

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ruben Guajardo	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Howard Wade	Commissioner
	Leandro Villarreal	Commissioner
	Cristella De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
	Sergio Zavala	Assistant City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor

Staff: Nereida Perez, Tommy Ureste, David Lopez, Olga Maldonado and Joselynn Castillo.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

All members of the Commission being present, except Mayor Hinojosa, constituted a quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

City Manager Sergio Zavala said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD DECEMBER 18, 2018.**
B.) APPROVAL TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE'

SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE.

Commissioner Wade made two corrections to the minutes for the December 18, 2018 minutes which included that on item he said Rio Grande Valley Adult Internal Medicine and item 19 should say \$10 to \$13 Million. On item 5B, Commissioner Hernandez asked if there were any concerns with the current supplemental and if it was necessary to go for bids. Mr. Zavala said the staff is satisfied with the current supplemental insurance and it will be difficult to get rating and will need to go for RFQ's. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the items under consent agenda with the correction to the minutes. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding a joint meeting with the School Board for January 22, 2019 around mid-afternoon. Commissioner Hernandez said 6:00pm would be best. Mr. Zavala stated that Lefevre Engineering would like to extend the bids to January 11, 2019 due to the holidays. Mr. Zavala will be meeting with Mr. Garcia on the sports complex and the lowest bidder. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo asked about preconstruction meeting on the pre-bid. Mr. Zavala stated he received three bids and would be presented at the next meeting. At a question, Mr. Zavala stated the lowest bidder was Balderas from Donna. Mr. Zavala also seven companies had attended the pre-bid for the street projects.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REJECT BID ON CLEANING MOLD PARTICLES FOR A SECTION OF THE MERCEDES PD BUILDING, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RE-BID THE TASKS INVOLVED.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the City soliciting bids for Mold Particles for the Mercedes Police Building. The City only received 1 bid from Chemical Response and Remediation for \$29,700. Mr. Zavala stated the company did not understand the aspect of the project and the bid cannot be amended. He recommends rejecting the bid and to re-solicit for bids. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo stated this would be the third time soliciting for bids. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to reject the bid and to re-bid the task. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RATIFY THE CITY MANAGER'S ACTION TO ENGAGE UNIVISION DEL RIO GRANDE FOR MARKETING PURPOSES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the DCM proposed marketing plan for video commercials for the City. Mr. Zavala stated the cost would be \$25,380 or \$2,820 per month and the funds would come from the hotel motel fund. The commercials would run from January 2019 to September 2019. Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about the spots available. Mr. Zavala said they would produce four thirty second spots, two in English and two in Spanish and the first commercial would air in January 2019. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve ratifying the City Manager's action to engage Univision Del Rio Grande for marketing purposes. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding one vacant seat due to a resignation from Juan J. Gonzalez on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Gonzalez's term was to end February 16, 2020. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to appoint Miguel Loya. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD RFP TO SEMI-SOCCER LEAGUE TO MAXIMIZE USE OF FORTHCOMING SOCCER FIELDS AT MERCEDES SPORTS COMPLEX.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding awarding the proposal received for semi-soccer league to maximize the use of the soccer fields at the Mercedes Sports Complex. Mr. Zavala stated only one proposal was received from LPZ Group where Mr. Hector Lopez is President. Mr. Zavala informed the Commission there would be no cost to the City and amenities such as concession stand, soccer lessons, and semi pro soccer tournaments will be provided by the league. The contract would be for a minimum of five years. Mr. Zavala stated lighting would be provided by the City. Commissioner Hernandez asked Mr. Lopez about his background. Mr. Lopez provided a list of his accomplishment some of which are: he has been involved in soccer since 1992, received a full scholarship to UT-Pan American, currently UTRGV, has developed 17 leagues ranging from ages 3 to adults, and owns a Soccer Academy in Nuevo Leon. Mr. Lopez stated that with this project they would have a capacity of 400 kids all at no cost to the citizens. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo commended Mr. Lopez on his effort and his extensive background. Commissioner Wade asked about the location of the three 7 on 7 teams and would like the City to be involved on the design and location of the concession stand. Mr. Lopez said that the 7 on 7 teams would be closer to the dome and the City would be involved in the construction of the concession stand. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo suggested contacting the school to utilize the field. Commissioner Hernandez asked about the \$10 fee and insurance coverage, at which Mr. Lopez stated he will be paying the City the fee and is working on getting insurance coverage once they know the number of players. Commissioner Hernandez informed Mr. Zavala to add the insurance coverage to the contract if not yet indicated. At a question, Mr. Lopez stated he has not had any lawsuits. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve item 10. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR DISPOSAL OF BIO-HAZARD MATERIAL AS IT RELATES TO THE AMBULANCE FIRE/EMS SERVICES.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission that Mr. Armando Martinez secured price quotes for bio-hazard material disposal services that are needed for the ambulance service. The quotes were from Bio-Ops for \$800 for the remainder of the fiscal year and Stericycle for \$1,254.69 for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Martinez recommends engaging with Bio-Ops from Edinburg. Mr. Zavala stated that the only change would be that the invoice state 15 'working' days. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve entering into contract for disposal of Bio-Hazard Material with the stipulation that the invoice reflect 15 working days. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AMENDING CONTRACT WITH ARMANDO MARTINEZ, ADMINISTRATOR OF RECORD, TO INCREASE MONTHLY RETAINER.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to table this item due to Mr. Martinez not being present. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO INITIATE AN AMNESTY PROGRAM IN 2019.

