

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2014 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor
Jose M. Gomez Mayor Pro-Tem
James Howard Wade, Jr. Commissioner
Rodolfo Z. Rodriguez Commissioner
Ricardo Garcia City Manager
Juan Molina City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ruben Guajardo

Staff: Michelle Leftwich, Amanda Morales, Marisol Vidales, Jesse Villarreal, Hernan Gonzalez and Melissa Ramirez.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

A Quorum of the Commission was present, with Commissioner Guajardo being absent.

3.) INVOCATION.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gomez made the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Rodriguez led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

There were no comments made by the public.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD JANUARY 21, 2014. B.) APPROVAL OF BANK DEPOSITORY CONTRACT WITH PLAINS CAPITAL. (#2014/02/04). C.) REQUEST APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR REPAIRS TO SWIMMING POOL.

Commissioner Wade noted a correction to item #11 of the minutes for the City Commission meeting held January 21, 2014. Mayor Pro-Tem Gomez stated, for the record, that he did prepare an evaluation for City Manager Ricardo Garcia but chose not to share it during Executive Session at the meeting held January 21, 2104. The evaluation he prepared was given to the City Attorney. Mayor Pro-Tem Gomez also added that he was not present for discussion regarding a resolution in support of a joint proposal by the City of Mercedes and City of La Feria for University of Texas administrative offices and related facilities but is in support of the project though he has a concern about the project in question being located along the expressway.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda with the correction noted above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and passed unanimously.

7.) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A RE-ZONING FROM "N- NEWLY ANNEXED" TO "C APARTMENT" LOCATED AT 625 S. MILE 2 ½ EAST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 9, BLOCK 1, LAS JARAS SUBDIVISION, MERCEDES, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PERSONS MAKING THE REQUEST ARE ELISEO CANTU AND INDIRA CANTU.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:14 PM. At a call for comments, none were offered and the public hearing was closed at 6:16 PM.

- DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-01 RE-ZONING LOT 9, BLOCK 1, LAS JARAS SUBDIVISION, MERCEDES, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS FROM "N- NEWLY ANNEXED" TO "C APARTMENT"
Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-01 re-zoning Lot 9, Block 1 Las Jaras Subdivision, Mercedes, Hidalgo County, and Texas from "N-Newly Annexed" to "C-Apartment". Commissioner Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PONY LEAGUE PRESENTATION.
Pony League President Brian Acosta made a presentation to the Commission at the last City Commission Meeting and asked that several repairs be made to areas in and around the baseball fields. Assistant City Manager Michelle Leftwich explained that the short term goals requested were either already being addressed by the Public Works department or would be taken care of before the start of the season. Other larger projects would need to be addressed during the budget process after the season has ended. Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve the short term goals presented by the Pony League. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-02 - CALLING THE 2014 CITY ELECTION FOR MAYOR, COMMISSIONER PLACE #1 AND COMMISSIONER PLACE #3.
Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2014-02 calling the 2014 City Election for Mayor, Commissioner Place #1 and Commissioner Place #3 with the hours being changed to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for everyday of early voting. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10.) REQUEST APPROVAL TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR SAFE SHELTER PROJECT.

11.) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR OFF-SITE PAVING AND DRAINAGE FOR SAFE SHELTER PROJECT.

12.) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR OFF-SITE SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS USING URBAN COUNTY FUNDS FOR SAFE SHELTER PROJECT.

City Manager Ricardo Garcia made a presentation regarding the proposed plans for the Safe Shelter Project. He explained that the dome shelter would be used as a second Recreation Center when it was not needed for emergency shelter.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to approve items 10, 11 and 12 authorizing staff to advertise for proposals for Safe shelter project, off-site paving and drainage and off-site sanitary sewer improvements using urban county funds and the motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gomez and passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF RESOLUTION #2014-03 APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve resolution #2014-03 approving an interlocal agreement with Harris county department of education. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

14.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- DISCUSSION ON EVALUATION OF CITY MANAGER RICARDO GARCIA. - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 - PERSONNEL.**
- 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 REGARDING ANNEXATION. (CAUSE NO. C-5929-L3-H- SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. - LITIGATION.

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT X (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES) - TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072 REAL PROPERTY.

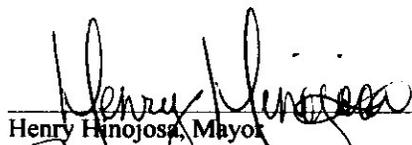
There was no action taken during executive session. Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

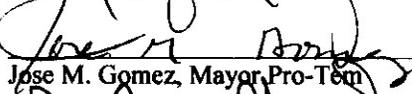
15.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

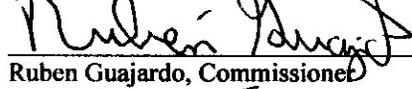
There was no action taken on this item.

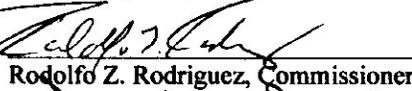
16.) ADJOURN.

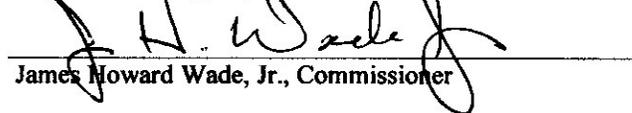
Mayor Hinojosa adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

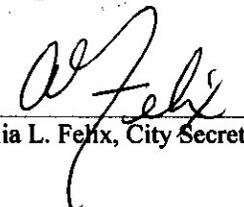

Jose M. Gomez, Mayor Pro-Tem


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner


Rodolfo Z. Rodriguez, Commissioner


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary