

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 26, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Dr. Ruben Saldana Joe Martinez Dr. Jacob Howell	Mayor Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Commissioner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Armando Garcia	Commissioner
STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez Martie Garcia-Vela Joselynn Castillo Javier Ramirez Nereida Perez Michael Rocha	City Manager City Attorney (virtually) City Secretary Asst. City Manager Finance Director I.T Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Four members of the commission were present which constitutes a quorum.
Commissioner Garcia was not present.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM – No resident signed up for open forum.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Presentation of Audit for FYE 2023

Mr. Perez stated the audit was completed in March. This allows the City to have time to identify and correct the issues throughout the year. Mr. Manuel Lerma presented to the Commission the audit. They reviewed the financials for the city and stated the firm had an unmodified opinion which is good. Mr. Lerma went over the totals for the budget which included the net position, cash position, revenues, expenditures for city of Mercedes and the overall view of the city. The total cash balance is \$13 Million in the general fund and the total net position is \$22 Million. There was a change in net position of over \$6 million in positive revenues over expenditures. Mr. Lerma added that there are no material weaknesses. It was stated that significant deficiencies are items that can be fixed internally. Mr. Lerma informed that the schedule of expenditures on the last page are the grants. Commissioner Martinez and Commissioner Howell thanked the auditors and staff for their hard work and putting the city on the right track.

Mayor Montoya also thanked them for completing the audit on time. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated it's a very good report and the trend is important to show where the city is headed and complimented those that are strengthening the city. There was a brief discussion regarding the previous years when the city was down to 6 months of funds compared to where the city is now. There was no further discussion on the audit.

Commissioner Howell motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 6:51p.m.

7. 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, upcoming events, and status of projects – Section 551.074
 - b. Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation – Section 551.071
- Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 7:29 p.m. Commissioner Martinez did not return from executive session.

8. OPEN SESSION:

a. Item A from Executive Session

No action

b. Item B from Executive Session

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana moved to direct city manager to instruct the attorney as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell motioned to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 7:30 p.m.