

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

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

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Martinez led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM-

There were no comments from the public.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Presentation from Prime Health

Ms. Kathlene Avila of Knapp Medical Center, in partnership with Prime Health, presented to the Commission highlighting their commitment to quality healthcare close to home. The hospital boasts 227 beds, including 16 ICU beds, and operated a level IV Trauma Center in their ER. With 300 physicians on staff, they offer award-winning care and are the only 5-star system in the valley, also being the sole grade A hospital. They provide detailed metrics on their website to aid patients in choosing the best hospital for their needs.

Their services include advanced treatments like the Mako Robot for precise Knee Replacement Surgery, customized to each patient's body. They've partnered with four surgeons to establish a mid-valley location, emphasizing accessibility and convenience. Mid-Valley Urgent Care, open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., serves as a one-stop-shop, with plans to offer mammogram days for employees. The Commission commended their professionalism, and Ms. Avila expressed gratitude, assuring the city of their continued support.

7. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. Approval of Resolution 2024-18 denying the rate increase for AEP

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

8. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held May 21, 2024

b. Approval of second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-04 regarding Recreation Center Fees

c. Approval of second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-05 regarding the Solid Waste Fees

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve all items under consent agenda and forego the readings. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. MANAGEMENT ITEMS: Present, discuss, consider and possibly take action regarding:

a. Basketful's request for donation

Pastor Dillon informed the commission on their efforts of the four churches in found basketsful, a community initiative. They provide food to four groups, each come on separate weeks. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Commissioner Howell inquired about operating hours, understanding they accommodate the elderly by avoiding midday heat. The food pantry primarily serves elderly and non-working individuals. Additionally, the school district operates a pantry for families with children. Pastor Dillon proposed collaboration with the city to expand support to more families. Currently, they distribute \$2,000 monthly to 360 families, roughly. Winter Texans, known as Nomads, assist with light repairs. Commissioner Howell suggested distributing \$20,000 between Basket full and another church. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Request for vehicle from Amigos Del Valle

Commissioner Martinez motioned to table to get more details on the van and bring back for the budget. Due to no further motion, Commissioner Martinez motioned to move this item and discuss in executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Returned from Executive Session: Commissioner Martinez amended his motion to postpone this item. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. 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 – Section 551.074**
- b. **Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation -Section 551.071**
- c. **Deliberation pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.087 regarding economic negotiations and about real property pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.072. Consultation with legal counsel to receive communication protected by attorney client communication privilege pursuant to Tx. Gov't Code 551.071 (2) regarding same.**
- d. **Consultation with legal counsel regarding pending litigation pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 (1) (a) and (b).**
- e. **Consultation with legal counsel pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 (1)(a) and (b) and Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 (2) and regarding real property pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.072**

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:30 p.m.

11. OPEN SESSION:

- a. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item a**
No action was taken on this item.
- b. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item b**
No Action was taken on this item.
- c. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item c**
Commissioner Garcia motion to proceed as discussed and authorize the city manager to sign MSA and title search on the 3.7 acres. Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item d**
No action was taken on this item.
- e. **Possible Action pertaining to executive session item e**
No Action

At this time, the commission moved to item 9B.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.