

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Ruben Saldana Mayor Pro-Tem
Dr. Jacob C. Howell Commissioner
Armando Garcia Commissioner
Joe Martinez Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Mayor

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez City Manager
Joselynn Castillo City Secretary
Martie Garcia Vela City Attorney (Virtual)
Meredith Hernandez Interim Finance Director
Kristine Longoria Human Resources
Michael Rocha I.T Specialist
Tom Villagomez Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Orlando Diaz, Denisse Hernandez, Alvaro De Leon, Juan Vasquez, Ruth Valdez

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana 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 Montoya was absent.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Martinez said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Howell led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

a. **Discussion and Approval of the Proposed Tax Rate for 2024.**

Ms. M. Hernandez stated financial advisors recommended to increase the tax rate by 1 cent to meet the city's obligations. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. At a question, Ms. Hernandez explained the property value, tax rate, de-minimus, voter approval rate and the no new revenue rate. If the city were to select the no new revenue rate then there will be no new funds to levy. Mr. A. Perez explained that the city agreed to go for CO's in the amount of \$7 million. Commissioner Howell stated the increase would assist with the projects. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated that only \$4 Million comes from property tax. Ms. M. Hernandez clarified that the City does receive the \$6.6 million but it is broken down to general and I&S. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. **PUBLIC HEARING regarding the proposed budget for FY 24-25**

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana opened the public hearing at 6:39 p.m. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana closed the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

i. **Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2024-08 to adopt the City of Mercedes Budget for FY 24-25.**

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approved and forego the first reading. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. At a question, Ms. M. Hernandez stated the budget is balanced and has no changes from the budget workshop. Ms. Hernandez stated salaries increases are included at 7%. Mr. A. Perez stated this is to keep the city competitive with neighboring cities and will only help get the city closer to where they need to be.

b. **Approval of Resolution 2024-24 authorizing signatories for requesting funds pertaining to the 2018 South Texas Floods Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)**

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

Commissioner Howell motioned to go into executive. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 6:47 p.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 – Section 551.074
- b. Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation -Section 551.071
- c. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana called the meeting back to order and opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

8. Open Session:

- a. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item a – No Action
- b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item b – No Action
- c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item c – No Action

9. Adjournment

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