



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
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
MERCEDDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
400 S. OHIO AVE., MERCEDDES, 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.) Items on the Regular Agenda

City Commission encourages members of the public to address items on the Regular Agenda posted for discussion and action. On the day of the meeting by 5:45 p.m., persons wishing to speak may sign up at the City Secretary’s table outside the Council chambers. The City Secretary also will accept e-mail or faxed requests in advance of the meeting. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each. Members of the public will be allowed to speak on the specific agenda items that they sign up for a total of 5 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

Please call the City Secretary’s Office at (956) 565-3114 if we may assist you in participating in the City Commission meetings.

7.) City Manager Comments:

- 1.) Update on approved contract for City Attorney
- 2.) Update on the Agreement with MISD for Resource officers.

8.) Ordinance/Resolutions:

- A.) Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for 2021.
 - Formal Action on first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-11 adopting the 2021 Tax Rate.
- B.) Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
 - Formal Action on first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-12 adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- C.) Public Hearing on the Proposed Water Rates.
 - Formal Action on first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-13 adopting the water and sewer rates for 2021.
- D.) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution No. 2021-25 to nominate up to five candidates for the Election of Board of Directors for the Hidalgo County Appraisal District.
- E.) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution No. 2021-26 requesting authorization for Gate 160 from IBWC.
- F.) Consideration and approval of a Resolution relating to establishing the City’s Intention to Reimburse itself for the prior lawful expenditure of funds relating to constructing various city improvements from the proceeds of tax-exempt obligations to be issued by the city for authorized purposes; authorizing other matters incident and related thereto; and providing an effective date
- G.) Discussion and Possible Action to temporarily move regular meeting time from 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month to 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

9.) Management Item(s):

- A.) Discussion and Possible Action on the Proposed Budget for DCM FY 21-22.
- B.) Discussion and Possible Action on approval of New Appointment and Re-Appointment of Members to the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Committee. (Mary

Salinas)

- C.) Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action on directing City Manager and EDC to pursue big box retail stores to create jobs and improve the quality of life to Mercedes residents. (Comm. Martinez & Howell)
- D.) Discussion and Possible Action on directing City Manager and Legal to negotiate with Outlet Mall Owners on the City yearly sales tax payment with consideration of the current economy and continued COVID Variant impact. (Comm. Martinez & Howell)
- E.) Discussion and Possible Action for the Commission to review and determine payment structure amount for American Rescue Plan and other grants initiated before BorderAffairs, LLC contract with the City of Mercedes. (Commissioner Benavidez)
- F.) Discussion and Possible Action to consider sponsoring the Mercedes Tiger Band

10.) Bids/Contracts:

- A.) Discussion and Possible Action on a contract for City of Mercedes copier services. (I.T Director)
- B.) Discussion and Possible Action on a contract for Internet Services. (I.T Director)
- C.) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Subaward Agreement between the City of Mercedes on behalf of the Mercedes Police Department and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) in the Southwest Boarder Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program. (Sgt. Diaz)
- D.) Discussion and Action to (motion for reconsideration) on Martie Garcia Vela P.C. employment contract with the City of Mercedes. (Comm. Gomez & Benavidez)

11.) Future Agenda Items:

12.) 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.) Discussion regarding Project MD pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.087 Economic Development.
- B.) Discussion regarding Project Travel Center pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.087 Economic Development.
- C.) Discussion with Attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(a) regarding litigation, and pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to receive legal advice and information protected by the attorney client privilege regarding pending matters and how to proceed.

13.) Open Session:


- A.) Discussion and Possible Action on executive session item A.
- B.) Discussion and Possible Action on executive session item B.
- C.) Discussion and Possible Action on executive session item C.

14.) Adjournment

Notice is hereby given that the City Commissioners of the City of Mercedes, Texas will meet in a **Regular Meeting** on Tuesday, September 7, 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 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

ATTEST:



Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary

Time of Posting: 7:15 P.M.

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.