

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 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 - Virtual

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez City Manager
Martie Garcia-Vela City Attorney
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Javier Ramirez Asst. City Manager
Nereida Perez Finance Director
Francisco Sanchez Interim Police Chief
Jesus Rodriguez Lieutenant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya 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 during agenda item 7A.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Montoya led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

No citizen signed up for open forum.

6. CONSENT

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held May 9, 2023, May 15, 2023 & May 16, 2023.

b. Approval of items for surplus from the police department for auction.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve items A & B from consent agenda.

Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. MANAGEMENT ITEMS: *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

a. Approval of Repairs for FM 1425.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve and get a cost analysis. Mayor Montoya stated the road does not belong to the city and would need to speak to TxDOT regarding the roadway. Commissioner Saldana stated for the City to prepare a memo expressing their desire to have the road be priority for TxDOT. At a question, Legal stated the item could be amending to approve the letter for TxDOT. Commissioner Howell retracted his motion. Commission Saldana motioned to authorize the City Manager or Mayor to send a letter to TxDot expressing priority to FM 1425 between business 83 and expressway 83 can be on

the priority list. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Hidalgo County Pct. 1 Interlocal Agreement for Mile 1 E.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ramirez stated this interlocal agreement for the city to partner with the County to pay for half of the project. This is for the design phase of the project. At a question, the cost is \$3.3 million and \$1.6 million is the city's responsibility for the next 18 months. Mr. Perez stated that some government funds were used for engineering services and the city would have had to pay all the funds back. They moved forward with the county to proceed with the project. Mr. Ramirez stated the road will have two lanes and a middle turning lane with a shoulder on each side. Mayor Montoya stated this is the time to do the project. At a question, Mr. Ramirez stated the project should be bid out in 2026.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting into executive session at 6:50 p.m.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Discussion with City Manager regarding on Mercedes Real Estate Market Analysis – Section 551.072
- b. Discussion with City Manager regarding strategic recruitment of retail and developers to the City of Mercedes – Section 551.087
- c. Discussion with City Manager regarding strategies to support local business – Section 551.087
- d. Discussion with City Manager regarding status on projects – Section 551.087
- e. Discussion with City Manager regarding personnel matters – Section 551.074
- f. Discussion with City Manager regarding amendment of budget policy – Section 551.074
- g. Discussion regarding Project M. Carrillo – Section 551.087

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:55 p.m.

9. OPEN SESSION: *Present, Discuss, Consider and Possibly Take Action Regarding:*

- a. Mercedes Real Estate Market Analysis**
No action was taken on this item.
- b. Recruitment of Retail and Developers**
No action was taken on this item.
- c. Strategy for Support of Local Businesses**
No action was taken on this item.
- d. Status on Projects**
No action was taken on this item.
- e. Personnel Matters**
No action was taken on this item.
- f. Budget Policy Amendment**
- g. Project M. Carrillo**

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to proceed as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve the loan to Martha Carrillo in the amount of \$70,140.83 at 3.5 interest rate for 7 years with a first lien on the real

estate. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Saldana made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.