

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES 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, Marisol Vidales, Saul Rodriguez, David Lopez, Mary Salinas, Salvador Hernandez, Jose Figueroa, and Joselynn Castillo.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Hinojosa welcomed everyone to the meeting 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 Leo Villarreal led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD OCTOBER 2, 2018. B.) RATIFY APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS. C.) RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE ACTION OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMBULANCE SALES AGREEMENT. D.) RATIFY ACTION OF THE INT. CITY MANAGER TO SOLICIT FOR SERVICES TO REMEDIATE/CLEAN A PORTION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING. E.) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-38 ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE SERVICE IN AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MERCEDES. F.) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH VIDA FOR FY 18-19. G.) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH MONTALVO INSURANCE FOR WC COVERAGE. (2018/10/16A)

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission about item E regarding a proposal on the ambulance board. Mr. Zavala stated the changes which would include 2 citizens on the board instead of 3 and 2 members of the Commission on the advisory board. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve items A-D & F and G and amend item E as proposed by Mr. Zavala. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Workers Comp contract is to add the three new firefighters/EMS.

6.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

Mr. Zavala commented about City Hall housing the Veteran's Office, Hidalgo County and Drainage Pct. 1 will be displaying their drainage projects in Weslaco, and announced the KMB's Give the Park a Spark event.

7.) PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT ON THE CITY'S NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN UNDER THE URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 32 (2019).

Mayor Hinojosa opened the Public Hearing at 6:06 pm. Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission that input is required from the Citizens in order to be in compliance with CDBG. Mr. Zavala stated the goals for the partnership and the eligible services for the program.

Anita Jenny and Annabelle Zuniga from Amigos del Valle were present and requested \$10,000. They serve 12 clients and 30 to 40 are served in the building. They currently have 35 people on the waiting list. Greg Hernandez from Nuestra Clinica Del Valle stated they focus on patient care, they provide health services to 125 adults and children and they are requesting \$15,000.

Mayor Hinojosa called for any further comments at which there were none and closed the public hearing at 6:12 pm.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE URBAN COUNTY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY OF HIDALGO.

Mr. Zavala explained to the Commission that the City has 4 years to expend the allocated funds in accordance with the rules. Mr. Zavala stated the City of Mercedes allotment has been set at \$266,440 and agrees to not have more than 1.5 times its annual allocation by April 30, 2019. There was discussion regarding increasing the amount to Nuestra Clinica Del Valle. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the Urban County Interlocal agreement with the City of Mercedes. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DOG PARK AS A CAPSTONE PROJECT BY GENESIS PEREZ, SUBJECT PROPERTY BEING HEB PARK.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding a meeting with Ms. Genesis Perez, a high school student, who proposed having a dog park south of the Basketball area at the HEB Park. At a question by Commissioner Wade Mr. Zavala stated that, other than the land, a water line is also required. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the development of a dog park. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

10.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROCURE THREE STREETLIGHT (CONCRETE) POLES FROM ENVIRO GROUP FROM CAMERON STREET WITHIN THE NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission that 3 street lights at the new industrial park had to be installed. The city received a quote for \$18,564 for the streetlight on a concrete pole, a solar panel per light and a camera. Mr. Zavala stated that Enviro Group is on Buyboard. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo stated he would like to request RFPs for the lighting at the Dome and Civic Center with solar panels. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve procuring three streetlight (concrete) poles from Enviro Group. Commissioner Hernandez had a question regarding there be no changes to the pricing due to no signature. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT TO JIMMY CLOUSER & SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MERCEDES LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVISION.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the final payment to Jimmy Clouser & Sons Construction Company. Mr. Zavala stated it was reviewed by Guzman & Munoz and recommends approval. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to approve the final payment. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MERCEDES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

Marisol Vidales addressed the Commission regarding 3 members' terms that have expired. The members are Jodie Martinez, Hilda Thompson, and Marissa Wallace. All three member wish to continue serving on the board, which if approved, will continue serving until October 4, 2020. Commissioner Wade made a motion to re-appoint all three members to the board. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RENEWAL CONTRACT FOR LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES FROM THE LAW FIRM OF JUAN MOLINA.

