

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 17, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr.	Mayor
	Leonel Benavidez	Commissioner
	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Ruben Saldana	Commissioner-Elect
	Armando Garcia	Commissioner-Elect

MEMBERS ABSENT:	Joe Martinez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Jose M. Gomez	Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Kristine Longoria	Human Resources
	Ervin Vilchis	IT Assistant
	Blanca Sanchez	Interim Chief of Police
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Joaquin Hernandez	Public Works Director
	Richard Morin	Recreation Direction
	Javier Campos	Fire Chief
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Axel Vallejo, Brianna Casares, Francisco Sanchez, Isaias Rodriguez, Pedro Estrada, Jesus Rodriguez, Orlando Diaz, Urbano Lopez,

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2.) ESTABLISH QUORUM

Three members of the Commission were present which constitutes a quorum.

3.) INVOCATION

Louie said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Montoya lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Montoya welcomed the dignitaries in attendance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Leonel Benavidez addressed the public regarding false statement made about him during the elections. He listed some of the statements made and added that he chose to run independently. Mr. Benavidez announced his intention to run for candidacy at the next election. Mr. Benavidez stated several of the accomplishments from his time in office which included drainage improvements, the reconstruction of the PD building, and new businesses. He stated he voted for equipment and supplies,

referenced the arrests in 2019 and meeting to remove him from office. He expects accountability from the new commissioners. Mr. Benavidez stated that he asked for the audit from former Commissioner Lopez prior to him being in office and the audit passed.

6.) CANVASS THE RETURNS OF THE 2022 CITY OFFICER'S ELECTION FOR COMMISSIONER PLACE 2 AND COMMISSIONER PLACE 4 AND DECLARING THE RESULTS.

Mayor Montoya read the official results for the election held Saturday, May 7, 2022.

COMMISSIONER PLACE 2

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Mail</u>	<u>Early Voting</u>	<u>Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
Armando Garcia	63	498	175	735
Leonel Benavidez	45	411	151	607

COMMISSIONER PLACE 4

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Mail</u>	<u>Early Voting</u>	<u>Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ruben J. Saldaña	65	518	175	758
Jose Gomez	30	298	113	441
Jovana Trevino-Garcia	13	95	41	149

344 votes were cast on election day; 923 votes were cast during early voting, 110 absentee ballots and no provisional votes were cast.

Armando Garcia received the majority of the votes for Commissioner Place 2. A petition for recount was filed and the swearing-in will take place after the recount.

Ruben J. Saldana received the majority of the votes for Commissioner Place 4.

7.) ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER PLACE 2

This item was tabled pending the results for Recount filed by Commissioner Benavidez.

8.) ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER PLACE 4

State Rep. Armando Martinez administered the oath of office to Newly Elected Commissioner Ruben Saldana. Mayor Montoya welcomed the Newly Elected Commissioner Saldana.

9.) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to postpone the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10.) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Montoya adjourned the meeting at 5:44 P.M.