

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Armando Lopez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
	Ruben Guajardo	Commissioner
	James Howard Wade, Jr.	Commissioner
	Juan Molina	City Attorney
	Ricardo Garcia	City Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff: Amanda Morales, Hernan Gonzalez, Jaime Sandoval, Frank Rios, Marisol Vidales and Arturo Garcia.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

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

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

A quorum of the commission was present.

3.) INVOCATION.

Juan de los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Lopez led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM.

Petra Vidales spoke regarding the budget and employee salaries.

Elvia Sandoval spoke regarding police and fire staff and asked that bracelets supporting police officers be handed out to employees.

Armando Garcia of Keep Mercedes Beautiful invited the commission to join them in a cleanup on September 17th.

Abel Moreno of Waste Connections of South Texas said that he would be leaving the company and introduced Roberto Canales as his replacement.

Esmer Guerrero spoke about the tax rate, spending and employee salaries.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD AUGUST 16, 2016. B.) APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AND ACCEPT BODY CAMERA GRANT. (#2016/09/06L). C.) APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MISD FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER (#2016/09/06M). D.) APPROVAL TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT FOR THE LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM. (RESOLUTION#2016-12). E.) APPROVAL OF WAIVER OF FEES FOR USE OF CIVIC CENTER BY MONTOYA FAMILY. F.) CONTRACT RENEWALS: 1.) JUAN R. ALVAREZ (MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE) 2.) BETTS OIL & BUTANE, INC. (FUEL PURCHASE SUPPLIER); 3.) FULBRIGHT JAWORSKI, LLP (BOND COUNSEL); 4.) GUZMAN & MUNOZ ENGINEERING (CITY ENGINEER); 5.) LONG, CHILTON, LLP (AUDITORS); 6.) MATA, GARCIA ARCHITECTS (CITY ARCHITECT); 7.) JUAN R. MOLINA (CITY ATTORNEY); 8.) PURDUE, BRANDON, FIELDER & MOTT, LLP (DLQT.FINES AND FEES) 9.) RBC-DAIN RAUSCHER, INC.(FINANCIAL ADVISORS) 10.) STAR EMS (AMBULANCE SERVICES) 11.) HARLINGEN HUMANE SOCIETY (ANIMAL SHELTER); 12.) GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICE, INC. (INSURANCE AGENT).

Commissioner Lopez noted a correction to the minutes for the meeting held August 16, 2016. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under consent and noted that he was voting against the extension of contracts for Guzman & Munoz Engineering and Star EMS. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez and passed with all members voting aye, and Commissioner Guajardo voting nay as noted in his motion.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE 2016-10 REGULATING HANDICAP ON-STREET PARKING DESIGNATION.

This Ordinance would allow disabled homeowners to apply for an on-street handicap parking space designation in front of their homes if no other parking is available on their property. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-10 regulating handicap on-street parking designation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez and passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RATIFICATION OF 2016-2017 BUDGET FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC. AS APPROVED BY DCM BOARD.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2016-11.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-11 regarding budget amendments for fiscal year 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gomez and passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SELECTION OF TMLIEBP INSURANCE COVERAGE OPTION.

Mr. Garcia explained that due to high claims the premium for the city's current insurance plan would be increasing by 22%. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gomez and passed with Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez, Commissioner Guajardo and Commissioner Gomez voting in favor and Commissioner Wade voting against it.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

11.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY MANAGER. -TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 -PERSONNEL.

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- DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT HOSPITALITY – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT GOLF - SECTION 551.087 AND SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE –FEE AGREEMENT REYNA NETWORK

There was no action taken during executive session.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:15 p.m.

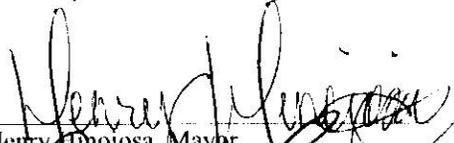
12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

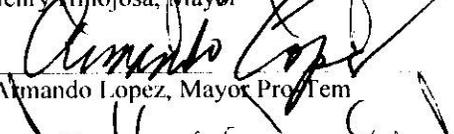
Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session regarding project hospitality. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

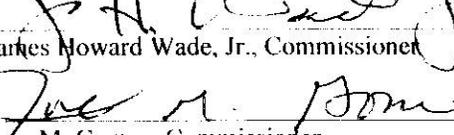
Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session regarding project golf Reyna network fee agreement. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

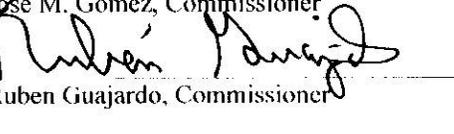
13.) ADJOURN.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


Armando Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary