

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D Montoya	Mayor
	Joe Martinez	Mayor Pro-Tem (by phone)
	Leonel Benavidez	Commissioner
	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Anthony Troiani	City Attorney (webex)
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Axel Vallejo	City Manager Secretary
	Ervin Vilchis	I.T Liaison
	George Diaz	Police Officer
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Roy Quintanilha	Chief of Police
	Javier Campos	Fire Chief

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM

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

3.) INVOCATION

Commissioner Gomez said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Benavidez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY

COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS RESCHEDULING THE SALE FROM AUGUST 24, 2021 TO AUGUST 30, 2021 OF OBLIGATIONS TO BE ISSUED AND DESIGNATED AS “CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS COMBINATION TAX AND LIMITED PLEDGE REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2021”; AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Mr. Perez informed the Commission that he spoke with the Bond Counsel and are recommending a change in the date for the issuance of the certificates of obligation. The date was proposed for August 30, 2021 and are requesting the change to September 14, 2021. There was discussion regarding the requirements and meeting the deadline. It was clarified that the new laws that take effect in September will not affect the City. If the city was creating a new building with the CO’s then the issuance would need to be before August 31, 2021. Mr. Perez stated he would provide the Commission with a priority list for the city needs.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve changing the date to September 14, 2021. The motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Benavidez stated that Mayor said it would be a 2-cent increase but the Financial advisors are stating 3 cents. Mayor Montoya made a motion to table item 5. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 4 to 0.

Return from Executive Session:

Mr. Perez stated that the recommendation was to move the date of the issuance of the certificates of obligation from August 30, 2021 to September 14, 2021. Commissioner Benavidez asked about the language of the item “other matters in connection therewith.” Mr. Matt Lee, bond

counsel, stated that its form language. At a question, Mr. Villarreal stated that the finances are not dependent on the ARPA funds because it is not continuous.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve changing the date of the issuance to September 14, 2021. Mr. Troiani stated that the item needed to be untabled. Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to untable. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to change the date to September 14, 2021. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 3 to 2. Commissioner Gomez and Commissioner Benavidez voted against.

6.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2021-23 IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SB 1359.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to table resolution 2021-23 for more information.

Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO GO OUT FOR RFP/RFQ FOR GPS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Perez stated that the GPS services cost about \$45 to 65K. Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BUDGET FOR FY 21-22.

Mr. Perez informed the Commission that the budget has been balanced. He stated that some positions that were vacant will no longer be filled and stated the budget cuts. He added that the ARPA funds are included in the budget. There was discussion on funding for the water plant, assistance for the residents and equipment for the meetings. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez arrived and apologized for being late. Mr. Perez stated that he met with each department head to make sure the cuts would not hurt services. Ms. Perez addressed the Commission that there is available sources to help the residents but not from the budget. Commissioner Benavidez stated that he received some items the day of the meeting and would not want to decide on new information.

Mayor Montoya adjourned the meeting for a few minutes at 6:46 pm. Mayor Montoya returned and stated he was trying to recess the meeting not adjourn. Mayor Montoya intended to recess the meeting to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mayor Montoya motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was called into executive session at 6:52 pm.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 7:15 pm.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to have some time to look over the new information on the budget for FY 21-22 and have a meeting in the near future. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion. Commissioner Benavidez requested a workshop for the budget. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Montoya moved back to item 5 on the agenda.

9.) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Benavidez motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.