

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2016 -6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Armando Lopez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
	Ruben Guajardo	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, and Arturo Garcia.

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.

Uvaldo de los Santos said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Pro-tem Lopez led the pledge of allegiance.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD AUGUST 2, 2016. B.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2016-08 ADOPTING PERSONNEL POLICIES. C.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2016-09 APPROVING TEXAS GAS SERVICE 2016 COST OF SERVICE ADJUSTMENT. D.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO DECLARE SURPLUS INVENTORY AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL. E.) APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 TO CONTRACT WITH OG CONSTRUCTION CO. ON THE 2015 STREET, DRAINAGE & UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (#2016/08/16A). F.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY KOOL RIVER MEDIA FOR ASSISTANCE WITH POLICE OFFICERS AND CLEAN UP CREW FOR EVENT ON AUGUST 27, 2016.

At a question from Commissioner Wade, Mr. Garcia explained that the change order for OG construction was for extra time due to the relocation of some utility lines. Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and passed unanimously.

7.) PRESENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC. MONTHLY REPORT.

EDC Executive Director Hernan Gonzalez presented the Development Corporation's activities for the month of August. There was no action taken on this item.

8.) PRESENTATION OF 2016 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE 2016 PROPOSED TAX RATE AT A FUTURE MEETING AND APPROVING THE TWO PUBLIC HEARING DATES.

The current ad valorem tax rate is \$0.7550 per \$100 property valuation. Staff is recommending that the tax rate remain the same for the coming fiscal year. The effective rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Mercedes from the same properties in both the 2015 tax year and the 2016 tax year. The effective tax rate is \$0.7355 per \$100 valuation. Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate of \$0.755 and setting public hearings for Wednesday August 24 and Monday August 29, both hearings at 6pm in the Commission Room. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez and passed by the following vote: Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Lopez, Commissioner Guajardo, and Commissioner Wade voting in favor of it and Commissioner Gomez voting against it.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF RESOLUTION #2016-13 OPPOSING THE EFFORTS BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO NO LONGER APPLY THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTY PROGRAM TO OFF-SYSTEM (NON-TXDOT ROADWAYS) TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND

SPECIFICALLY HIDALGO COUNTY.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to approve resolution #2016-13 opposing the efforts by the Texas department of transportation to no longer apply the economically disadvantaged county program to off-system (non-TxDot roadways) transportation projects throughout the state and specifically Hidalgo County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO AMIGOS DEL VALLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (#2016/08/16B).

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Armando Lopez as a member to Amigos Del Valle board of directors and Commissioner Gomez as alternate member. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guajardo and passed unanimously.

11.) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

There was no action taken on this item.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

12.) 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.

There was no action taken during executive session.

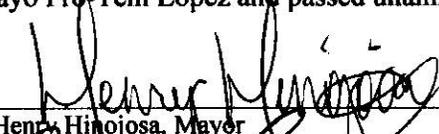
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:25 p.m.

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

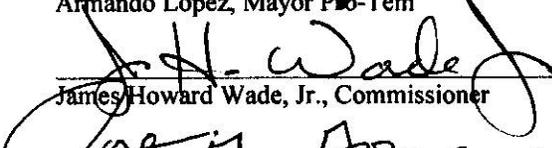
There was no action on this item.

14.) Adjourn.

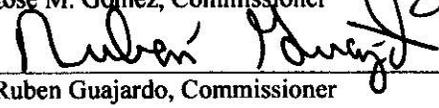
There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayo Pro-Tem Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor


Armando Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem

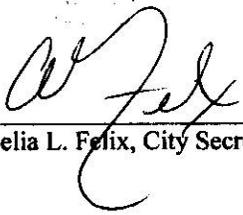

James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Ruben Guajardo, Commissioner



ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary