

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Henry Hinojosa	Mayor
	Leandro Villarreal	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Leonel Benavidez	Commissioner
	Cristella De Leon Hernandez	Commissioner
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Sergio Zavala	City Manager
	Anthony Troiani	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Dagoberto Chavez	ACM/Police Chief
	Jose Figueroa	Public Works Director
	Hugo Perales	I.T Director
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Michelle Muniz	Asst. Library Director
	Richard Morin	Recreational Director
	Martin Johnson	Asst. Rec. Director
	Orlando Diaz	Lieutenant
	Enrique Espinoza	Police Officer
	Kristine Longoria	City Secretary Clerk

**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 quorum.

**3.) INVOCATION.**

Dr. Rene Vega was voice for those present by expressing an inspired invocation.

**4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Commissioner Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5.) OPEN FORUM-**

- Laura Alvarado shared her concerns about the issues with the sewer that contaminated her home due to pressured water being used to clear the sewer pipes.
- Giovanna Trevino would like to know how to file a complaint on someone sitting on the city panel due to the decisions they've made for the city, for not knowing city procedures and not taking the time to handle critical situations.
- Maricela Gonzalez was called but declined to speak.
- Daniel Valdez explains Grants to city, on how they benefit, how to apply and provides a list of grants available. Mr. Valdez also expresses his concerns on public safety and shares ideas on how to improve by employees taking a CPR Certification classes and bike patrol to engage more with the community.
- Julianne Moore is concerned about a street on Mile 2E Road that has not been seen by the city and wants it to be repair and wants the speed limit to be reduced due to children being in the area.
- Commissioner Benavides encouraged citizens to be involved in the elections and expressed concern with non-employees are managing city social media accounts.
- Esmeralda Guerrero is concerned about the Audit workshop with the council not attending. She also mentions the Christmas tree not being completely paid for and wants honesty by the members.

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

**A.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING (S) HELD JANUARY 7, 2020.**

Commissioner Benavidez stated corrections to the minutes regarding open forum to add HB 24 to Ms. Dominguez concern and item 6 on typing the name of the firm for the previous minutes. Mayor Hinojosa made a correction to item 8 of the minutes to remove the word 'not', due to the item being passed unanimously.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve the items under consent agenda with corrections sited. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

**7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.**

Mr. Zavala addressed the concern from Ms. Guerrero in open forum and stated the Christmas tree and street crossings are still being paid for and the final payment is in February of 2021. Mr. Zavala stated he has received a response from the School District Superintendent Dr. Mendiola in order to have a meeting with the City Commission on February 12 at 6:00 PM at City Hall.

**8.) PRESENTATION OF 2019 SERVICE REPORT BY THE HIDALGO COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE.**

Mr. Felix Rodriguez thanked the Commission for the Facility and presented the new staff which included Mr. Samuel Perez, Ms. Alma Martinez, and Ms. Criselda Garcia. Mr. Perez stated there were 421 veterans that have been serviced in the Mercedes Office and over the phone due to some veterans calling from out of state. Mr. Perez stated there is a grant for half a million dollars that will help offset medical expenses for the veterans. There was discussion regarding an MOU to extend the number of days the veterans services can be at the Mercedes Office.

No action required for this item.

**9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE CITY OF MERCEDES FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMS. (ARMANDO MARTINEZ)**

Mr. Armando Martinez addressed the Commission regarding an agreement with Texas A&M for continuing education for the personnel.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve item 9. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was approved unanimously.

**10.) PRESENTATION OF BILLING REVENUE REPORT OF FILE EMS BY ARMANDO MARTINEZ.**

Mr. Armando Martinez presented to the Commission the report for EMS. Mr. Martinez stated the City received 213 calls from May 2019 to December of 2019. The City received \$187,737.63 in revenues which does not include December numbers. Commissioner Benavidez stated he would like a meeting with the ambulance board in March regarding EMS. No action required for this item.

At this time the Commission moved to item 10A of the Addendum.

**11.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON INTER-LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY HIDALGO AND THE CITY OF MERCEDES FOR EDUCATIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

Mr. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca addressed the Commission regarding an interlocal agreement between Hidalgo County and the City of Mercedes for Health Care Services. Mr. Cabeza de Vaca stated a grant by UT Health in Houston will provide educational health services to the City for free and the City is to provide the facility (Civic Center).

After brief discussion, Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve the interlocal cooperation agreement by and between the County Hidalgo and the City of Mercedes. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

**12.) PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS: PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT HEADS: (A) RECREATIONAL CENTER (B) LIBRARY DEPARTMENT (C) FIRE DEPARTMENT (D) FINANCE DEPARTMENT (E) POLICE DEPARTMENT (F) PUBLIC WORKS (G) I.T. DEPARTMENT (H) CITY SECRETARY, AND (I) PLANNING DEPARTMENT.**

Every department presented to the Commission the 2019 accomplishments and the 2020 goals. Mayor Hinojosa called for the first presentation to be from the Fire Department and then to continue in order.

