

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

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| STAFF PRESENT: | Alberto Perez | City Manager |
| | Martie Garcia-Vela | City Attorney (phone) |
| | Joselynn Castillo | City Secretary |
| | Javier Ramirez | Asst. City Manager |
| | Ervin Vilchis | IT Assistant |
| | Joaquin Hernandez | Public Works Director |
| | Javier Campos | Fire Chief |

OTHERS PRESENT: County Commissioner David Fuentes, Axel Vallejo, Brianna Casares, Francisco Sanchez, Jose Hernandez, Pedro Estrada, Juan Vega Jr., Orlando Diaz,

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 of the Commission were present which constitutes a full quorum.

3.) INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez said the invocation.

4.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kendrick Robinson, MPT daughters led in the pledge of allegiance.

5.) OPEN FORUM

- Commissioner Benavidez expressed his condolences to the students and families of Uvalde, TX. He expressed his gratitude for his opportunity of being elected for Commissioner Place 2. He informed everyone of the issues he assisted in resolving. The election for place 2 was not as clean as everyone may think. He stated that he has been accused of sending political advertisement to others outside city limits which Commissioner Benavidez denied. He spoke about the recount and issues about family members being compensated for the recount. He stated everyone should stay vigilant and hold people accountable. He added that people say this is how it works but people should do their own research.

6.) ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER PLACE 2.

Commissioner David Fuentes administered the Oath of Office to Newly elected Commissioner Armando Garcia. He stated that it takes a lot of courage to be the voice for

the people. He wished him the best of luck and congratulated him. He thanked Commissioner Benavidez for his service.

Mayor Montoya gave both newly elected commissioners a chance to speak.

Commissioner Saldana recognized his family and friends. The most important thing is to move the city forward. His priority is to work together and treat everyone with respect.

Commissioner Saldana commended the staff and wants to work on strategic planning. He listed some projects to consider like street cleaning, i.e 10th Street between Florida St. to the Stadium and work on getting people utility services if they are paying or to remove it.

Commissioner Garcia thanked everyone for their support and is ready to hit the ground running. Mayor Montoya clarified that the elections department was professional and stated that the system was impressive and there is no way to mess with the election.

Mayor Montoya thanked Commissioner Fuentes for always assisting the City during storms and thanked State Rep. Martinez.

7.) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 P.M.