

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDDES 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	Assistant City Manager
	Juan Molina	City Attorney
MEMBERS ABSENT:	NONE	

Staff: Nereida Perez, Jose Figueroa, Saul Rodriguez, Ravyn Hinojosa, 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.

Interim City Manager Sergio Zavala said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Howard Wade led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) 2ND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2018 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF MERCEDES.

Mayor Hinojosa opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm. Mr. Zavala stated the current tax rate is 0.745 and the 2018 proposed tax rate is to remain the same.

Mr. Jose Gomez stated he would like the tax rate to be lowered by one cent.

Mr. Joaquin Hernandez stated he would like sewer improvement done on Capisallo Terrace. Mayor Hinojosa stated that in the past they have been lowering the tax rate which neglected certain departments' improvements. Mr. Hernandez stated he agreed with the tax rate if the improvements will be done. Mayor Hinojosa said the City is still waiting for a response from FEMA on requesting help from the flood.

Mr. Joe Perez stated he does not know what the money is being used for.

Mr. Leonel Benavidez read some information regarding the Rollback Tax Rate, Property Tax Rate and his own taxes. He stated the Commission is misleading and spoke about large projects and the Nursing home property.

Ms. Esmeralda Guerrero stated she agreed with Mr. Benavidez and that the Commission doesn't have discussion in the meeting on what monies is being spent on.

A member of the audience spoke about pothole on Mile 8 and Mile 1 ½ and would like the streets fixed.

Mr. Gutierrez spoke about Mile 2 E, street lights in that area, speed limit and response time for the accident that occurred there and would like something done.

Ms. Julianne Moore spoke about the response time for the accident, city lights, speed limit, and her property taxes.

Ms. Dalia Pena stated the taxes should be for protection and spoke about falsified police reports.

Mayor Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 6:25 pm.

6.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.

Mr. Figueroa, Public Works Director, addressed the Commission on a budget amendment for a transfer of funds from Paving/Seal and Equipment to Building, Janitorial, Fire Dept. Vehicles, P.W. Admin Vehicles, and Street Vehicles. Mr. Figueroa stated 15,000 will be decreased from Paving/Seal and adding 13,000 to building and 2,000 to janitorial; also 4,500 will be decreased from Equipment and adding 1,000 to fire department, 500 to P.W Admin vehicles, and 3,000 to streets. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION OF REQUEST TO REJECT ALL BIDS RECEIVED AND RE-SOLICIT FOR BIDS REGARDING PD BUILDING SECURITY CAMERAS AND ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES.

Mr. Rodriguez, IT Director, informed the Commission requesting to reject all bids and re-solicit for the security cameras and access controls for the PD building. Mr. Rodriguez stated the federal government signed off on a banned list for security cameras due to safety concerns. He would like to include the list in the specs in order to give all bidders a fair opportunity and re-solicit with the list on the banned cameras. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to reject all bids and re-solicit with staff recommendations. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2016-14 TO ADJUST THE WATER AND SANITARY SEWER REATES DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

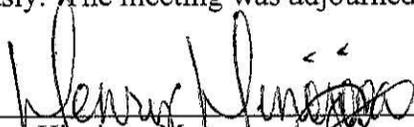
Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about Dr. Ernest's presentation at a prior meeting to increase the water and sanitary sewer rates for the next three years. Mr. Zavala said that there needs to be an increase of 11.4 percent for the next three years and provided the numbers for Single family residential, Multi-family and Small business, and Commercial accounts. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the ordinance to adjust the water and sanitary sewer rates. Commissioner Wade stated that Mr. Ernest has said the increase would need to be for the next four years in order to get funding from the Water Development Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo amended his motion to approve the water and sewer rates for the next 3 to 5 years depending on the years Dr. Ernest had stated in his previous presentation. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

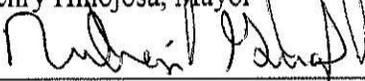
9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION TO CONSIDER ISSUING CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION.

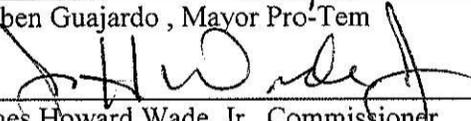
Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about projects previously discussed with LaFevre Engineering and other eligible purchases. Mr. Zavala went over the list of projects which include 9 police vehicles, 2 ambulances, 2 heart monitors, 1 vacuum truck, 1 dump truck, rehab of water well, Water Treatment Plant Centrifuge, 10" water line (Cortino's), Replace/Rehab brush rotors, Mercedes Lift Station Imp's, Street Overlays, Storm Drainage LSta. Imps, Mile 2 E/ Camino Real-N. TX/ 8th swr, 12" water line Project, Industrial Park/ Tangerine Drainage, and Boyd Subd. Sanitary Sewer Imps. The vehicles have been placed on the Certificates of Obligation list on 3 to 5 year tenure. Mr. Zavala stated once FEMA corrects their numbers the City of Mercedes would be reimbursed for the Walking Trail and some streets and the Vermont Drainage plan is underway. Mayor Hinojosa asked if Capisallo Terrace was on the list at which Mr. Zavala said no. Mayor Hinojosa stated they met with the Water Development Board 1 year ago and were offered no help until the City was up to par by increasing the Utility rates for water and sewer. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve projects prioritization to consider issuing Certificates of Obligation. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

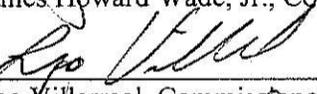
10.) ADJOURN.

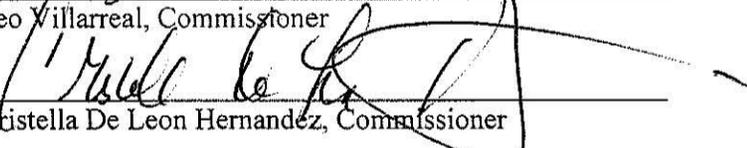
Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

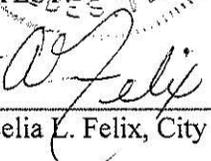

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Leo Villarreal, Commissioner


Cristella De Leon Hernandez, Commissioner



ATTEST:

Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary