

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Michael Rocha	I.T Manager
	Orlando Diaz	Lieutenant
	Javier Campos	Fire Chief
	Reynaldo Alegria	Public Works Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6: 30 p.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Four members of the commission were present which constitutes a quorum. Commissioner Martinez arrived during the presentation by USW.

3. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Howell led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the public.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Update on Little League Fields by the Public Works Department

Mr. Alegria reported that the fields are currently under development with the addition of red dirt already underway. The next phase will involve the construction of the Press box. Meanwhile, the Public Works team commenced demolition today, and except for the stairs, all the work will be completed in-house. The stairs will be made of metal. Mayor Montoya raised concern about previous break-ins and emphasized the need for reinforced doors. Mr. Alegria mentioned that the material costs thus far amounts to \$7,000.

b. Presentation by USW

Mr. David Salinas provided a graph to show the sludge decreasing. He introduced those in attendance from USW which included Mr. Jeffrey DuPont, Chris Gutschow, and Bobby Gonzalez. There was a dip from 2020 to 2021 and then a rise in 2022 due to Valley dewatering adding solids. The waster water plant has solids that still need to be cleaned out and have estimated about 50 plus loads. The current provider is Denali and are looking at negotiating pricing and there may be another vendor that can provide the same service at a lower rate. They submitted a quote to Mr. Ramirez for a blower because its currently down. This will help circulate the air. Commissioner Martinez arrived at this time.

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 for Meeting(s) held February 6, 2024

b. **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-03 to rezone RHM-Mobile Home Zone for South Campacuas Addition Lot 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 3, Block 104 & 105**

c. **Approval of the Investment Report for the 1st Quarter of FY 2024**

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve all items and forgo the second reading of Ordinance 2024-03. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. **Approval of Resolution 2024-13 and Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right-Of-Way for the Livestock Show Parade**

b. **Approval of Resolution 2024-14 and Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right-Of-Way for Traffic Control during the Livestock Show Event**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve both resolutions 2024-13 and 2024-14. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

a. **Approval of grant reimbursement for historically designated property 246 S. Texas Ave.**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the \$10,000 reimbursement for the roof repair. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Howell stated Ms. Carrillo met all requirements as set by the Historical Board.

b. **Approval of appointment to the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Committee**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve appointing Maria G. Salinas to the Keep Mercedes Beautiful Board. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. BIDS/CONTRACTS:

a. **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding of the South Mercedes Lateral Improvement Project - Phase 3**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the MOU. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. **Approval of the new First Amended Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Mercedes and the County of Hidalgo with authority for the Mayor, as authorized official, to sign the Amended Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – City of Mercedes Paramedic Initiative Program**

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. At a question, Chief Campos stated there is a budget for the paramedic program. The Budget of \$60,000 was submitted and the County pays for 50%.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. **Library, Rec Center, City Sec/HR, Fire, Public Works, Finance**

Lt. Diaz stated they have been in communication with ERO and will be looking at moving in next month in March. He stated they are working with Fire for the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and several grant applications. Mayor Montoya commended Lt. Diaz on his work for applying for grants. They received a new vehicle for the animal control team. They purchased a drone and a Polaris ranger.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

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 with City Manager regarding personnel matters and upcoming event – Section 551.074**

b. **Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation – Section 551.071**

c. **Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071**

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 9:12 p.m.

13. OPEN SESSION:

a. **Item A from Executive Session**

b. **Item B from Executive Session**

c. **Item C from Executive Session**

No Action was taken on any of the items in executive session.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 9:12 p.m.