

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Hinojosa Mayor
Leandro Villarreal Mayor Pro-Tem
Leonel Benavidez Commissioner
Cristella De Leon Hernandez Commissioner
Jose M. Gomez Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: Sergio Zavala City Manager
Anthony Troiani City Attorney via Zoom
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Dagoberto Chavez ACM/Police Chief
Hugo Perales I.T Director
Javier Campos Int. Fire Chief

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Mayor called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

2) ESTABLISH QUORUM

All members of the commission were present which constituted a full quorum.

3) INVOCATION

Commissioner Gomez was voice for those present by expressing an inspired invocation

4) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DECLARATION ORDER TO EXTEND EMERGENCY MEASURES AND/OR IMPOSE NEW SAFETY MEASURES DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission of the extension for the emergency declaration. Pg. 6 of 11 highlighted the essential operations for businesses with essential services. Mr. Zavala included the county's order in the packet and recommends the extension be in effect until April 30 to match with the County's Declaration. At a question by Commissioner Gomez, Mr. Zavala stated that the businesses remaining open will be required to provide a work safe plan to be reviewed by the City. Mr. Campos added the city is working to make sure the businesses are providing a work safety plan that follows regulations. At a question by Commissioner Benavidez, Mr. Campos stated the City personnel enforcing the regulations will be going into the businesses to ensure compliance. Commissioner Hernandez stated that Daycare centers are regulated by the state and are to remain open to help the patients with doctor phone calls or any assistance they may need. Commissioner Hernandez also added that the USDA provided a meal proposal to feed the elderly at their homes and commends the staff for their hard work. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to extend the declaration to April 30th. Commissioner Benavidez asked about the police presence, Mr. Chavez stated PD will be enforcing the declaration alongside Fire personnel. At a question by Commissioner Benavidez, Mayor Hinojosa stated that the Police Department will be delivering the Easter bags to the homes. Commissioner Gomez stated he would like to be notified of the events and was not notified for the Easter bag giveaway. Mr. Campos informed the Commission about the firefighter's safety measures and protocol when attending a possible or positive COVID patient. At a question by Commissioner Benavidez, Mr. Campos stated that staff is

wearing protective gear and Mr. Chavez added that the police officers are also wearing gloves, masks, and goggles at all times for their protection and the Citizens'. There was discussion regarding more durable protective gear for the firefighters. At a question by Commissioner Hernandez, Mr. Chavez stated the quarantine regulations can change at any point in time and it is not known at this time if everyone would be required to stay home. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal recommended having a centralized location for the notices, Mr. Chavez responded that a PSA will be made by PD and Fire. At a question by Commissioner Benavidez about the time frame, Mayor Hinojosa stated that all proper procedures need to be followed before releasing the information. Commissioner Benavidez stated that the County knew about the COVID patient 3 days prior to the City. Mayor Hinojosa responded that, that is incorrect due to the County notifying the Mayor immediately after they know of a positive case in the City. Mayor Hinojosa stated that any messages sent to Commission by staff are to be confidential. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to extend the declaration until April 30, 2020. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the item was unanimously approved.

6) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO TEMPORARILY ADJUST THE MEETING 'START' TIME FOR REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS DUE TO EFFECT OF COVID-19 HEALTH THREAT.

Mr. Zavala informed the Commission about the 10 Rule by the CDC and stated the 6:00 PM time was done for people to be able to attend the meetings after work. Due to COVID and the 10 people rule, the item was brought forth for the Commission to consider moving the meetings to 1:00 PM. Mr. Troiani stated there are some cities that are doing virtual meetings to avoid the person to person contact. Commissioner Hernandez stated if the Commission vote for the meetings to remain at 6:00 PM, sometimes the meetings run long and may have the staff that attend the meetings break curfew. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal made a motion to temporarily move the meetings to 1:00 PM. Mr. Zavala stated that the meetings will have less items. Mr. Troiani stated there are platforms the city may use for the meetings. Commission Hernandez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item was passed unanimously.

7) ADJOURN

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Villarreal seconded the motion. Upon a called vote the item was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.