Fire Department presentation by Mr. Armando Martinez, Administrator of Record EMS

Recreational Center presentation by Mr. Richard Morin, Recreational Center Director and Mr. Martin Johnson Asst. Rec. Director.

Library presentation by Ms. Marisol Vidales, Library Director.

Finance Department presentation by Ms. Nereida Perez, Finance Director.

Police Department presentation by Mr. Dagoberto Chavez Jr, Police Chief.

Public Works presentation by Mr. Jose Figueroa, Public Works Director.

I.T Department presentation by Mr. Hugo Perales, I.T Director

City Secretary presentation by Ms. Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary and Ms. Kristine Longoria, City Secretary Clerk.  
Planning Department presentation by Mr. Sergio Zavala, City Manager.  
All department presentations were followed by a Q&A session.

**13.) PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON VARIOUS PROJECTS BY LEMC.**

Mr. Chris Franke presented to the Commission updates on the various projects by LEMC. The updates included Hacienda Olivia Subdivision, Bond projects, the Mercedes Water Treatment Plant, Solid Removal Project, Lift Station Rehab projects, and Lyons Street. Mr. Chris Franke presented the local representative for LEMC, Mr. Juan Morales. Commissioner Benavidez recommended that the local representative be at least an Engineer in training. (EIT) Mr. Zavala agreed.

No action required on this item.

**14.) DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SELECT A VENDOR FOR THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL SERVICES TO THE CITY.**

Mr. Figueroa informed the Commission that the City sought bids for Fuel services. Two bids came in from the following: Picco Propane – Gas is \$1.78 and Diesel is \$2.3758

Oil Patch – Gas is \$1.66 and Diesel is \$2.2337

Mr. Figueroa recommends Oil Patch, the lowest bidder.

After brief discussion, Commission Benavidez made a motion to select Oil Patch in the amounts stated. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

**15.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01 CALLING THE 2020 CITY OFFICER'S ELECTION.**

Ms. Castillo addressed the Commission regarding the calling of the election for Mayor, Commissioner Place 1 and Commissioner Place 3. There was discussion regarding the price if the City selected to have the voting times from 7 am to 7 pm.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to table the ordinance calling the election and bring back with prices. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

**16.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF PURCHASING BODY ARMOR AND UNIFORMS TO EQUIP 32 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. PURCHASE FROM GALLS BUY BOARD VENDOR. AMOUNT TOTAL OF \$25,647.00, BEING WITHIN CURRENT LINE ITEM BUDGET.**

Mr. Chavez addressed the Commission regarding purchasing body armor and uniforms for 32 Law enforcement officers. Mr. Chavez stated all the officers will have 4 uniforms and can be available in approximately one month. The equipment and uniforms can be purchased with the current budget through a buy board vendor.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to approve the purchase of body armor and uniforms in the amount of \$25,647. Commissioner Benavidez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was approved unanimously.

**17.) MONTHLY REPORTS.**

The monthly reports are included in the packet for Commission to review.

At this item the Mayor moved to item 17A of the Addendum.

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting into Executive Session at 9:55 PM. No action will be taken at this time.

**18.) EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(2) FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING PRIVILEGE ATTORNEY CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071(1) REGARDING PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION.**

Mayor Hinojosa called the meeting back to order at 10:35 PM.

**19.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Mayor Hinojosa made a motion for the Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was passed unanimously.

**20.) ADJOURN**

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 PM.

## ADDENDUM

### **10A.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERCEDES AND THE HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.**

Mr. Armando Martinez informed the Commission on the Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Ambulance Services between the City of Mercedes and Hidalgo County ESD 2. Mr. Martinez stated the agreement will allow the ESD 2 to reimburse the City of Mercedes for services provided to the area. Mr. Romero, a representative from ESD 2, informed the Commission that they are currently seeking bids. There was discussion regarding the housing of the units. Mayor Hinojosa recommended that the Ambulance's stay in Mercedes.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement as is with the Hidalgo County Emergency Services District #2. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

### **17A.) TABLED: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT FOR FY 17-18 BY BURTON MCCUMBER & LONGORIA.**

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to un-table item 17A. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed unanimously.

There was brief discussion regarding requesting information prior to the meeting on the audit for FY 17-18.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to accept the Audit for FY 17-18 contingent upon the 41 adjustments and corrective measures being provided to the Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item passed with Commissioner Gomez voting nay.