

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Sergio Zavala	City Manager
	Anthony Troiani	City Attorney
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Dagoberto Chavez	ACM/Police Chief
	Hugo Perales	I.T Director
	Javier Campos	Interim Fire Chief
	Jose Figueroa	Public Works Director
	Kristine Longoria	City Secretary Clerk

Antonio Montelongo, Narciso Escobedo, Ede Flores, Justin Mora, Elizandro Valdez, and Ramiro Mendoza

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

Mayor Hinojosa 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 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 Benavidez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5.) OPEN FORUM-**

- Mr. Miguel Loya expressed his concern on item 14 of the agenda explaining that the item placed on the agenda by Commissioner Benavidez and Commissioner Gomez is not being worded on the agenda correctly.
- Mr. Jacob Howell discussed item 13, stating the City's priority should be to fix the streets that are more in need than the request on Item 13. Mr. Howell would like the lift stations addressed and to repair the infrastructure.
- Mr. David Garza commented about Mr. Howell's open forum's comment on the streets. Mr. Garza stated the City is not following the City Charter regarding placing items on the agenda. Mr. Garza stated council is to protect all the Commission.

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

**A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD FEBRUARY 18 & FEBRUARY 25, 2020.**

**B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING ON AN ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03 AMENDING ORDINANCE ON WAGES TO THE CITY'S LABOR AND UTILITY WORKFORCE.**

**C.) APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT.**

Mayor Hinojosa stated a correction on item 13 of the minutes of February 18, 2020. The second motion should be Commissioner Benavidez. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda with the corrections stated by Mayor. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

**7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.**

Mr. Zavala commented about the assessing the street conditions on the 60 streets that have been paved and reconstructed. He stated Lyons street has been completed and has a one-year warranty. Mr. Zavala said Camino Real is to be fixed and invited everyone to the first responders event at 8:30 AM at the Mercedes Early Childhood Center.

**8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CONTRACT TO (RE)ENGAGE ARMANDO MARTINEZ AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF RECORD FOR CITY OF MERCEDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT.**

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that the contract expired March 1, 2020. The proposed contract is to be upgraded from \$4,000 to \$5,000 monthly. Mr. Martinez explained he orders supplies, equipment, makes sure the employees are up to date with their certification, and is liable for any issues with billing regarding Medicaid and Medicare. At a question by Commissioner Hernandez, Mr. Armando Martinez stated the City's EMS would need to shut down if the contract is not approved because all the licenses are in his name. Mr. Martinez stated that they have continuing education programs and have not received any complaints; he added that the City of Mercedes' EMS is #1 in service. Mr. Zavala recommends continuing the contract with Mr. Armando Martinez. At a question by Commissioner Gomez, Mr. Martinez stated that the contract originated as the EMS start up and stated he did not keep a log of the time he spends assisting the City but is in constant communication. Commissioner Benavidez stated he appreciates the EMS service and would like section 2 revised and amended to remove the creation of the ambulance service.

After discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve the contract with Armando Martinez as Administrator of Record for \$5,000 per month. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item passed. Commissioner Gomez and Commissioner Benavidez voted against due to the correction as previously stated.

**9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS BY SOLID WASTE SERVICE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SOLID WASTE (TRASH/BRUSH) SERVICE FOR MERCEDES, TEXAS.**

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission that the City received two bids for Solid Waste services from Waste Connections and Republic Services. Each company was allowed a 5-minute presentation with a brief Q&A to follow. After the presentations, there was brief discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve Waste Connections. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was passed unanimously.

**10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR FY 2018-2019.**

Mr. Zavala stated the City received proposals from Luis Orozco, Burton, McCumber & Longoria, Carr Riggs & Ingram, and Cascos & Associates. All firms were provided 5 minutes to present their firm. Ms. Nereida Perez, Finance Director, had a brief Q&A with the firms present.

After brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve Carr Riggs & Ingram. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

**11.) REQUEST BY GM ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING FOR A PLAT APPROVAL EXTENSION FOR HACIENDA OLIVIA SUBDIVISION.**

Mayor Hinojosa asked legal if item 11 and 13 are for action, at which, Mr. Troiani stated the items could not be voted on. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to table items 11 and 13. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion carried.

**12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DECLARE A 'SURPLUS' A 1986 FORD BOARDMAN FIRE ENGINE VEHICLE TO THUS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCESS SAID VEHICLE 'FOR SALE'.**

Mr. Campos informed the Commission that Fire Department has a 1986 Fire Engine with brake issues, no seatbelts, open cab liability, and cannot transport. At a question, Mr. Campos stated the Engine was last used in 2014-2015. Mr. Campos stated if the Commission choose to repair, the engine would need to be enclosed, install air breaks, seat belts, and bring the engine up to code. A new Fire Engine could cost between \$400,000 to \$600,000. He stated the primary engine is from 2013 and the second unit is from 1999. Mr. Campos stated he would like to look at programs and financing to purchase a new engine in the future. Mr. David Garza asked what the engine was worth, Mr. Campos replied that the engine could go between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

After brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to declare surplus the 1986 Ford Boardman Fire Engine and authorize staff to process for sale. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**13.) REQUEST FOR DIRECTION ON WHETHER TO PROVIDE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS TO 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**STREET, BETWEEN TEXAS AVENUE AND MISSOURI AVENUE.**

Motion was made on item 11 to table item 13.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:58 PM.

**14.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 1.) PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074 – DELIBERATION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND/OR EVALUATION OF CITY MANAGER.**
- 2.) PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074 REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION OF CITY MANAGER. (COMMISSIONER BENAVIDEZ & COMMISSIONER GOMEZ)**
- 3.) DISCUSSION INVOLVING REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.072 TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE AND VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:44 P.M.

**15.) GENERAL SESSION (RECONVENE): ACTION ON ITEMS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- 1.) DELIBERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT TO THE CITY MANAGER.**

No Action was taken on this item.

**2.) DELIBERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEM 3 FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item was unanimously approved.

**16.) ADJOURN.**

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.