

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2023 – 8:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Mayor  
Jacob Howell Commissioner  
Armando Garcia Commissioner  
Ruben Saldana Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jose Martinez Commissioner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Alberto Perez City Manager  
Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney  
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary  
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager  
Nereida Perez Finance Director  
Meredith Hernandez Chief Accountant  
Michael Rocha I.T Manager  
David Jimenez I.T Manager  
Francisco

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:35 P.M.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Four members of the Commission were present which constitutes a quorum.  
Commissioner Howell was absent.

**3. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Saldana said the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Garcia led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

No citizen signed up for open forum.

Commissioner Garcia motioned to move to item 8. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded.  
Commissioner Garcia rescinded his motion and to move to item 7. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. (Move to item 7)

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Discussion with City Manager regarding personnel matters – Section 551.074
- b. Consultation with Attorney regarding legal update – Section 551.071
- c. Consultation with Attorney and Financial Advisors regarding Tax Rate – Section 551.071

**7. OPEN SESSION: Discussion and Presentation regarding the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024.**

Mr. Perez presented to the Commission the departments needs and cooperation with the budget. Budget went from \$15Mil to \$14 Mil for FY 23-24. Mr. Perez spoke on the

following, 10<sup>th</sup> Street project is still budgeted, Mile 1 East Project, Sidewalk Projects, Street/ pothole repairs, Master plan, pothole patcher and sealer, street sweeper, orange street ditch, Capisallo Terrace, PD building, Reybec obligation, County balance for street repairs, tank repairs, cutting back sludge costs for utilities, Mile 8 sewer extension, Gate 3 drainage improvements, Outlet Mall Payment. Mayor Montoya had two concerns, 1. with the boom arm for mowing, if its needed and could it be used for other work. 2. Paving repairs for sidewalks and paving, paving increased \$7K and sidewalks decreased. Mr. Ramirez stated there is county funding for paving. Commissioner Martinez asked if city will be taking over the maintenance of the ditches and is there enough manpower. He asked about the warranty for the Kinloch. Mr. Perez stated they included vehicles for Animal Control and Public Works. Commissioner Martinez would like to increase the amount for park maintenance, fencing in the baseball fields, and to charge for the use of the fields. Mr. Perez stated he is in communication with Grants Coordinator for mobile cameras for illegal dumping. Mayor Montoya asked about purchasing a system to electronically lock the buildings in the parks and have a code to open the building. Mr. Perez informed the commission that they budgeted for increases for the staff that did not get an increase last year. The removal of the city hall floors will cost about \$30K. Mr. Perez stated they took the conservative approach. The city included a 13% increase for Health Insurance. Commissioner Martinez would like to see a maintenance plan on the A/C units for all departments. Mr. Perez stated the Police Departments AC units were looked at and there were pinholes in the coil. Ms. Garcia-Vela recommended to reach out to legal with any issues so she can help out. The sweeper is also included in the budget.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go back to item 6. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 9:20 P.M.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 11:35 P.M.

**8. Discussion and Approval of proposed 2023 Tax Rate.**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the last years rate. Garcia Seconded. Commissioner Garcia, Mayor Montoya, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana and Commissioner Martinez all voted for the proposed tax rate to remain the same.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 p.m.