

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr.	Mayor
	Joe Martinez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Leonel Benavidez	Commissioner
	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Ruben Saldana	Commissioner-Elect
	Armando Garcia	Commissioner-Elect

MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
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STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Kristine Longoria	Human Resources
	Ervin Vilchis	IT Assistant
	Blanca Sanchez	Interim Chief of Police
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Joaquin Hernandez	Public Works Director
	Richard Morin	Recreation Direction
	Javier Campos	Fire Chief
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Axel Vallejo, Brianna Casares, Francisco Sanchez, Isaias Rodriguez, Pedro Estrada, Jesus Rodriguez, Orlando Diaz, Urbano Lopez,

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 Martinez arrived during the invocation.

3. INVOCATION

Mayor Montoya said the Invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Saldana led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Ramon Mejia addressed the Commission about item 8A of the agenda regarding the AC units at the Dome. He stated the AC is meant to last 20 years. He recommends calling the installer because they can repair the units. He stated next time he recommends buying a service contract for maintenance. Mr. Mejia added that if the ACs are repaired they may last another 15 years.

- Ms. Guerrero congratulated the new commissioners. She asked that they keep in mind the oath the commission took to faithfully execute the laws. She stated that the people were disappointed with how it was handled. She stated that there was a lot of lies. The outcome was low and people were being intimidated and didn't want to come out to vote. She asked that the Commission keep the community informed and thanked Commissioner Benavidez for always keeping the community informed.
- Mr. Leonel Benavidez informed the Commission and residents about the importance of being informed. He stated everyone can send an open records request to the City Secretary's office. He stated its always best to see the information yourself. He added that a petition was filed and information kept changing regarding costs and added that everyone involved was open minded and contacted proper authorities. He stated there is no shame in submitting open records request.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held May 3, 2022.

b. Approval of surplus items for auction.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve consent agenda items A & B. Commissioner Benavidez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Management Items: *Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

a. Organizing and preparing for the 2022 Hurricane Season.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez and Commissioner Howell requested this item. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez stated that staff has identified areas to clean. He stated he would like staff to start cleaning out the drains and cleaning the ditches owned by the City to be ahead of the curb in the event of a storm. Commissioner Howell added about having a committee to have input on the projects going on. Mr. Perez stated that staff has had a planning meeting for hurricane preparedness. He added that the plan is being updated and KMB wanted to assist in cleaning inlets. Mr. Perez asked for volunteers to assist in the cleaning events. Commissioner Benavidez stated that a committee can be placed on the next meeting due to it not being stated on the agenda. Mayor Montoya stated that if the City picks up more brush than on the contract then it will cost money. Mayor Montoya stated that there are many regulations for assistance from FEMA and residents will need to have insurance at least 30 days prior to a named storm and asked for the PIO to put advertise the importance of getting flood insurance. Mr. Perez stated that the fourth detention pond has been completed. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez stated to go through the Chamber of Commerce to provide more information about flood insurance and to emphasize on the areas that flood for brush pick up. Commissioner Howell asked for a plan of action to be put in place. No action.

b. Request to seek bids for the Mercedes Dome A/C units

Mr. Perez stated that there are three units out at the Dome. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve the request for bids due to the summer and to keep the kids that attend the dome cool during their games. Commissioner Howell seconded. Mr. Richard Morin stated that the AC units were installed in 2015.

Commissioner Benavidez stated that he would like a report. Mr. Perez stated the city is requesting for someone to check the units and see the what can be done. Mr. Morin stated that the machines has only one-year warranty and the he reached out to the manufacturer and their recommendation was to replace the units. Commissioner Saldana recommended to have a longer warranty if the item is replaced. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. BIDS/CONTRACTS: *Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*
a. Updated Facility Use Agreement with the American Red Cross and the City of Mercedes

Chief Campos stated that the agreement is an update and the previous agreement had the previous Mayor and Fire Chief to activate the shelter. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Benavidez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Commissioner Saldana commended the Library for their report and the level of detail they provide in their report. He asked about some acronyms used in the PD report and thanked them for their service. Commissioner Howell thanked the PD for National Police week. No action required for this item.

Mayor called the meeting into executive session at 7:01 P.M.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. Consultation with Attorney regarding update on legal matters – Section 51.071 Texas Gov't Code Annotated – Consultation with Attorney

Mayor Called the meeting back to order at 7:13 P.M.

11. OPEN SESSION: *Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

a. Item A listed in executive session.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to have legal team move forward. Commissioner Benavidez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.