

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2020 – 1:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Sergio Zavala City Manager
Anthony Troiani City Attorney (Webex)
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Jose Figueroa Public Works Director
Nereida Perez Finance Director
Marisol Vidales Library Director
Aaron Rios CRI Representative (Webex)
Carla Gomez CRI Representative (Webex)
Joeann Lozano CRI Representative (Webex)

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2) ESTABLISH QUORUM

All members of the Commission were present which constitutes a quorum.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal led in the pledge of allegiance.

4) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON LIFTING THE NON-ACCESS EASEMENT RESTRICTION FOR LOT 9, DOS REINAS RETAIL CENTER SUBDIVISION

Mr. Zavala stated that the planning staff received an application for a multi-suite business complex for lot 9, Dos Reinas Retail Center Subdivision. Mr. Zavala stated there was a non-access restriction to the lots fronting the Expressway on frontage rd. The restriction needs to be lifted in order to move forward with the business. Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

5) APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE TSLAC CARES GRANT

Library Director Vidales stated that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission was provided with federal fund to help library deal with COVID-19. The grant is for digital resources, technology, safety equipment and supplies. The library is intending to ask for \$13,620.80. This is the second time applying for the funds, the first time the City was not awarded.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 6. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

6) DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ‘ACCEPT’ THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FY ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Mr. Aaron Rios addressed the Commission regarding the 2018-2019 Financial Audit. Mr. Rios discussed the Financial statements, projected revenues, expenditures, fund balance, and the discrepancies and improvements. Other topics discussed were the utility and water fund, reserves, and monies owed to the general fund. Overall Mr. Rios stated that although there were 20 discrepancies and 4 improvements the Cities rating is good. It was stated that some of the finding have been addressed and corrected. Commissioner Benavidez wanted the entries and the intergovernmental variance.

After discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to accept the Financial Audit for FY 2018-2019. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 3 to 2. Commissioner Benavidez and Commissioner Gomez voted against.

7) APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTION DEPARTMENT FOR THE USE OF THE CIVIC CENTER FOR NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTIONS.

City Secretary Castillo informed the Commission that the Hidalgo County Elections department has requested the use of the Civic Center for the November 3, 2020 Elections. The early voting dates are October 13, 2020 to October 30, 2020 from 7 am to 7 pm every day but Sunday which would be 10 am to 3 pm.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 7. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8) DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DECLARATION ORDER TO EXTEND EMERGENCY MEASURES AND/OR IMPOSE NEW SAFETY MEASURES DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission on the emergency order no. 20-0013. The order includes a shelter at home for 17 years of age and younger and a curfew for adults from 10 pm to 5 am. The emergency order includes facial covering, no outdoor gatherings, and an imposed fine.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 8. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9) ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.