

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Mayor
Ruben Saldana Mayor Pro-Tem
Jacob Howell Commissioner
Armando Garcia Commissioner
Joe 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
Michael Rocha I.T Manager
Kristine Longoria Human Resources
Marisol Vidales Library Director
Francisco Sanchez Int. Police Chief
Reynaldo Alegria Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Meredith Hernandez, Jesus Rodriguez

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 at this time which constitutes a quorum. Commissioner Martinez was stuck in traffic and arrived during the presentations.

3. Invocation

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana said the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Howell led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. Presentations

a. Recognition of Mr. Orlando Trevino

Mayor Montoya informed the public about Mr. Trevino's accomplishments which include helping adults with special needs gain the social skills. Thanked Mr. Trevino for going the extra mile. Ms. Imelda Trevino, his mother-in-law, Mr. Trevino's parents and daughter and son-in-law. Mr. Trevino thanked the commission for recognizing him for the national award he received for his program. One of his students finished his certificate to become a security guard and showed to other students that they can do it. Commissioner Martinez arrived at this time. Commissioner Howell expressed his appreciation for the dedication Mr. Trevino has for the students and the community. Commissioner Garcia congratulated Mr. Trevino.

b. Proclamation for Ms. Elida "Leah" Hinojosa

Mayor Montoya read the proclamation for Ms. Elida "Leah" Hinojosa for her 100 years of life. Mayor Montoya stated the family could not be present for the meeting but he will be delivering the proclamation.

6. Open Forum-

No one signed up for open forum.

7. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held July 18, 2023 & August 10, 2023

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Ordinances/Resolutions: *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

- a. **Approval of Resolution 2023-17 in support of the “One Region, One Voice” initiative.**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve and forego the reading. Commissioner Howell seconded. Commissioner Martinez had a concern with section 3 for the financial costs. Mayor Montoya stated that this is still in the works and all cities will be participating. Mr. Perez stated they reached out for partnership and to possibly do tours of the city. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated they had a great meeting with the County Judge about bringing all the cities together for this initiative. Commissioner Howell is in favor of the initiative. Mayor Ramiro Garza from Edinburg spearheaded this initiative. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2023-07 to rezone Garden Park Lot 11 Block 19 from Class “B” Two Family Residential to Class “B” Business Applicant: Juan B. Vargas**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve and forego the reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Commissioner Martinez supports local business and applauds the business for expanding. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2023-08 to rezone Mercedes Original Townsite Lot 6 Block 21 from Class “B” Two Family Residential to Class “C” Apartment Applicant: Mercedes Metro Investments – Mark Van Berg**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve and forego the reading. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Mr. Ramirez stated this is an effort to clean up the zoning areas in the city. Mr. Van Berg applied to rezone to make it a multi-family and will now be required to pave. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2023-09 to rezone South Campacuas ADDN E101.80’ - W316.80’ N CLN FT Lot 136, 1.06 Acres from Class “B” Business to Class “C” Apartment District Applicant: John & Maida Pajares**
Commissioner Howell motioned to approve and forego the reading. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Mr. Ramirez stated they have the property next to Tacolandia and allowed an easement for the city to add lines. Mr. Ramirez stated the northern part of the property will be commercial and will have apartments in the back. At a question, Mr. Ramirez stated it a mix use. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- e. **PUBLIC HEARING regarding the proposed budget for FY 23-24.**
Mayor Montoya opened the Public Hearing at 6:58 P.M.
There were no citizens commenting on the Public Hearing for the proposed budget for FY 23-24.
Mayor Montoya closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 P.M.
- f. **Approval of first reading and second reading as per section 2.13 of the City Charter to adopt emergency Ordinance 2023-10 to adopt the City of Mercedes Budget for FY 23-24.**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the first and second reading. Commissioner Howell seconded. Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Garcia, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana, Commissioner Martinez and Mayor Montoya voted in favor of the budget. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
9. **Bids/Contracts: Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:**
- a. **Approval to Ratify the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Weslaco and the City of Mercedes for the housing of prisoners.**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. At a question, Interim Chief Sanchez stated there is a 30 written notice to opt out of the agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana asked if the city can keep the contract even if the PD building opens up. Interim Chief Sanchez stated they have a great relationship with City of Weslaco. Mayor Montoya stated that to have a city to have an unsecure location the citizens of Mercedes deserve much better. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Approval of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Mercedes and the County of Hidalgo Urban County Program**
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated the city has 4 years to spend the funds. One of the projects is Virginia, 10th Street. Mr. Ramirez stated that the funds will remain the same but will be mostly for 10th Street. Ms. Perez stated that Urban County funds are allotted to the city and is not part of the budget. Mr. Perez stated that the city needs to follow the process set by Urban County and they manage all the procurement process. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Monthly Departmental Reports:

a. Library, Finance, Public Works, Recreation, Fire, City Sec/HR

Mr. Perez recognized the new public works director Mr. Reynaldo Alegria. Mr. Alegria stated he has a lot of expectations for himself and staff. He is up for the challenge and has begun handling some of the tasks that were pending. He stated he will have a team of four staff members for the storm. Mr. Alegria informed the Commission regarding his background. He is here to help and serve the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana welcomed Mr. Alegria to the City of Mercedes. Mayor Montoya stated that the trash accumulated on the inlets is what was stopping the water flow at the last rain event.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 7:26 p.m.

11. 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

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:16 p.m. Mayor Montoya stated that Vernon Hoover that he was watching ESPN and a softball coach was asked what was the toughest team they have played and they said Mercedes, TX. Commissioner Garcia announced the Texas Street Festival.

12. Open Session: Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:

a. Item A from Executive Session

b. Item B from Executive Session

No Action was taken on item A and B from executive session.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.