**11.) REQUEST APPROVAL TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR COPIER SERVICES. .**

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to solicit proposals for copier services. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. No action will be taken during Executive Session.

**12.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

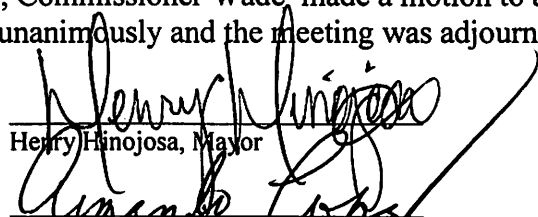
- DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY MANAGER. -TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 -PERSONNEL.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING PERSONNEL. -TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 - PERSONNEL.
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROJECT GOLF - SECTION 551.087 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING KAMAL INVESTMENTS . - SECTION 551.087, AND SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF A 5 ACRE TRACT OUT OF BLK 44 MERCEDES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE – REAL ESTATE – SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED - REAL ESTATE.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT HOSPITALITY - SECTION 551.087 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

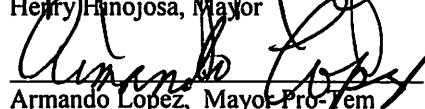
**13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:07 PM. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion approve the acquisition of a five acre tract out of Blk 44, Mercedes Original Townsite as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion which passed with Commission Gomez voting against the motion. There was no action on the other items.

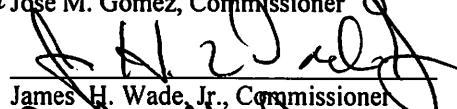
**14.) ADJOURN.**

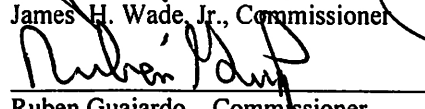
There being no further items to be discussed, Commissioner Wade made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion which passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

  
Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

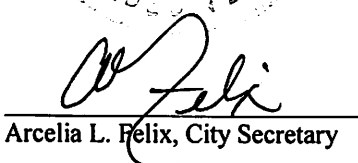
  
Armando Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner

  
James H. Wade, Jr., Commissioner

  
Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary