

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa Leandro Villarreal Leonel Benavidez Jose M. Gomez	Mayor Mayor Pro-Term Commissioner Commissioner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Cristella De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
STAFF PRESENT:	Sergio Zavala Joselynn Castillo Mark Sossi Nereida Perez Michelle Muniz Dagoberto Chavez Tommy Uresti Kristine Longoria Mary Salinas	City Manager Interim City Secretary City Attorney Finance Director Asst. Library Director ACM/Police Chief Fire Chief City Secretary Clerk Grants Coordinator

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.

Four members of the Commission were present which constituted a quorum. Commissioner Hernandez was out due to illness.

3.) INVOCATION.

Rev. Juan De Los Santos was voice for those present by expressing an inspired invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Jose M. Gomez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

- Mr. Miguel Loya provided the Commission with a handout and voiced his concerns about his back neighbor regarding the alley.
- Mr. Daniel Valdez voices his concerns with the ambulance service assisting the Delta area.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 28 AND OCTOBER 1, 2019.

B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2019-22 TO REPEAL ORDINANCE No. 2013-18 TO THUS DELETE THE LEVIED ‘CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE.’

C.) APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN REGION ONE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER AND DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Commissioner Jose Gomez would like to correct that there is a Five minute time limit in open forum. Mayor Hinojosa made a correction that the meetings approved for September are titled Special Meetings. Commissioner Benavidez stated that in deleting the Capital Improvement fee will also remove the Utility Maintenance Fee.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve ordinance 98-21 with the corrections as stated by the Mayor and Commissioner Gomez. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed with Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal voting nay.

7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about a meeting with Fulcrum Engineering regarding the Old Fire House. Mr. Zavala reminded the Commission that on Thursday at noon, a special meeting would be held for EMS services regarding the Delta area. Commissioner Gomez commented that he would like more time to review the total contract for EMS services.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 PM.

8.) PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT FOR THE NEED ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 33 (2020).

Mr. Zavala stated the City of Mercedes anticipated an allocation of \$257,604.00 for Public Facility needs, Health Facilities, Infrastructure Improvement needs, and Public Service needs.

- Ms. Yolanda Molina stated her concerns with senior citizens in the community not having wheel chair access.
- Mr. Greg Hernandez with Nuestra Clinica de Valle expressed gratitude to the Commission for helping with the funds.
- David Garza expressed concern regarding contribution to the Aurora House. He proposed the amount of \$5,000 with \$1,000 per year for five years for future consideration.
- Ms. Monica Villarreal & Maria Aguilar with Amigos de Valle expressed gratitude to the Commission for the continued support and is requesting \$15,000.

At a call for more comments, none were made. Mayor Hinojosa closed the Public Hearing at 6:25 PM.

9.) UPDATE BY LEMC ON VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FUNDED BY CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION.

Mr. Israel Gaona updated the Commission on the lift station project and the Lorenzana waterline project. Mr. Gaona informed the Commission on the completion percentage, street walkthroughs, and the pumps for the lift stations. Mr. Gaona stated some electrical work was pending and stated it was budgeted. Mr. Gaona updated the Commission on Lyons Subdivision project and stated the sewer lines are being worked on.

Ms. Dalia Pena questioned the road on Capisallo and 10th street due to caliche still present on the road.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENGAGE ENGINEERING FIRM TO FILE HIKE & BIKE APPLICATION TO THE KNAPP COMMUNITY CARE FOUNDATION.

Mr. Zavala stated there was a time sensitive deadline of October 5th in order to be a liable applicant. Mr. Zavala stated that Sigler, Winston & Greenwood has a vast experience in submitting and securing funding for projects like hike & bike systems.

Mr. Isaac Ouxaca from SWG presented a 3 phase project for the Hike & Bike Trail. The Project is projected to start in the inner City to Llano Grande State Park. The application was submitted to secure funding for the first phase of the project. Mr. Zavala stated if injecting Florida Ave can be considered as part of the Hike & Bike trail. Mr. Ouxaca stated \$500,000 can be procured per year per phase and the City will pay less than 5%. At a question, Mr. Ouxaca stated the City is charged 1% for the application.

After a brief discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal motioned to engage SWG engineering for the Hike & Bike Application. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HIDALGO COUNTY URBAN COUNTY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT.

Mr. Zavala stated the City allotment is set at \$257,604.00. The City is agreeing on expending the funds and the time line for expending the fund along with the regulations.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal to approve the Urban County Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

12.) DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

The monthly reports are in the packet for the Commission's review.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:46 PM.

13.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON JOAQUIN AYALA LITIGATION MEDIATION WITH TML ATTORNEY.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 6:50 PM.

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

No Action was taken.

15.) MEETING ADJOURNED

Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.