

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2015 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor
Ruben Guajardo Mayor Pro-Tem
Jose M. Gomez Commissioner
Armando Lopez Commissioner
James Howard Wade, Jr. Commissioner
Juan Molina City Attorney
Ricardo Garcia City Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff: Amanda Morales, Hernan Gonzalez, Jaime Sandoval, Frank Rios, Arturo Garcia, and Carlos Olivares.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM.

A quorum of the commission was present.

3.) INVOCATION.

Commissioner Lopez led the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Gomez led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

Philip Zavala addressed the Commission regarding a complaint against the police department.

6.) Consent Agenda (Ordinance No. 98-21):

A.) Approval of Minutes for City Commission meeting (s) held August 4, and Special meeting of August 13, 2015. B.) Approval of request to open TIF bank account for TIRZ. C.) Approval of request to declare surplus inventory and authorize disposal.

D.) Approval of change Order No. 1 to contract with Pietra Construction LLC on the park pavilion at HEB park. (#2015/08/14A)

E.) Approval of change Order No. 2 to contract with Pietra Construction LLC for extension of time for weather days. (#2015/08/14B)

F.) Approval of interlocal agreement with County of Hidalgo for Operation Stonegarden Grant (#2014/08/14C).

Commissioner Lopez noted a correction to item 1 of the minutes for the meeting held August 4, 2015. Commissioner Gomez asked for clarification on the action taken at the meeting held August 13, 2015. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under Consent Agenda with the corrections to the minutes as noted above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

7.) Presentation and acceptance of grant from Knapp Community Care Foundation, Inc.

Bonnie Gonzalez and the board of directors of Knapp Community Care Foundation, Inc. presented the City Commission with a check for \$500,000 for fitness trail exercise stations to be placed along the walking trail at a new park near the Dome Shelter. There was no action taken on this item.

8.) Presentation of Development Corporation of Mercedes, Inc. monthly report.

EDC Executive Director Hernan Gonzalez updated the Commission on several projects including the construction of the Knapp Family Practice Residency Clinic, a multi-tenant industrial building, an amphitheater at the civic center and an event center at the Llano Grande Lake Park Resort. He also spoke about the Little Nashville events and Texas street Festival preparations. There was no action taken on this item.

9.) Discussion of agreements with respective baseball leagues.

City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that the lease agreements for use of the City fields had expired and a new schedule needs to be worked out between the three baseball leagues for the coming season. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo suggested asking the school district for use of their facilities. Commissioner Wade noted that improvements were needed at some of the fields and other facilities. Commissioner Lopez asked that representatives from all of the leagues work together to ensure that they are all able to use the fields. There was no action taken on this item.

10.) Discussion of proposed tax rate.

Finance Director Frank Rios explained that the commission is proposing the lower the tax rate by half a cent to \$0.76 per hundred dollar valuation. There was no action taken on this item.

11.) Presentation, discussion, and possible action of proposals received for delinquent tax attorney services.

There were two proposals submitted for delinquent tax attorney services from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, LLP and Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP. Each firm was allowed five minutes to make a presentation. After the presentations, Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to select Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed with Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo, and Commissioner Lopez voting in favor. Commissioners Wade and Gomez voted against it.

12.) Discussion and possible action on entering into agreement with Reyna Network, LLC for REDLG application.

This item would allow the Reyna Network to put together an application to the Rural Economic Development Loan Grant Program for a one million dollar interest free loan to help fund Mercedes Commercial Park. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve entering into agreement with Reyna Network, LLC for REDLG application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade. The motion passed with Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo, Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Lopez voting in favor of it. Commissioner Gomez voted against.

13.) Presentation of department monthly reports - Sidewalk and park work.
There was no action taken on this item.

14.) Discussion and possible action of preliminary and final plat for Las Margaritas Subdivision being a 5.28 acre tract of land out of Lot 2, Block 65, Capisallo District Subdivision, Mercedes, Hidalgo County.
Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve the preliminary and final plat for Las Margaritas subdivision being a 5.28 acre tract of land out of Lot 2, Block 65, Capisallo District Subdivision, Mercedes, Hidalgo County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

15.) Discussion and possible action of preliminary and final plat for El Norte Subdivision, being a 8.07 acre tract of land out of Lot 131, South Campacuas Addition, Mercedes, Hidalgo County.
Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the preliminary and final plat for El Norte subdivision, being a 8.07 acre tract of land out of Lot 131, South Campacuas addition, Mercedes, Hidalgo County.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

14.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

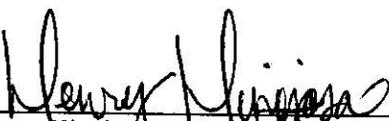
Discussion regarding duties and responsibilities of the City Manager. -Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 -Personnel.
Discussion regarding personnel. -Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 - Personnel.
Discussion regarding claim by E. J. Garcia. - Section 551.071 Texas Government Codes Annotated. -Possible Litigation.
Discussion regarding request by Salvador Garcia, Jr. - Section 551.072, Texas Government Codes Annotated. Real Estate.
Discussion regarding Commercial project by ZDG, LLC. - Section 551.087, Texas Government Codes Annotated. - Economic Development.
There was no action taken during Executive Session.

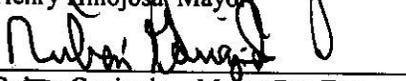
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 9:25 p.m.

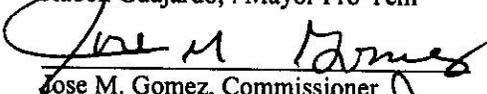
15.) Discussion and possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.
Commissioner Wade made a motion to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hinojosa and passed unanimously.

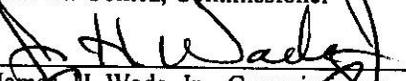
16.) Adjourn.

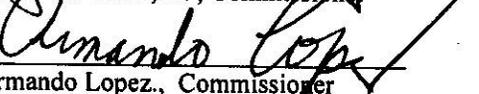
There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

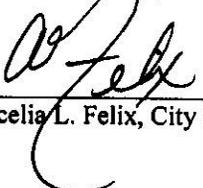

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


James H. Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner

ATTEST: 


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary