

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 16, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Ruben Guajardo	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Howard Wade	Commissioner
	Leandro Villarreal	Commissioner
	Cristella De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
	Sergio Zavala	City Manager
	Arcelia L. Felix	City Secretary
	Anthony Troiani	City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

Staff: Graciela Alanis, Marisol Vidales, Javier Campos and Joselynn Castillo.

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.

Reverend Juan De Los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Villarreal led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING(S) HELD APRIL 2, 2019. B.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO SURPLUS ITEMS AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL. (BOND & BOND) C.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO SUBMIT AND ACCEPT GRANT NO. 2999405 FOR LOCAL BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM FOR 2020 FISCAL YEAR (#2019/04/16A)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made motion to approve all items under consent agenda. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

There were no comments made for this item.

7.) PRESENTATION AND UPDATE BY LEFEVRE ENGINEERING ON VARIOUS CITY PROJECTS.

Israel Gaona presented to the Commission the updates on the overlay projects package 1, package 2, package 3, Boyd Subdivision, Waterline Interconnect project, and the Lift station rehab project.

7A.) PRESENTATION BY DAVID GARZA FOR POSSIBLE SPONSORSHIP FUNDING OF AURORA HOUSE.

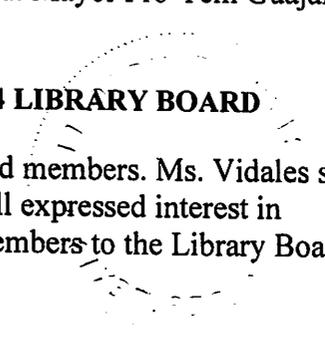
Mr. David Garza informed the Commission about the need of funding for Aurora houses. Mr. Garza explained the Aurora houses are homes for the elderly in hospice care. Ms. Judy expressed to the commission information about the facility and the need of funding. They are asking for \$5,000 or \$3,000 with \$1,000 per year. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo asked Mr. Zavala to look into seeing if it can be funded from CBDG.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SECURE LIFE SAFETY BOATS WITH CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION FUNDING.

Assistant Fire Chief Javier Campos addressed the Commission about securing life safety boats. Mr. Campos stated they are asking for 2 boats with a double decker trailer. Mr. Campos informed the Commission that the boats are lightweight, will be easier to maneuver through flooded areas, and they are meant for flood operations. Mr. Campos said the trailer will allow for an easier way to deploy of the boats. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve securing life safety boats with certificates of obligation funding. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion. At a question, Mr. Campos listed the optional items and provided his recommendation to include the Motor Swing rack, storage basket, slide ramp, and sky lights and to not include the bunk support system and heavy duty aluminum wheels. Commissioner Wade amended his motion to include the additional items as per the recommendation and to exclude the two items not recommended. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A MAXIMUM OF 4 LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS.

Ms. Marisol Vidales addressed the Commission about appointing 4 library board members. Ms. Vidales stated that Deborah Benedict, Lorri Marchant, Yolanda Cruz, and Diane Goldsberry all expressed interest in continuing serving. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to appoint the 4 members to the Library Board. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADJUST THE DEADLINE TO "SIGN-UP FOR PUBLIC FORUM" AT REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about adjusting the deadline to sign-up for public forum to be 10 minutes before the meeting begins. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve adjusting the deadline to 5:50 pm and to add that the City Secretary will be the timekeeper. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 79-29 AS IT RELATES TO CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT PUBLIC PARKS.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about Ordinance No. 79-29 that prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages at public parks. Mr. Zavala stated the new ordinance would allow the Commission to approve the events that will involve alcohol consumption at the Civic Center or delegate the approval to the City Manager. At a question, Mr. Zavala explained the events that will require City Commission approval is events that will occur outside the Civic Center building. Mr. Zavala stated the events could come to the Commission on a three months basis or case by case. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve amending Ordinance No. 79-29. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH FULCRUM CONSULTING SERVICES.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about his concerns with the contract for the Old Fire House. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to table item 12. Mayor Hinojosa seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13.)DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

The department reports are included for the Commission to review.

14.)OPEN FORUM.

Mr. Jose Gomez expressed to the Commission his concern on whether or not Mercedes is a sanctuary city. Mr. Manuel Garza informed the Commission about his concern with the City spending money. Mr. Leonel Benavidez addressed the Commission about the 2017 audit. Mr. Ramon Mejia thanked the Commission for their efforts and all their work.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into executive session at 6:44 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.
- ATTORNEY CONSULTATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE IN CONNECTION WITH PENDING LITIGATION STYLED AND NUMBERED AS FOLLOWS: RICARDO GARCIA V. CITY OF MERCEDES, ET. AL., CAUSE NO. C-2093-17-A (92ND JUD. DIST. COURT – HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS)
- DISCUSSION WITH ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED REGARDING POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE EXCHANGE, LEASE OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 561.072, AND TO DIRECT COUNSEL TO PROCEED AS DIRECTED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

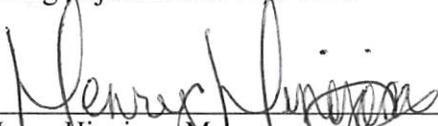
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:18 P.M.

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

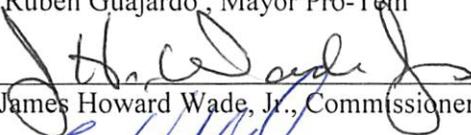
Mayor Hinojosa made a motion for counsel to proceed as discussed in executive session for the items regarding Attorney consultation and the exchange, lease or value of real property. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

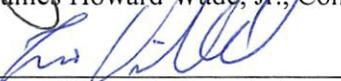
17.)ADJOURN.

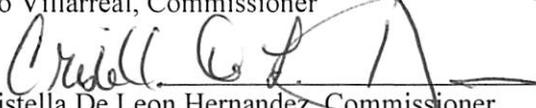
Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

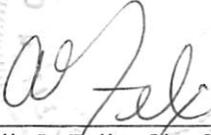

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Leo Villarreal, Commissioner


Cristella De Leon Hernandez, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary

