

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 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: Nereida Perez, Marisol Vidales, Jose Figueroa, Olga Maldonado, Rolando Maldonado and Joselynn Castillo.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa welcomed everyone 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 Dr. Rene Vega 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 FEBRUARY 15, FEBRUARY 19 AND FEBRUARY 25, 2019. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-05 ADOPTING CRIME STOPPERS, INC. BY-LAWS.

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

6.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about prayer meeting and invited everyone to attend on Wednesday morning.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT ARCHITECT RESTORATION WORK AT THE OLD FIREHOUSE LOCATED AT THE NW CORNER OF OHIO/4TH STREET.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the City soliciting RFQ's for architectural services to restore the old Firehouse at 323 S. Ohio. Mr. Zavala stated the City received the following 6 proposals: Negrete & Kolar Architects, Milnet Architectural Services, Architexas, Hutson/Gallagher teaming with Boultinghouse Simpson Gates, Debra J. Dockery Architect, and Fulcrum Consulting Services. Representatives from Negrete & Kolar Architects, Hutson/Gallagher teaming with Boultinghouse Simpson Gates, and Fulcrum Consulting Services were present for the presentations and they were allowed five minutes for such. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and Commissioner Villarreal stated they received good comments about the firms that submitted proposals. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to select Fulcrum Consulting Services for restoration work at the old firehouse. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND BASEBALL FIELD USE POLICIES.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding an amendment to the Baseball field policy. Mr. Zavala stated some of the changes to the policy would be to select one Pony and one Little League to be awarded the baseball fields, who will make the selection of the league and based on what criteria, what happens to the league not selected and the teams on that league, and the process to appeal the selection if a league was not awarded. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo commented that administration and staff should make the determination on the best usage of the fields. Commissioner Villarreal would like the appeal process removed from the policy. Mr. Zavala explained the section of the appeal process to the Commission. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve amending the baseball-field use policy and to remove the appeal process. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo voting nay.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR FOR DAVID GORENA.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about the Municipal Court Prosecutor's contract. Mr. Zavala discussed section 5 of the contract and reimbursement for training. The contract will begin February 2019 to February 2020 and will have a 30 day escape clause. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the contract for Municipal Court Prosecutor for David Gorena as stated by staff and City Attorney. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion. At a question, there was some discussion regarding the City paying for training for the prosecutor. Mr. Gorena explained to the Commission that the reimbursement would be if the Commission and City Manager want him to go to a specific training and not his continuing education training that is required.

City Attorney Troianni stated that clause was included in case the City wants to send Mr. Gorena to training. After the discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD FOR DUMP TRUCK AND VACUUM TRUCK.

Mr. Figueroa addressed the Commission regarding approval of purchase for a Dump Truck and Vacuum Truck for storm inlets. Staff received quotes for the Dump Truck from US 281 Truck & Trailer Sales LLC for \$37,346.77, International Used Truck Centers for \$46,600 plus Trip and Title, and ER Truck and Equipment for \$39,600 plus Trip and Title. Mr. Figueroa stated the quotes are for single axel dump trucks and recommends awarding to US 281 Truck & Trailer Sales LLC. For the Vacuum Truck, Mr. Figueroa said they were able to locate one in Pasadena through Kinloch Equipment & Supply, Inc., a Buyboard vendor, for \$145,000. Mr. Figueroa explained that the vacuum truck would help clean the storm inlets. Commissioner Wade stated he would like to act on the Dump Truck and go out for bids for a new Vacuum Truck. There was some discussion regarding warranty, financing and budget for the Vacuum Truck. Commissioner Wade made a motion to award the purchase of the dump truck to US 281 Truck & Trailer Sales LLC for the amount of \$37,346.77 and to table the Vacuum Truck for the next meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROCURE DRAINAGE PUMPS FROM BUYBOARD WITH CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about procuring 2 drainage pumps from Odessa Pumps in Pharr to divert flood waters into the storm channels. The items to be procured are from buyboard and include 2 drainage pumps for \$71,480.00, 5 - 6" x 20' black suction hose for \$7,655, and 4 - 6" x 50' yellow discharge hose for \$1,736 which total \$80,871. There was some discussion regarding a platform for the pumps and tarps. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 drainage pumps in the amount of \$71,480. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF INVENTORY ITEMS FOR THE UTILITIES DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. Figueroa addressed the Commission regarding purchasing required parts to connect water and sewer services and for general problems such as water breaks and line collapses. Mr. Figueroa stated they received a quote from Ferguson Waterworks who is a Buyboard vendor, for \$33,244.80. The inventory should last for four to five months. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the purchase of inventory items for the utility division in the amount of \$33,244.80. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously,

