

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 5, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Martinez Mayor Pro-Tem (webex)
Jacob Howell Commissioner
Ruben Saldana Commissioner
Armando Garcia Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Mayor

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez City Manager
Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager
Kristine Longoria Human Resources
Ervin Vilchis IT Assistant
Meredith Hernandez Chief Accountant
Joaquin Hernandez Public Works Director
Blanca Sanchez Interim Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Axel Vallejo, Brianna Casares, Isaias Rodriguez, Juan Vega Jr.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez 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 Montoya was absent.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Saldana said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Howell led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Ray Marroquin recognized his Mercedes Pony Team, the Tigers, for advancing in area for a chance to play at the World Series. The Commission presented a recognition certificate to the Tigers Pony Team.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Recognition of Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program & BID Program Graduates.

Commissioner Saldana and Commissioner Garcia presented certificates to Megan Rodriguez and Rena Castillo for their coordination and development of the Prairie View A&M Cooperation Extension program and the Bid Program Graduates.

b. Presentation of Workers Compensation Dividend Check by Montalvo Insurance Agency.

Mr. Ramon Montalvo presented the Dividend Check to the City for the loss record decreasing from the previous year.

c. Presentation by BML of City of Mercedes Financial Audit for FY 2020-2021.

Mr. Ricky Longoria presented to discuss the audit from September 30, 2021. He confirmed his clean opinion on the audit. He stated there were 63 journal entries that needed to improve. There is an action plan for the findings.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held June 9, 2022 & June 21, 2022.**
- b. **Second and final reading of Ordinance #2022-10 to rezone Grosshauser's Subdivision Lot 5 and 6, and the East 3 Acres of Lot 4 from Class "N" Newly Annexed to Class "C-1" Apartment District; Applicant Tiki Land Company.**
Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve items A and B. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 4-0.

8. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS: *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

- a. **First reading of Ordinance No. 2022-11 approving the solid waste fees**
- b. **First reading of Ordinance No. 2022-12 regarding the City's Brush Services**
- c. **First reading of Ordinance No. 2022-13 amending Ordinance 2022-08 updating the re-read fee, disconnect/reconnect fee and establishing payment arrangements.**
- d. **First reading of Ordinance No. 2022-14 appointing the members to the TIRZ Board of Directors.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve all items 8A to 8D. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. MANAGEMENT ITEM(S): *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

- a. **Discussion and Possible Action to approve funds for the purchase of benches to be donated and placed at the resting place of Uvalde Victims.**

Commissioner Howell made a motion to research for assistance and funds for the benches. Commissioner Garcia seconded. After clarification, Ms. Melissa Serrano stated the benches are \$2,000 each plus \$700 for freight. She stated she would like to purchase 22 benches. Upon a called vote, the motion carried.

- b. **Discussion and Approval to direct City Manager to research and provide estimates for the construction of a water splash park.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to direct the City Manager to research for funds for the splash park. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Commissioner Garcia stated that HEB may be able to assist due to the park being named after them. Upon a called vote, the motion carried.

- c. **Discussion and Approval to set City and Departmental Goals with FY23 Budget.**

Commissioner Saldana is asking for the departments to set goals for their department. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. BIDS/CONTRACTS: *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

- a. **Contract Renewal for Higher Education Training and Workforce Development Skills for Mercedes Residents.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to postpone this item. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Hidalgo County Precinct 1 for the Mile 8 North Road from FM 491 to Mile 2 East.**

This item was moot.

- c. **Request to Re-Advertise for Bids for the City Hall TPO Roof.**

Mr. Hernandez presented that the amount to replace the roof was over budget and stated there were some corrections to the specs. He is requesting to rebid the roof repairs.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez called the meeting into executive session 7:46 p.m.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Discussion regarding real property Project X – Section 551.072**
- b. **Discussion regarding real property Project Y – Section 551.072**
- c. **Consultation with Attorney regarding real property de-annexation – Section 551.071 & 551.072**
- d. **Consultation with Attorney regarding Encroachment on City Right-of-Way Section 551.072**

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez called the meeting back to order at 8:24 p.m.

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

At this time, the commission revisited items 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve items 8A through 8D. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- a. **Directing City Manager to proceed with making an offer to procure property for Project X.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to direct city manager to negotiate for property. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion carried.

- b. **Directing City Manager to proceed with securing appraisal and negotiating sales price for Project Y.**

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to proceed securing appraisal negotiating sales price for Project Y as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion carried.

ADDENDUM:

- c. **Discussion and Possible Action regarding Item C of Executive Session.**

Commissioner Howell made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Discussion and Possible Action regarding Item D of Executive Session.**

Commissioner Saldana moved to direct the City manager to negotiate on the encroachment as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Saldana motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.