

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 28, 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 (Virtually)
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager
Nereida Perez Finance Director
David Jimenez I.T Manager
Marisol Vidales Library Director
Reynaldo Alegria Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Valdez, Meredith Hernandez

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

All members of the Commission were present which constitutes a full quorum.

3. INVOCATION

Saldana

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Howell

5. OPEN FORUM-

No one signed up for open forum.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 6:33 P.M.

6. 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 and Financial Advisors regarding Tax Rate – Section 551.071**
- d. Consultation with Attorney and City Manager regarding Insurance Assistance – Section 551.071**

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 7:20 P.M.

7. OPEN SESSION: Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:

- 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.**

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. 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**
- b. 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**

- c. **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 Martinez motioned to approve and waive the second readings for consent agenda items A through C. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. **PUBLIC HEARING regarding the proposed tax rate for Tax Year 2023.**

Mayor Montoya opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 P.M.

There were no citizens commenting on the Public Hearing for the proposed tax rate for Tax Year 2023.

Mayor Montoya closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 P.M.

- b. **Approval of first reading and second reading as per section 2.13 of the City Charter to adopt Ordinance 2023-11 levying ad valorem taxes for the Tax Year 2023 for Maintenance & Operations of the Municipal Government of the City of Mercedes, Texas for the Fiscal Year 2024.**

Mayor Montoya read aloud Ordinance 2023-11 in its entirety. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana moved to approve the ordinance subject to adjustments so that it reflects the tax rate in dollars. Commissioner Howell seconded. Mayor Montoya stated that the numbers will not change. At a question, Mr. Perez stated the tax rate remained the same. Commissioner Howell voted aye, Commissioner Garcia voted aye, Mayor Montoya voted aye, Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana voted aye, and Commissioner Martinez voted aye.

- c. **Approval of First Reading and second reading as per section 2.13 of the City Charter to adopt Ordinance 2023-11 providing for the interest and sinking fund of the fiscal year 2024, of the Municipal Government of the City of Mercedes, Texas General Obligation bonds.**

Legal recommended to approve with changes to grammar on a few words and stated a record vote is needed. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana moved to approve the reading with grammar changes. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Commissioner Howell voted to approve, Commissioner Garcia voted to approve. Mayor Montoya voted to approve. Rate will remain the same there were only grammatical errors to be corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.