

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Mayor
Armando Garcia Commissioner
Joe Martinez Commissioner
Dr. Jacob Howell Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Ruben Saldana Mayor Pro-Tem

STAFF PRESENT: Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager
Nereida R. Perez Finance Director
David Jimenez I.T Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Valdez

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Four Members of the Commission were present which constitutes a quorum. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana was absent. Commissioner Martinez arrived during item 7.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Garcia led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held November 21, 2023

Commissioner Garcia motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2023-14 regarding elections and political signs.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to postpone Ordinance 2023-14. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

a. Approval of Request for facility Agreement with Hidalgo County Elections Department for Elections held in 2024

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with City of Weslaco for Animal Care Services

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Memorandum Agreement between City of Mercedes and the Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Task Force Partnership, Inc.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Howell motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 6:40 p.m.

9. 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 code of ordinances – Section 551.071**
- d. **Consultation with Attorney regarding update on Master Plan – Section 551.071**
- e. **Consultation with Attorney regarding Housing Authority Affordable Housing – 551.072**

10. OPEN SESSION:

- a. **Item A from Executive Session**
No action was taken on this item.
- b. **Item B from Executive Session**
No action was taken on this item.
- c. **Item C from Executive Session**
No action was taken on this item.
- d. **Item D from Executive Session**
No action was taken on this item.
- e. **Item E from Executive Session**

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve as discussed in executive session approval of PILOT Program not to exceed \$40,000. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Garcia motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.