



Mayor Oscar D. Montoya  
Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Martinez  
Commissioner Leonel Benavidez

Commissioner Jacob Howell  
Commissioner Jose M. Gomez  
City Manager Alberto Perez

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
400 S. OHIO AVE., MERCEDES, TX 78570

“At any time during the course of this meeting, the City Commission may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the City Commission under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at any time during the course of this meeting, the City Commission may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.”

- 1.) Call Meeting to Order
- 2.) Establish Quorum
- 3.) Invocation
- 4.) Pledge of Allegiance
- 5.) Open Forum-

Maximum length of time of forum is forty-five minutes with individual presentations limited to a maximum of five minutes. The City Commission can take no formal action on any city related matter discussed during the open forum. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up as they arrive, indicating the topic about which they wish to speak. No one will be able to sign up **AFTER 5:50 PM**. The information required for signing up must be completed by that time. No public comments will be allowed during any agenda item unless recognized by the Mayor or if the item requires a public hearing. State your name and address before beginning your presentation.

There can be no comments about specific employees. By Charter, the City Manager is exclusively given authority over personnel matters, including complaints against city personnel. All complaints against city personnel will be addressed pursuant to Mercedes Personnel Policies. Comments must not be repeated and the Commission is not required to answer any question from the public. Any person who decides to directly question any member of the City Commission will be asked to discontinue their comments. The City Secretary’s office representative will be responsible for notifying each presenter that their five-minute time limit has expired.

- 6.) Presentations:
  - A.) Update on Mercedes City Projects from City Engineer-SWG
  - B.) Midpoint update of Department Finances and Audit –Finance Director
- 7.) **Consent Agenda:** *(All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items; however, if discussion is desired, that item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.)*
  - A.) Approval of Minutes from March 13, 16, 23 and April 6, 2021
  - B.) Approval of FY 20-21 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report
  - C.) Approval of VIDA Jan-March 2021 Quarterly Expenditure Report
  - D.) Approval of December 2020 Runoff Election Costs.
- 8.) **City Manager Comments:**
  - 1.) Philosophy and expectations for City personnel
  - 2.) Appointment of an “Acting” Public Works Director until the position is filled.
  - 3.) Current Job Vacancies
  - 4.) Review of the Personnel Manual
  - 5.) Update on the first meeting with Department Heads
  - 6.) Update on the status of retaining City Grant writer(s)
  - 7.) Distribution of PPE
- 9.) **Management Item(s):**
  - A.) Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint one (1) Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustments.
  - B.) Discussion and Possible Action regarding status of Hidalgo St. between N. Ohio Ave. & N. Illinois Ave.
  - C.) Discussion and Possible Action to approve procurement process for approval of expenditures charged to eGrants for Operation Stonegarden FY18#3172804.
  - D.) Discussion and Possible Action to approve Texas Street Festival, Hotel/Motel Budget Amendment

- E.) Discussion and Possible Action to approve Sponsorship Request for Mujeres Unidas 2021 Virtual Walk in Her Shoe 5K
- F.) Discussion and Possible Action to authorize the payment of Legal Expenses for Commissioner Benavidez, as a City expense.
- G.) Discussion and Possible Action to authorize the City of Mercedes to initiate a State of the City address for 2020-2021 fiscal calendar year
- H.) Discussion and Possible Action on a potential Salary Increase for City Employees (Howell & Martinez)
- I.) Discussion and Possible Action to partner with Workforce Solutions to support the creating of Jobs within the City of Mercedes. (Howell & Martinez)
- J.) Discussion and Possible Action to partner with the Food Bank to Develop Plans for Food Distribution within the City of Mercedes and its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

**10.) Tabled Items:**

- A.) Consideration and Possible Action to renew the contract with Langley and Banack, Inc. (Legal Services in connection with the Weslaco-Mercedes ETJ, Annexations & Utility System Boundaries Issues

**11.) Future Agenda Items:**

**12.) Monthly Department Reports**

**13.) 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.) Consultation and Discussion on Economic Development Project Sports Complex (Section 551.087)
- B.) Consultation and Discussion on possibly acquiring real estate within the City to promote economic development. (Section 551.072 and Section 551.087).

**14.) Open Session:**


- A.) Discussion and Possible Action on item A and B of Executive Session.

**15.) Adjournment**

Notice is hereby given that the City Commissioners of the City of Mercedes, Texas will meet in a **Regular Meeting** on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Said meeting will be conducted in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall located at 400 S. Ohio, Mercedes, Texas for the purpose of considering and taking formal action regarding the items listed above. This notice is given in accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Texas Government Code, Section 551.001 et. Seq.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY THIS THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2021.

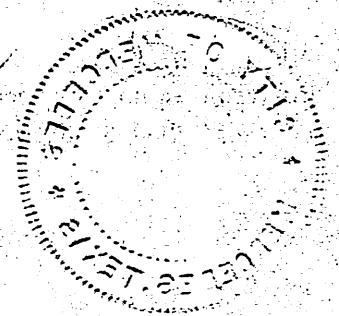
ATTEST:

  
 Jose Lynn Castillo, City Secretary  
 Time of Posting: 4:35 PM



**ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

**The City of Mercedes recognizes its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City Manager's Office at (956) 565-3114 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting with requests for reasonable accommodations, including requests for a sign language interpreter.**



LETTERS RECEIVED

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