

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr.	Mayor
	Joe Martinez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Leonel Benavidez	Commissioner
	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner
STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Ervin Vilchis	I.T Liason
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Brianna Casares	PIO
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Richard Morin	Rec. Center Director
	Blanca Sanchez	Interim Police Chief
	Ruben Pena	Police Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Pony League Reign, Pony League Wildcats, Velda Garcia,

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM

All members were present which constitutes a full quorum

3.) INVOCATION

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Aleyah Marroquin and Sofia Cavazos and Danika Bajaran led in the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Jacob Howell addressed the Commission regarding internet, speed bumps and streets. He stated there are concerned residents on Mile 2 West regarding getting affordable internet in their area. They would like spectrum in their area. The second concern Mr. Howell addressed were the speed bumps and potholes. Mr. Howell would like to use the unclaimed payroll to be used for overtime to address the street issues and potholes. He wants to speed up the recovery process.
- Ms. Velda Garcia signed up but declined to speak to leave the time for the children receiving the proclamation.

6.) PRESENTATIONS

A.) Proclamation for Pony League

Mayor Montoya recognized the Wildcats for winning first place in the world series and Team Reign for winning fourth place in the world series. The proclamations were presented by Mayor Montoya.

7.) CONSENT AGENDA

A.) Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held March 1, 2022.

B.) Approval of Resolution No. 2022-03 accepting Local Boarder Security Program #4474101

C.) Approval of Resolution No. 2022-04 accepting Operation Stonegarden #3172807

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve all items under consent agenda.

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

8.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

A.) Consideration of Softball League for Seniors

Mr. Perez stated that Mr. Martinez approached the City to bring back activities for the elderly. Mr. Perez informed that a schedule is being worked on for the field usage.

B.) Grass Clippings Ordinance Update

Mr. Perez asked for input from the Commission. Commissioner Gomez stated that this was brought up due to grass clippings being blown into the streets and end up in the inlets. Mr. Perez stated they would like to do a public service announcement to inform the public of the new ordinance. At a question, Mr. Perez stated this ordinance will need help from the public to report. Code enforcement will be involved. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez asked how would the City know that the grass clippings are from a certain owner. Mayor Montoya stated to include that the property owner is responsible for their area.

C.) TCEQ preventive measures

Mr. Perez stated that Commissioner Howell and Martinez asked for this item. Mr. Perez stated that there are 50 manhole covers being placed, 5 manholes per day. The manhole covers are a preventative measure to prevent rain water from infiltrating the system. The low-lying areas are being targeted. Commissioner Howell wanted a dollar amount of the savings. Mayor Montoya asked for the item on the cost be placed on the next agenda.

9.) ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

A.) Discussion and Possible Action on first reading of Ordinance 2022-06 regarding water and sewer tapping fees and water rights fees.

Mr. Perez informed the Commission that Companies would come in and tap into the City's water lines. Mr. Perez stated that the companies bringing business will increase the city's intake. The new developer would need to pay for the water rights they will be consuming. The developer should pay for the water rights for the consumption of the water they would be using for their development. If the developer does not purchase and has a high consumption and the city has to pay for it then it would come from the citizens. Mr. Jeff Snowden stated that \$300K per 1-acre foot is the current market of water rights. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve. Commissioner Benavidez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Gomez voted against.

10.)MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

A.) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve City Manager going out for competitive bids for the procurement of Police Department Vehicles.

Mr. Perez stated that the Cos had money for the purchase of Vehicles for the Police Department. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve. Commissioner Benavidez seconded. Mr. Perez is seeking to purchase six to eight vehicles depending on the price and availability. Interim Police Chief Sanchez stated that an example is a vehicle that was purchased in November 2021 which has still not be delivered. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B.) Discussion and Possible Action to approve the Amendments to Section XXIV Personal Body Camera of the Mercedes Public Safety Department Police Rules and Regulations Policy Manual.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C.) Discussion and Possible Action to Direct City Manager to Develop Transparency Guidelines.

Mr. Perez stated that this item was placed on the agenda by Commissioner Howell and Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve. Commissioner

Benavidez seconded. Commissioner Howell would like to add a policy with the guidelines to have a commitment to be open with the citizens. Commissioner Benavidez stated that this will come back once the guidelines are set. Legal stated that the business tab requested by Commissioner Benavidez. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11.)BIDS/CONTRACTS:

A.) Discussion and Possible Action on approval of T-Mobile for Government GSA Contract for Hot Spot

Ms. Vidales stated that the awarded grant has been executed and will proceed with the classes for adults. The library's looking to purchase 51 hot spots and 52 Chrome books. The terms of the grants will be until the end of December. Both T-Mobile and Verizon bid but T-Mobile was less. Commissioner Benavidez motioned to approve T-Mobile. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B.) Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Weslaco, Texas and the City of Mercedes, Texas for the Temporary Housing of Detention of Mercedes Prisoners.

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to extend the contract for 3 months. Commissioner Howell seconded. Commissioner Gomez stated that the City has had three police chiefs and would need to hire a new police chief that is knowledgeable that can save the city money. Commissioner Howell stated that in 3 months we will be in the same situation to extend the contract. At this time, the City is not enough to get the building done. Mr. Perez stated that although saving money is good intention the building is being repaired. After a called vote, the motion died 4 to 1. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Commissioner Benavidez stated that it will take 12 months to utilize our facility. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Gomez voted naye.

12.)MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports are included in the packet for review.

13.)EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Benavidez motioned to go into executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Mayor Montoya called the meeting into executive session at 7:28 P.M

A.) Discussion regarding duties and responsibilities of the City Manager – Section 551.074 Texas Gov't Code Annotated – Personnel

B.) Consultation with Attorney regarding citizen complaints – Section 551.071 Texas Gov't Code Annotated – Consultation with Attorney

C.) Consultation with Attorney regarding legal updates – Section 551.071 Texas Gov't Code Annotated – Consultation with Attorney

14.)OPEN SESSION: Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 7:55 P.M.

A.) No action

B.) No action

C.) No action. Commissioner Benavidez called an item regarding speed bumps on 10th street and would like to bring the item back on potholes and speed humps.

15.)ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Montoya adjourned the meeting at 7:56 P.M.