

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Leandro Villarreal Leonel Benavidez Cristella De Leon Hernandez Jose M. Gomez	Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
STAFF PRESENT:	Sergio Zavala Anthony Troiani Joselynn Castillo Nereida Perez Dagoberto Chavez Tommy Ureste James Cooper Kristine Longoria	City Manager City Attorney City Secretary Finance Director ACM/Police Chief Fire Chief/EMC Lieutenant City Secretary Clerk

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

Four members of the Commission were present which constituted a quorum.

3.) INVOCATION.

City Manager Zavala was voice for those present by expressing an inspired invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Benavidez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM-

- Mr. Jose M. Gomez expressed his concerns regarding the hiring of an Assistant City Manager.
- Mr. Edelmiro Dominguez stated his concerns regarding the Judge's Contract, an arrest warrant, speeding on city streets, and vehicles parked on sidewalks and easements.
- Mr. Israel Coronado voiced his concern regarding the crime stoppers program and abuse of power from the Police Department.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD DECEMBER 3, 2019.

Commissioner Benavidez stated the item on 11B needed a correction.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda with corrections stated.

Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala stated the Dome will be available for shelter due to the cold weather. Mr. Zavala addressed the audit being finalized and informed all of the Pictures with Santa Event on December 19, 2019.

Commissioner Benavidez stated he would like the meeting regarding the audit to be held at 6:00 pm.

8.) PRESENTATION AND UPDATES BY LEMC ON VARIOUS MERCEDES PROJECTS.

Mr. Hilario Ortiz provided the Commission with an update on the permit renewal on the Waste Water Treatment Plant, rotor repair, pump station, the Maryland detention pond, Hacienda Olivia construction, bond improvement projects, and the projects under construction. Mr. Ortiz updated the Commission on the sanitary sewer improvement project, Lyons subdivision, Mercedes development manual, Garza street drainage project and Camino Real improvements.

There was discussion regarding meeting requirements, line testing, sludge removal, diverting flood water and lift station rehab projects. There were questions regarding change orders and the timeline for the projects.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENTRAVISION CONTRACT.

Mr. Zavala stated the Contract will be for commercials to advertise the City. The Contract is for \$25,840.00 and will be funded from the Hotel Motel fund. The amount remained the same as the previous year.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to table the Entravision Contract. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was tabled unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SECURE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM (HB 2604) OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$13,500.00.

Fire Chief Ureste stated the City was awarded grant funding for protective equipment that will allow for four firefighters to suit up. The amount awarded was \$13,500 and the City will only pay ten percent (10%) which equates to \$1,350.00.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve item 10. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSAL TO REJECT ALL BIDS BY SOLID WASTE SERVICE COMPANIES, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RE-BID.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the bids and recommends rejecting all bids and authorize staff to re-bid.

After discussion, Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve item 11. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERCEDES POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MERCEDES CRIME STOPPERS.

Mr. Chavez informed the Commission about the Crime Stoppers Board. Officer Longoria briefed the Commission on his background as the Officer on the board. The Board consists of a President Dinocino Sanchez, Vice President Edwina S. Trevino, Treasurer Elizabeth Stenhouse, Secretary Diana Costilla, and member Daniel Salinas. Mr. Chavez stated the Crime Stoppers will be targeting drug and gang related activity.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve item 12. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT/REAPPOINTMENTS FROM DCM BOARD.

Ms. Rose Saenz was present to answer questions. There was discussion regarding absences whether excused or un-excused and the members that have been absent.

After discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to reappoint Joe Flores, Manuel Garza and to appoint David Garza to the DCM Board. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

14.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF GEO TECH (LAB TESTING) SERVICE FEE FOR LEMC VARIOUS PROJECTS.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission that the total cost of the projects is \$44,692.60. The primary project is the street overlay and the other projects involved are the Mercedes Sports Complex and the permeable sidewalk at 5th St. and Illinois. The lab testing will assure the maximized use and longevity of the paved streets and provide the needed sub-base for absorption of rain water.

After discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve item 14. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item was unanimously approved.

15.) TABLED: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON LEMC ENGINEERING CONTRACT.

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to un-table item 15. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item was approved unanimously.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission that Mr. Israel Gaona and Richard LeFevre has left the LEMC. Mr. Hilario Ortiz stated the Company is seeking a professional engineer for the local presence. There was discussion regarding the contract, having a local engineer, and the pending projects.

After discussion, Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to go out for RFQ's. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion dies due to Commissioner Hernandez and Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal voting against.

16.) DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

Department monthly reports are included in the packet for Commission's review.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:32 PM.

17.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT J. SAN MIGUEL – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal called the meeting back to order at 8:43 P.M.

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

-No Action.

-Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed with Commissioner Hernandez voting nay.

19.) ADJOURN.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.