

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2017 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Armando Lopez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Howard Wade, Jr.	Commissioner
	Ruben Guajardo	Commissioner
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
	Ricardo Garcia	City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney
	Arcelia L. Felix	City Secretary
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None	

Staff: Daniel Tijerina, David Lopez, and Hernan Gonzales from EDC.

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 after Commissioner Guajardo entered during open forum, which constituted a full quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

Rev. Juan De los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Gomez led in the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM.

Ms. Mary Ann del Toro addressed the Commission regarding the road construction in the area where she lives. She said she was speaking on behalf of the residents in that area. Ms. R. Danielson also addressed the Commission speaking about the road construction as well. Ms. Esmeralda Guerrero addressed the Commission speaking about the Assistant City Manager, streets and the Retama.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 17, 2017. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READIN OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-01 – CALLING THE 2017 CITY ELECTION FOR MAYOR, COMMISSIONER PLACE 1 AND COMMISSIONER PLACE 3. C.) APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 FOR TIME EXTENSION TO CONTRACT WITH O. G. CONSTRUCTION FOR 2015 STREETS, DRAINAGE AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS (#2017/02/07A).

Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve the items under consent. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion, at which time Commissioner Gomez asked that Item 6c be taken off and discussed. Commissioner Guajardo rescinded his motion to approve the items under consent. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve items 6a and 6b under consent Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve change order No. 5 for time extension to contract with O.. Construction for 2015 streets, drainage and utility improvements. Commission Guajardo seconded the motion and discussion ensued. At a question by Commissioner Guajardo, Mr. Garcia said that he was not aware of any police or emergency vehicles not been able to enter the road that is being constructed by O.G. Construction. He added that the company had been out there working on Saturday and Sunday. As to Commissioner Gomez' question about the extension of time which he said was half more than the work days, Mr. Garcia said that the weather cannot be controlled and that the company is legally allowed time for weather days. The rest of the Commission asked Mr. Garcia to meet with the construction company and urge them to work on the street as quickly as possible.

At a call for a vote the motion passed with Commissioner Gomez voting against the motion .

7.) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A NO-SMOKING ORDINANCE WITHIN THE CITY OF MERCEDES.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 6:21 pm. Mr. Jerry Saverdra with the American Heart Association addressed the Commission giving statistics on second hand smoking and asked that the Commission consider passing the no-smoking ordinance. Mr. Hilario Pena also spoke in favor of the no-smoking ordinance and asked that the entryways and entrance into entryways also be no smoking areas. Ms. Rosalee Tristan addressed the Commission saying that she had lost her daughter due to second hand smoking and was in favor of the no-smoking ordinance. No other comments were offered and Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:28 pm.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OF FIRST READING OF NO SMOKING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-02.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve the first reading of No-Smoking ordinance No. 2017-02. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Commission recessed for a few minutes for a picture.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION #2017-01 ADOPTING THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM YEAR 30 (2017).

City Manager Garcia informed the Commission that staff was recommending the following workplan budget for program year 30 (2017) with the allocated amount being \$251,975 and include the following: street improvements bond payment (\$143,266), Senior Services -Amigos Del Valle (\$10,000); Senior services Senior Community Outreach (\$7,500); Abused and Neglected Children - Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County(\$5,000); Health Services - Nuestra Clinica del Valle (\$13,000); Public Service – General –(Library) (\$20,000); fire station equipment (\$20,000) Parks, Recreational facility improvements (\$31,409) & general administration (\$1,800). Commissioner Wade moved to adopt the proposed Urban County FY 30 (2017) Workplan as presented. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

10.) RATIFICATION OF REQUEST BY MET FOR WAIVER OF BUILDING AND RELATED PERMIT FEES FOR 209 POCO LANE. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Garcia explained that MET is a nonprofit organization that does improvements to the homes of farm workers Staff is requesting ratification of the waiver of fees associated with the remodel and repair of the home.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to ratify the request by MET for waiver of building and related permit fees for the property at 209 Poco Lane Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11.) FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF VALLEY BAPTIST LEGACY FOUNDATION GRANT. (CITY MANAGER)

Mr. Garcia explained that the City had been given a grant for the amount of \$150,000 to construct two exercise stations at the HEB Community Park. Mr. Garcia stated that one of the exercise stations would be ADA accessible. At this point, Mr. Hollis Rutledge addressed the Commission saying he was glad to have worked on this grant.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to accept the grant for the amount of \$150,000 from Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL EQUIPMENT RELATED TO THE VALLEY BAPTIST LEGACY FOUNDATION USING STATE PURCHASING COOP. (CITY MANAGER)

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to authorize staff to purchase and install equipment related to the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation grant through the State Purchasing Co-op. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. No action will be taken during Executive Session.

13.) 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 HERENCIA . - SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

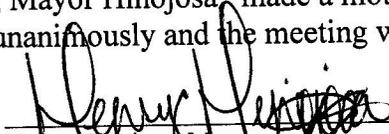
14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

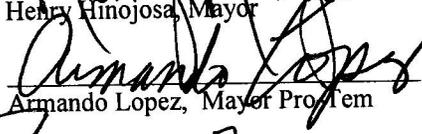
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:36 PM. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to terminate the contract with the hotel developer of project Hospitality as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to approve Project Herencia as discussed in executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Lope seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

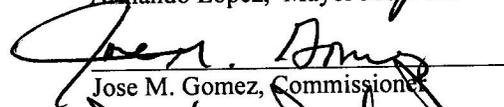
There was no action on the other items.

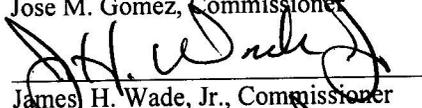
15.) ADJOURN.

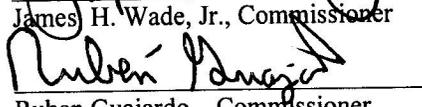
There being no further items to be discussed, Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez seconded the motion which passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

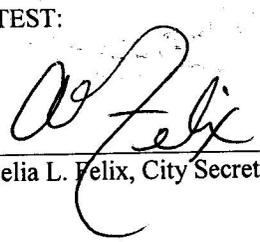

Armando Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


James H. Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Ruben Guajardo, Commssioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary