

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 26, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Oscar D. Montoya, Mayor  
Dr. Ruben J. Saldana Mayor Pro-Tem  
Dr. Jacob C. Howell Commissioner  
Armando Garcia Commissioner  
Joe Martinez Commissioner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Alberto Perez City Manager  
Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney(virtual),  
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary  
Meredith Hernandez Interim Finance Director  
Michael Rocha I.T Specialist  
Juan Vasquez I.T Technician  
Ruth Valdez Executive Admin

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Mayor Montoya, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana, Commissioner Howell and Commissioner Garcia were present which constitutes a quorum. Commissioner Martinez arrived during item 5B.

**3. INVOCATION**

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana said the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Garcia.

**5. BIDS/CONTRACTS:**

**a. Approval of Subscription Extension for Atera**

Mr. Rocha requested an extension on the subscription for Atera for remote access and antivirus services for the city. The options presented were a 1-year extension at \$9,840 or a 3-years extension at \$8,364 per year. The costs are currently budgeted. The recommendation was to move forward. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. This allows I.T to troubleshoot from home working remotely.

**b. Approval of Subscription Extension for Lucidpoint**

Mr. Rocha discussed Lucidpoint as the provider for Google Workspace. He presented a proposal of \$25,925 for the next 3 years, which would cover approximately 180 workstations and around 300 devices in total, including phones. Commissioner Martinez arrived during the discussion of this item. The Commission voted on items 5B and 5C together.

**c. Approval of recommended website platform contract**

Mr. Rocha informed that this item is the recommendation for the website platform. The payment plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year includes a one-time cost of \$20,030, followed by an annual fee of \$7,630 until 2029-30. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve both items 5B and C, with Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconding. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The website will be transitioned and is expected to be ready by mid-February, with training provided to staff.

**6. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**a. PUBLIC HEARING regarding the proposed Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024**

Ms. Hernandez stated the city is increasing the tax rate by \$0.01 cent to \$0.7850. Mayor Montoya opened the public hearing at 6:47 p.m. Mayor Montoya closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m. There were no comments from the public.

**i. Approval of First Reading and Second Reading as per section 2.13 of the City Charter to adopt Ordinance 2024-09 levying ad valorem taxes for the Tax Year 2024 for Maintenance and Operations of the Municipal Government of the City of Mercedes, Texas for the Fiscal Year 2025 (Record Vote Required)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana moved to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Commissioner Howell voted aye, Commissioner Garcia voted aye, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana voted aye, Commissioner Martinez voted aye, Mayor Montoya voted aye.

**ii. Approval of first reading and second reading as per section 2.13 of the City Charter to adopt Ordinance 2024-09 providing for the Interest and Sinking fund for the Fiscal Year 2025, of the Municipal Government of the City of Mercedes, Texas General Obligation Bonds (Record Vote Required)**

Commissioner Martinez moved to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Commissioner Martinez voted aye, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana voted aye, Commissioner Garcia voted aye, Commissioner Howell voted aye, and Mayor Montoya voted aye.

**ADDEDNUM:**

- b. Approval of Ordinance 2024-10 regarding water rate  
This item was tabled. Mr. Perez announced that the city will have a special meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2024 to discuss the water rate.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting into executive session at 6:55 p.m.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), Section 551.072 (Deliberation regarding Real Property), Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and Section 551.087 (Economic Development)*

- a. **Discussion with City Manager regarding personnel matters – Section 551.074**
- b. **Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation -Section 551.071**
- c. **Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071**

**8. OPEN SESSION:** Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:26 p.m.

- a. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item a**  
No Action was taken on this item.
- b. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item b**  
No Action was taken on this item.
- c. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item c**  
No Action was taken on this item.

**9. Adjournment**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.