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding the contract for legal services from the Law firm of Juan Molina. Mr. Zavala stated there were some additions of terms and a retainer fee was included instead of an hourly basis charge. Commissioner Hernandez had a question on the contract regarding ownership of documents. She would like to see more specifics with 30 days to return documents and property belonging to the city. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve the renewal of contract with Law Firm of Juan Molina and to include the conditions Commissioner Hernandez stated. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

14.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO HAVE THE CITY OF WESLACO PROVIDE TEMPORARY UTILITY SERVICES TO THE NEIGHBORING ADAMS TRACT 6.36 ACRES EXC. 0.25 ACRE FOR H/S FT. 1025 (6.11 ACRE NET; AKA CORTINO'S)

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission on the Interlocal Agreement with City of Weslaco to provide temporary utilities services to Cortino's. Mr. Zavala met with Weslaco's Utility Supervisors and Mr. Cortino and all agreed it would be helpful for the City of Weslaco provide the utility services. The services would then be disengaged once Mercedes provides the 10" water line in 2019 and engage with Mercedes' utility system. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco as presented above. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

15.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACT ON THE CITY OF WESLACO'S ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CONTRACT.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission regarding the renewal contract with the City of Weslaco for animal care services. Mr. Zavala stated the contract will be a pay as you go service. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve renewing the animal care service contract with the City of Weslaco. Commissioner Villarreal had a question on the second contract with Palm Valley. Mr. Zavala stated last year the fee was \$19,000 and this year it increased to \$38,000. Commissioner Villarreal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

16.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTON TO AWARD MANHOLE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT. (AUTO ZONE'S ALLEY AREA)

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission regarding replacing a manhole located in the alley area near Auto Zone. The City received 3 quotes from Escarba Line, LLC for \$24,600, JDG Construction for \$32,500, and Omit Utilities for \$34,600. Commissioner Villarreal asked if the City Engineer had reviewed the quotes at which Mr. Zavala confirmed. Commissioner Villarreal made a motion to award the contract to Escarba Line, LLC in the amount of \$24,600. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

17.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR SECURITY CAMERAS AT RECREATION CENTER.

Saul Rodriguez addressed the Commission about the proposals received for security cameras at the Recreation Center. The project was to replace cameras damaged by the flood. The proposal was for 20 security cameras, 1

network video recorder, and 1 monitor. The proposals came from VTX1 for \$10,499.39, American Surveillance for \$7,146.20, and Superior Alarms for \$13,295.00. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo made a motion to approve American Surveillance for \$7,146.20. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

18.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE SEWER RATE(S) FOR MULTI-FAMILY/SMALL BUSINESS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS (OCL)

Mr. Zavala addressed the Commission saying that the sewer rate for Multi-family/Small Business that is outside city limits had been omitted from the 2018-33 Ordinance. Commissioner Wade made a motion to approve the ordinance to include sewer rates for Multi-Family/Small Business outside City limits. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

19.)MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

The monthly department reports are included for the Commission to review.

20.)OPEN FORUM:

Elvia Sandoval addressed the Commission about an incident with their sewer. She commended the public works employees that assisted and said they are knowledgeable and gave thanks for their work. Jose Gomez addressed the Commission regarding open records and payment of legal fees for a council member. Leonel Benavidez addressed the Commission regarding City Secretary Department and open records. He also commented on the election recall and the city secretary and the mayor cannot serve on the recall committee. No one else signed up for open forum.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into executive session at 6:51 pm. No action will be taken at this time.

21.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-DISCUSSION REGARDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER. – SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE ANNOTATED. – PERSONNEL.
-DISCUSSION REGARDING MED-CARE AMBULANCE SERVICE – SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED. – POTENTIAL LITIGATION.
-DISCUSSION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERCEDES, INC. MARKETING PLAN – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SECTION 551.087, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODES ANNOTATED – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

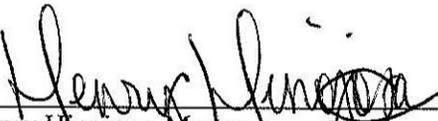
Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 8:23 P.M.

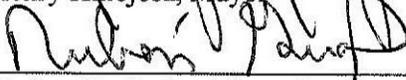
22.)DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ITEM(S) DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Guajardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

23.) ADJOURN.

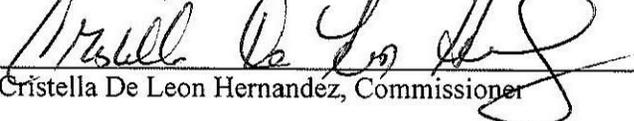
Mayor Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wade seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.


Henry Hinojosa, Mayor

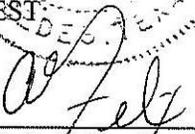

Ruben Guajardo, Mayor Pro-Tem


James Howard Wade, Jr., Commissioner


Leo Villarreal, Commissioner


Cristella De Leon Hernandez, Commissioner




Arcelia L. Felix, City Secretary