Chief Maldonado addressed the Commission regarding the Amnesty Program. Chief Maldonado stated the program would run the entire month of February 2019 with the days being Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm and Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Mercedes City Hall. Finance staff will be handling the payments on said days. Chief Maldonado informed the Commission the announcement will be placed on the water bills in English and Spanish in January and February, on the City's Website, published in the newspaper, and will be meeting with media outlets. Chief Maldonado provided the number of outstanding and cleared warrants. There was some discussion regarding the dates, time, and location for the program. At a question, Chief stated that although Wednesdays and Thursdays are being proposed, the Commission has the discretion to set other days. Commissioner Hernandez stated she would like the program to be the entire month. Chief Maldonado stated that citizens can attend any day in February, but specifically on Wednesdays and Thursdays the Judge will be in attendance to issue the lesser amount since the police department cannot deviate from the warrant amount. At a question, Mr. Zavala stated they will work with Finance to receive credit card payments. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the Amnesty Program in 2019. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

14.)OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Jose Gomez addressed the Commission regarding the length of time for a response for open records.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo commented he agrees with Mr. Gomez that is should not take long for staff to provide information. City Attorney Molina requested that no other Commissioner comment on the subject.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo called the meeting into executive session at 6:54 pm. No action will be taken at this time.

15.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:
-DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY MANAGER. –
SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL.

-DISCUSSION BY MARK HANNA REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT –
SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

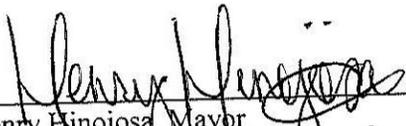
Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo called the meeting back to order at 9:58 P.M.

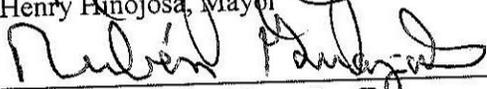
16.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION.

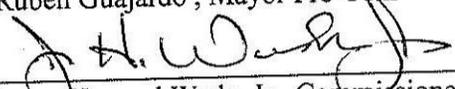
No action taken on the items discussed in executive session.

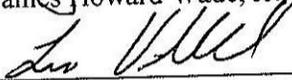
17.) ADJOURN.

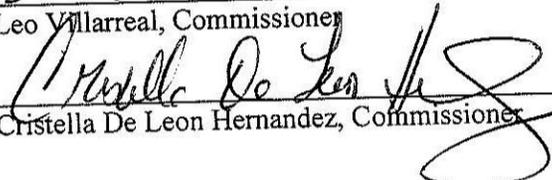
Commissioner Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the
motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

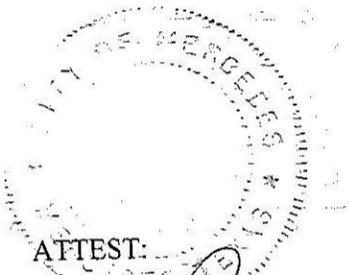

Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem

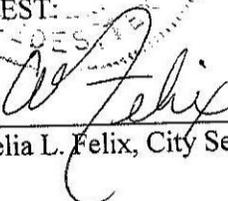

James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Leo Villarreal, Commissioner


Cristella De Leon Hernandez, Commissioner



ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary