

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2017 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor

Staff: David Lopez, Tommy Ureste, Nereida Perez, Joselynn Castillo and Hernan Gonzales from EDC.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

All members of the Commission were present, except Mayor Hinojosa, which constituted a full quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

Pastor Juan de los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Guajardo led in the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM.

Mr. Miguel Loya addressed the Commission regarding the Texas Polytechnic Institute, the non-profit status and the utility bill for Texas Valley Communities Institute.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2017. B.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY TMC FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER ON APRIL 19 FOR GRADUATION CEREMONY. C.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO DECLARE SURPLUS INVENTORY AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL. D. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION.

On agenda item 6D, Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve a contribution of \$2,500 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve items A, B, and C under consent. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Hernan Gonzales proceeded to give the EDC monthly report. There was a question by Commissioner Gomez regarding the insurance of the Mercedes Donut and he was informed that there would be a slight surplus of funds after the insurance and purchaser funds came in.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF CHANGE ORDER TO CONTRACT WITH PRIETA CONSTRUCTION FOR PARK PAVILION AT CIVIC CENTER. (#2017/03/21A)

Mr. Garcia explained that the change order was for the additional 52 days which had been requested and added that they anticipate to finish the project within the allocated time. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve a change order to the contract with Prieta Construction for Park Pavilion at the civic center by allowing an additional 52 days (April 20). Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT WITH COUNTY OF HIDALGO ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT FOR 2017 CITY OFFICERS' ELECTION. (#2017/03/21B).

This is the proposed contract between the City of Mercedes and the County of Hidalgo Election Department to run the city officers election to be held May 6, 2017. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the contract with the Hidalgo County Elections Department for the election to be held May 6, 2017. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PALM VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER FOR QUARANTINE SERVICES. (#2017/03/21C)

Palm Valley Animal Shelter is requesting an increase in the agreement fees by \$942 a month. The nonprofit is not making enough revenues. The City also has an agreement with the Humane Society, however, they do not have quarantine services. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve an amendment to the interlocal contract with Palm Valley Animal Shelter as presented above. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DESIGNATING ALTERNATE AND OR/PROXY FOR HIDALGO COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION.- RESOLUTION #2017-02.

Mayor Hinojosa currently serves as the member and Commissioner Wade serves as the alternate to the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the membership has to be updated.

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to continue with Mayor Hinojosa as member and Commissioner Howard Wade as alternate to the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization. At a call for a vote, all the members voted to continue with the Mayor as member and Commissioner Wade as alternate to the Hidalgo County MPO. (Resolution #2017-02)

12.) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

The monthly reports were included for the City Commission's information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m. No action will be taken during Executive Session.

Commissioner Guajardo left the meeting prior to going into executive session.

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.
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING OMI MANAGEMENT CONTRACT. - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071. - POTENTIAL LITIGATION.
- DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT FIESTA. - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.087.- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

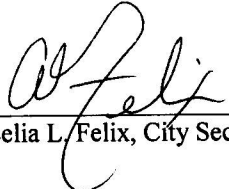
14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

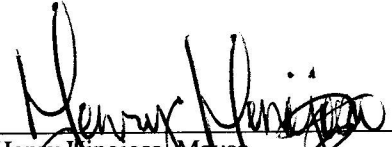
After Executive Session, Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez called the meeting back to order at 7.59 P.M. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve project Fiesta as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no action on the rest of the items in Executive session.

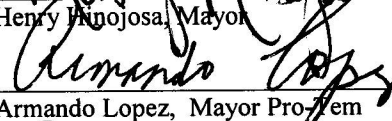
15.) ADJOURN.

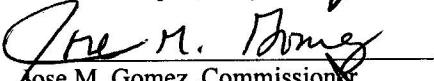
Commissioner Wade made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

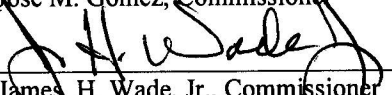
ATTEST:

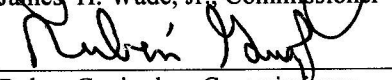

Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


Armando Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


James H. Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner