

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2016 -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, 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo led the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Commissioner Wade led the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

Armando Garcia of the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Committee invited the Commission and public to attend the Great American Trash-Off to be held the following Saturday.

Juan de los Santos thanked the Commission for their work on several projects.

Mario Ramirez read a statement regarding economic development.

Leonel Benavidez read a statement in support of Commissioner Gomez.

Petra Vidales spoke against the City observing Cesar Chavez day and the rules of decorum for the open forum section of City Commission meetings.

Yolanda Molina asked that the Commission work to install more sidewalks in certain areas and for video recordings of the City Commission meetings.

Esmer Guerrero spoke about the need for streets to be swept and an incident at the Housing Authority highrise. She also spoke about spending by the EDC.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD MARCH 15, 2016.B.)

APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HIDALGO COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

(#2016/04/05A) C.) APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY RELAY FOR LIFE. D.) RATIFY RESOLUTION #2015-16A PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITHIN THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

E.) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR WALKING TRAIL.

At a question from Commissioner Gomez regarding item 6E, City Manager Ricardo Garcia explained that no money had been expended on the walking trail and the total cost of the walking trail would not be known until the bids were actually received. The City has received a grant in the amount of \$500 thousand dollars to be used for the walking trail and park. Of that total amount \$100 Thousand dollars has been spent to purchase equipment for exercise stations along the trail. The remaining \$400 thousand dollars will be used in conjunction with other funding sources to cover the cost of the park and walking trail. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

7.) PRESENTATION OF AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015.

Quentin Anderson of City Audit firm Long, Chilton, LLP presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

There was no action taken on this item.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION #2016-04 AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED RESALE OF FORECLOSED REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE SECTION 34.05 (A), (C) AND(D).

Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-04 authorizing the proposed resale of foreclosed real estate properties pursuant to Texas property tax code section 34.05 (a), (c) and (d). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION #2016-05 ADOPTING THE HIDALGO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN 2016.

Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-05 adopting the Hidalgo County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

TO THE MERCEDES LIBRARY BOARD.

The terms of four members of the Library Board have expired and three of the members have expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the board. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to reappoint Yolanda Cruz, Deborah Benedict, and Lorri Marchant to the Library Board. There is still one vacancy on the board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.

11.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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-DISCUSSION REGARDING PROJECT RGVLS - SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

-DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE SALE OF LOT 2, PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PLAZA. - SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. -REAL ESTATE

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 7:44 p.m.

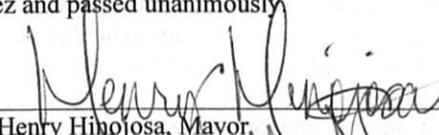
12.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

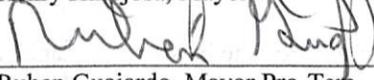
Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve Project RGVLS. This includes a grant in the amount of \$300 Thousand to the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show for improvements to the drainage, lighting and parking. The first installment of grant funds will be issued upon completion of the new parking area and annual installments of \$50 thousand will be issued on the anniversary of completion for five years. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo and passed with Mayor Hinojosa, Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo, Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Lopez voting in favor and Commissioner Gomez voting against it.

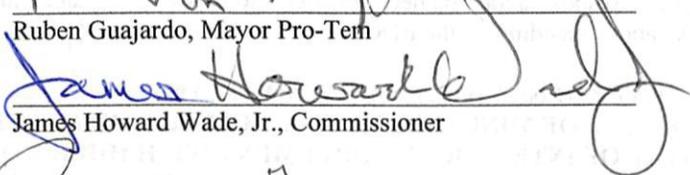
Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the sale of Lot 2, Professional Medical Plaza as for discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.

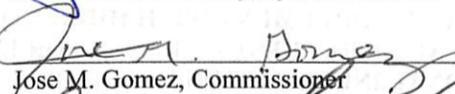
13.) ADJOURN.

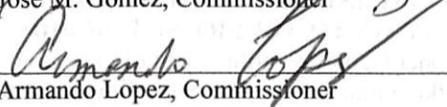
There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and passed unanimously.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

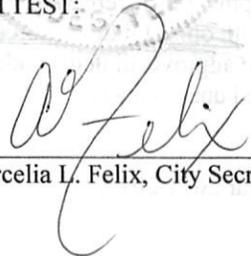

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Jose M. Gomez, Commissioner


Armando Lopez, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary

