

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020 – 1:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor
Leandro Villarreal Mayor Pro-Tem
Cristella De Leon Hernandez Commissioner
Leonel Benavidez Commissioner
Jose M. Gomez Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: Sergio Zavala City Manager
Anthony Troiani City Attorney
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Nereida Perez Finance Director
Hugo Perales I.T Director

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

All members of the Commission were present which constituted a full quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

City Manager Sergio Zavala was voice for those present by expressing an inspired invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

- No members of the Public signed up for open forum.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD APRIL 3, 7, & 15, 2020.

B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06 TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND FUNDING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STREET MAINTENANCE FUND.

C.) APPROVAL OF FINANCE QUARTERLY REPORT.

D.) APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOCAL BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM #2999406.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Commissioner Gomez asked if PD Policy has been approved by legal. Mr. Troiani stated he would be meeting with management regarding this item. There was discussion regarding the Finance Quarterly report and the supporting documentation. Commissioner Benavidez asked about an expenditure, the CO 2018, and the minutes for 2019 on the website. Ms. Perez stated the Hidalgo County Agreement is revenue not an expenditure, the invoices were just received for the CO 2018, and Ms. Castillo stated she will get with IT on placing the minutes on the website. Upon a called vote the item was passed unanimously.

7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala commented about the following items:

The filling of vacancies and the posting on the website.

The workshop being held next Tuesday at 1:00 PM.

Commissioner Gomez asked if the PD Policy has been implemented. Commissioner Benavidez stated that the motion was with the condition of legal's approval, therefore once approved by legal the policies will take effect.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT UTILITY MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT FIRM TO MANAGE THE CITY OF MERCEDES' WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, INCLUSIVE OF ALL LIFT STATIONS, WATER TOWERS AND OTHER SIMILAR UTILITY FACILITIES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the bids for Utility Maintenance and Management of the Water & Wastewater Facilities. The City received five (5) bids from the following firms:

Veolia Water North America

Jacobs

ESG Operations

Inframark

USW Utility Group.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to table item 8. There was discussion regarding the selection of the firm along with contacting the references, the best qualified firm, the timeline to select a firm and the procurement process. Commissioner Benavidez stated the City should seek qualifications alongside proposals for pricing. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hernandez amended her motion to table with the condition that the Companies submit their proposals. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RENEW A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERCEDES AND THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO'S URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM FOR THE YEARS 2021-2023.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission regarding the City's participation in the Urban County Program. The funding has allowed the City to procure playground equipment, safety equipment, and computers. The agreement will authorize the County to carry out administrative tasks which include CDBG, HOME and ESG Program funds for the fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Urban County. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

10.) MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

Department reports are included in the packet for Commission to review.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 1:31 PM

11.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A.) CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUSEL PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(1)(A) UPDATE REGARDING PENDING AND CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION, PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(2). THE COMMISSION IS TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY CLIENT COMMUNICATION PRIVILEGE.

B.) DELIBERATION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074 TO DISCUSS SEPERATION OF POWERS/DUTIES BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE CITY MANAGER PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(2) AND TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING SAME.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 2:18 P.M.

12.) GENERAL SESSION (RECONVENE): POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SIISSION.

A.) Mayor Hinojosa made a motion for the Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was approved unanimously.

B.) No action was taken on this item.

13.) ADJOURN.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 P.M.