13.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROCURE CAPITAL OUTLAY ZTRACK MOWING EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about the need to maintain the rights-of-ways. Mr. Zavala stated in order to achieve the goal they received a quote from Ag-Pro for a John Deere Z7930 Ztrack mower. There would be 2 annual installments of \$5,765 from the Planning Department's budget. Mr. Maldonado stated the current equipment is too large for some lots and can damage properties if using a shredder. He also stated that the tires will not go flat and the tractor will mulch the grass and keep debris from hitting any windows or vehicles. There was some discussion on the budget if the mower is paid in full rather than in two payments. Commissioner Villarreal commended Mr. Maldonado and the strike team. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve procuring a ZTrack mower for \$11,530. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

14.) DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING CHRISTMAS 2019 EXTERIOR DÉCOR.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about improving the City of Mercedes' Christmas decorations. At a question, Mr. Zavala stated staff would like direction on what type of Christmas tree the Commission would prefer, a ribbon tree or a regular Christmas tree. Mayor Hinojosa stated that the cost for both options should be presented. No action.

15.) TABLED: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE VENDOR TO REPLACE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT AT THE RECREATION CENTER.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to un-table item 15. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Figueroa addressed the Commission regarding replacing the AC unit at the Recreation Center. Mr. Figueroa stated they received 3 quotes from Farrell Plumbing/Cooling for \$49,950, J R Refrigeration & A/C for \$35,500, and Enterprise A/C & Refrigeration for \$40,175.95. At a question, Mr. Figueroa stated that J R Refrigeration & A/C quoted a 20 and 10 ton unit since one room is larger than the other thus, needing a larger unit.

Commissioner Wade discussed the brands of the units and suggested going with either a Ruud or Rheem unit. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve J R Refrigeration & A/C and to go with a preferred brand of Ruud or Rheem unit, and if unable, then to rebid. There was some discussion regarding the brand on the bid and price changes if any, for preferred brands. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

16.)OPEN FORUM

Mr. Leonel Benavidez addressed the Commission about the campaign signs and residence concerns.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into executive session at 7:12 pm. No action will be taken at this time.

17.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT A. VASQUEZ – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

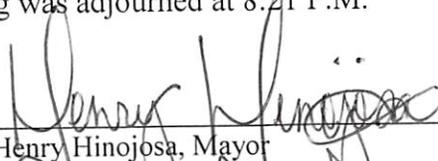
-ATTORNEY CONSULTATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, TEXAS LOCAL GOV'T CODE TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE IN CONNECTION WITH PENDING LITIGATION STYLED AND NUMBERED AS FOLLOWS: RICARDO GARCIA V CITY OF MERCEDES, ET. AL., CAUSE NO. C-2093-17-A (92ND JUD. DIST. COURT – HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS)

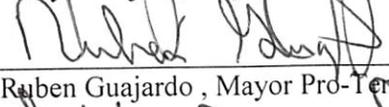
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:20 P.M.

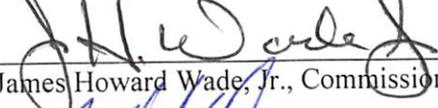
18.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.
No action will be taken on the items discussed in executive session.

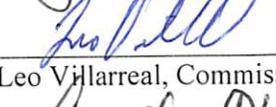
19.)ADJOURN.

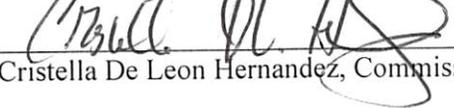
Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

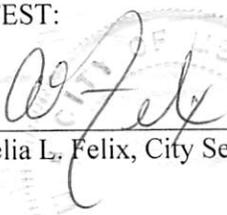

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Leo Villarreal, Commissioner


Cristella De Leon Hernandez, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary

