

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Alberto Perez City Manager  
Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney  
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary  
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager  
Marisol Vidales Library Director  
Michael Rocha I.T Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Valdez, Juan Vasquez, Officer Cavazos, Rolando Garcia, and Albert Chronis

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Montoya 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 Saldana said the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Martinez led in the pledge of allegiance.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

- Mr. Rolando Garcia presented an award to the City for allowing the entertainment group to host a car show at the Mercedes Safe Dome.

**6. PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. Presentation by Carrie Trejo from the Courage Compass**

Ms. Carrie Trejo provided valuable information to the commission regarding certification in mental health awareness. She highlighted concerning statistics regarding mental health issues among adults and youth in the United States. Ms. Trejo informed the commission about the services offered by The Courage Compass including mental health first aid for both youth and adults. For further inquiries or assistance, The Courage Compass can be contacted at 210-718-5753 or via email at [info@thecouragecompass.com](mailto:info@thecouragecompass.com). No action was required.

**b. Presentation on Police Department update on Project Completion**

Mr. Albert Chronis provided the commission with an update on the completion of the Mercedes Police Department Project. Phase 1 construction began in February

2023 and finished in November 2023, while Phase 2 started in November 2023 and concluded in April 2024. In the coming weeks, the plan to conduct a final walkthrough with the City Manager. Mr. Chronis showcased photos of the building and discussed salvaged items. The Commission expressed gratitude to ERO Architect's and Tri-Gen for their efforts in revitalizing the police department's location. Mr. Chronis detailed the building's history and collaboration with Terracon to assess salvageable items. The Commission reiterate its dedication to enhancing city services. Mr. Perez praised ERO and Tri-Gen for their professionalism and expressed interest in future collaborations.

## **7. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

### **a. Introduction of the New Public Works Director**

Mr. Perez introduced Mr. Tomas Villagomez III as the new Public Works Director. Mr. Villagomez outlined his plans to implement Standard Operating Procedures for the department, focus on maintaining vehicles, and develop a hurricane preparedness plan. Mayor Montoya commended the effective work of the emergency management team and extended a warm welcome to Mr. Villagomez.

## **8. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:**

### **a. Request from Hidalgo County Elections Department for the use of the Boys and Girls club as a polling location for the November elections**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to move item 8B into executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Commission continued to item 9.

### **b. Approval of appointments to the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments**

Commissioner Martinez to appoint George Salina, Leonard Garcia, Samuel Longoria, and Jonathan Munoz. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. At this time the Commission proceeded with Item 11 Open Session.

## **9. BIDS/CONTRACTS:**

### **a. Approval of annual contracts for services**

Mr. Ramirez presented the items for which the city has issued bids. The plan was to conduct an annual bid to select all bidders and establish contracts, rotating them for various projects. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve all items which include the list below. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- i. PVC Pipes**
- ii. Fuel**
- iii. Auto repair services**
- iv. Motor Oil**
- v. Road Repair**

## **vi. Utility Installation & Repairs**

At this time, 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 7:24 p.m.

### **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Discussion with City Manager regarding personnel matters – Section 551.074**
- b. Consultation with Attorney regarding petition by Ms. Crystal Newton regarding historical designation removal – Section 551.071**
- c. Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation relating to CL-23-4202-B – Section 551.071**
- d. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts for services – Section 551.071**
- e. Consultation with Attorney regarding Waste Connections fee – Section 551.071**

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 9:53 p.m. and moved to item 8B.

### **11. OPEN SESSION:**

- a. Item A**  
No action
- b. Item B**  
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the de-designation request by Ms. Newton. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Item C**  
Legal is asking for approval to discuss the case with Ms. Newton. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Item D**  
No action
- e. Item E**  
Commissioner Martinez motioned to table. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.