

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr.	Mayor
	Joe Martinez	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Armando Garcia	Commissioner
	Ruben Saldana	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
	Javier Campos	Fire Chief
	Pedro Estrada	Police Chief
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Richard Morin	Recreation Director
	Ervin Vilchis	I.T Liason
	Meredith Hernandez	Chief Accountant

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. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez arrived at 6:32 p.m. during the presentation of Football players.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Saldana said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Montoya led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Postponed: Recognition of Tiger Football Players Xavier Sanchez & Ty Trevino

Mayor Montoya congratulated Mr. Xavier Sanchez. Commissioner Howell stated Mr. Sanchez is in the top 10 of his school. The commission took photos with Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Ty Trevino was not present. Mayor Montoya addressed the Family for their sacrifice and for setting the example.

b. Proclamation for Coach Roger Adame for becoming Mercedes' High School's All-Time Winningest Coach.

This item was postponed.

6. OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Kendrick Robinson expressed being proud of Mercedes.
- Mr. Jaime Castaneda stated that he provided the city with information about the Mr. Ramos writing hot checks. Mr. Castaneda stated the city manager is doing a poor job. Mayor Montoya informed him to not speak about employees. Mr. Castaneda stated that Mayor Montoya called to do a welfare check on him.

- Mr. Leo Villarreal discussed the financial responsibility of the City. Mr. Villarreal stated he was a building official for Mercedes and a City Commissioner. Mr. Villarreal stated that the state of the city is a state of confusion. He added that the current issues are the actions of the City Commission for their lack of control over the City Manager. The threshold was raised from \$10,000 to the \$50,000. Mr. Villarreal stated he will be running for counsel in May.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held January 17, 2023**
- b. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2023-01 Calling the Election for the 2023 City Commission Elections for Mayor, Place 1, and Place 3.**
- c. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2023-02 regarding the updated Animal Control Services.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve all items. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- a. Status of Facts of Officer Pay for Elida Fest.**

Mr. Perez stated that the checks have been delivered and the officers have been paid. Commissioner Howell stated he stands behind the police officers.

9. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- a. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2023-03 for approval of 1-ince residential meter accounts.**

Mayor Montoya rescheduled this item for the next meeting.

- b. Approval of Resolution 2023-02 to support legislation relating to the provision of solid waste disposal service by Hidalgo County.**

Mr. Perez stated the County officials are seeking support. Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. At a question, Mr. Perez stated this is for sanitation and health. Mayor Montoya stated that the county needs legislation to get the vehicle and charge the fees. The illegal dumping is a problem in the county. Commissioner Saldana stated only 25% of people in the county area have trash pick up and the other 75 % do not. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Approval of Resolution 2023-03 adopting the Work Plan for Urban County Program Year 36 (2023)**

Mr. Ramirez stated the Urban County Work Plan was provided to the Commission. The proposed allocated amount for FY 36 (2023) is \$257,515. Commissioner Saldana motioned to adopt the Urban County Work Plan for FY 36 (2023). Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Commissioner Saldana was glad to see the amounts budgeted for street improvements. Mr. Ramirez stated last year \$130,000 was budgeted for streets, this year they increased it about \$50,000. Mr. Ramirez stated that Beech Ave., Ash Ave., and Dakota St. to name a few, were on the list for improvements. Commissioner Howell would like a time table of the start dates for the street improvements. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Approval of Resolution 2023-04 to approve the Mercedes Police Department Reserves Policy.**

Police Chief Estrada stated the reserve program is for additional manpower to assist during events. The program coordinator will be in charge of processing and compliance. The reserve officer will have full authority as a regular full-time officer. The officers will act as a private citizen. This will help reduce the amount of overtime. Chief Estrada stated they are seeking 10 officers. They will only be covered on worker's comp. City

Attorney Garcia-Vela stated there are waivers for the officers to sign. Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Saldana thanked the Chief.

e. Approval of Resolution 2023-05 to adopt the Mercedes Police Department Explorer Program and Policy.

Lt. Aaron Villarreal stated this program is for 14 to 20-year-olds and must pass a background. This is a partnership with the Boy Scouts of America. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Howell asked to reach out to the schools. Commissioner Saldana asked if the 501c-3 will be provided and to have a police officer be the liaison for the city.

f. Approval of Resolution 2023-06 to endorse and support the Mid-Valley Marathon.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Fire Chief Campos stated this resolution needs to be approved by all cities involved. The marathon will start in Donna and end in Harlingen and will have about 4,000 runners. Chief Campos stated that this marathon is a Boston qualifier. The marathon will be in December. Mayor Montoya stated this has been in the works for 2 years. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

a. Approval of Grant Reimbursement for Historically designated property 320 S. Texas Ave.

Ms. Vidales stated there was a mistake on the agenda. The property is on 320 Missouri and not 320 Texas. Mr. Gerardo Martinez applied for leveling and all documentation has been provided and only \$5000 can be awarded. The funding comes from Hotel/Motel Tax. Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Commissioner Saldana amended to move to approve the grant reimbursement for 320 Missouri Ave. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Mercedes and Texas Anti-Gang Center (TAG).

Lt. Villarreal is seeking approval to appoint one officer to the TAG program. The investigators will have access to the building and equipment. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. City of McAllen was awarded fund for the program and one officer can be assigned and will have access to the equipment. Mayor Montoya clarified that the city will have access to it all the time but when they have someone assigned to it then they will have access to certain information regarding gangs. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Appointments to the Building & Standards Committee.

Mr. Ramirez addressed the commission regarding the 5 applicants to appoint. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Commission approved Mr. Jodi O. Martinez, Ms. Yvette M. Reyes, Mr. Jonathan Munoz, Mr. Roel Villanueva, and Mr. Rolando Garcia.

At this time, Mayor Pro-Tem 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 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 9:02 p.m.

11. BIDS/CONTRACTS

a. Approval of request for sponsorship for the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show.

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

b. Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the County of Hidalgo and the City of Mercedes for the 2023 Paramedic Program.

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

c. Approval to renew contract with Juan Alvarez for Municipal Judge Services.

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval to renew contract with Lance Elliot for TIF Services.

Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously for two years.

e. Approval of Changes to Interlocal Agreement Chapter 59 with District Attorney's Office.

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

f. Approval of Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Interlocal for Dawson Rd.

Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Mayor Montoya stated this is resurfacing Dawson Rd. from Mile 8 to Micaela Dr. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. Discussion regarding update on pending litigation – Section 551.071

b. Discussion regarding personnel matters – Section 551.074

c. Discussion regarding update in economic development projects – Section 551.071 & Section 551.087

13. OPEN SESSION:

a. Item A from Executive Session

No action was taken on this item.

b. Item B from Executive Session

No action was taken on this item.

c. Item C from Executive Session

No action was taken on this item.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to adjourn Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.