



Mayor Oscar D. Montoya
 Commissioner Joe Martinez
 Commissioner Armando Garcia

Commissioner Dr. Jacob Howell
 Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Ruben Saldana
 City Manager Alberto Perez

MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 AUGUST 6, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
 MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
 400 S. OHIO AVE., MERCEDES, TX 78570


“At any time during the course of this meeting, the City Commission may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the City Commission under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at any time during the course of this meeting, the City Commission may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.”

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Establish Quorum**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
5. **Open Forum-**
6. **Presentation:**
 - a. Presentation by the Ministry of Living Stone
 - b. Update on Street Improvements
 - c. Update by Building and Standards Board
7. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held July 13, 2024, July 16, 2024, & July 24, 2024.
 - b. Second & Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-06 amending ordinance 2023-04 regarding garbage accounts
 - c. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2024-07 to Rezone Hacienda Olivia Phase II from “N” Newly Annexed to “A-2” Single Family Residence
8. **Management Items:** *Present, discuss, consider and possibly take action regarding:*
 - a. Approval of Request from Leadership Mercedes Class 3 regarding the Lending Library Proposal
9. **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
 - d. Discussion regarding Project M30 – Section 551.087
10. **Open Session:**
 - a. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item a
 - b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item b
 - c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item c
 - d. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item d
11. **Adjournment**

Notice is hereby given that the City Commissioners of the City of Mercedes, Texas will meet in a **Regular Meeting** on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. Said meeting will be conducted in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall located at 400 S. Ohio, Mercedes, Texas for the purpose of considering and taking formal action regarding the items listed above. This notice is given in accordance with Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated, Texas Government Code, Section 551.001 et. Seq.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY THIS THE 2ND DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

ATTEST:



 Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
 Time of Posting: 5:20 P.M.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The City of Mercedes recognizes its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City Manager’s Office at (956) 565-3114 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting with requests for reasonable accommodations, including requests for a sign language interpreter.



WHERE GOD AND FAMILY COME FIRST

Date: 7/30/24

City of Mercedes

Distinguished Mayor and Commissioner's;

This letter is to help inform The City of Mercedes and surrounding communities of the Ministry of Living Stone and seek support through donations and or sponsorship. Living Stone falls under Mercedes Christian Church which has been in the City of Mercedes for over one hundred years. We, would like to approach the Mayor and Commission on marking our church with a land marker. Living Stone has ongoing projects, fundraisers and conferences and manages ongoing ministries through missions throughout different countries in different parts of the world, such as Mexico, Africa, India, Haiti and Jews for Jesus Ministries. Living Stone is continuously seeking support through sponsors that are willing to help us better serve the City of Mercedes and Rio Grande Valley.

We, at Living Stone are currently seeking for sponsorship to help us establish Living Stone Christian Academy, The Grace Home and Living Stone Food Pantry. We, at Living Stone are on the move to be innovative and serve the needs of our Community of Mercedes and surrounding areas. We, are up for the challenge and are here to pioneer such Missions.

We, at Living Stone have established Living Stone Christian Academy that is set to open August 19th 2024 for its first year of fruition. We, currently are promoting our Academy through the Christian Radio station 96.9 with donations of sponsorship. We, are currently enrolling students from Kindergarten 3rd -12th grade. Mid Valley Christian Academy is located centrally in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley, in "La Reyna Del Valle." We, are here to help facilitate and admit students from The City of Mercedes and surrounding communities. Living Stone Christian Academy purpose is to provide a quality education based on a Biblical view of the world. Only in this context can an individual be adequately trained and equipped for service to God. We subscribe to the idea that quality academic instruction can be provided without compromising Biblical spiritual integrity. Living Stone Christian Academy curriculum takes into consideration the spiritual, physical, and intellectual development of its students. The instructional program seeks to achieve the curricular goals without creating unnatural divisions between sacred and secular knowledge. The teachers and staff endeavor to relate to the students lovingly. They also

strive to develop an atmosphere of trust in which the spiritual development of each student can be enriched.

Pastor Cara Jacques would further inform with information to Mayor Montoya and City Commission.

Living Stone is wanting to raise funds and or seek sponsorship to establish a "Women's Crisis Center" and it will be called The Grace Home. We, have the vision of this home to be for teenage mom's that need a short term place to stay. Battered women and children seeking shelter for themselves. We, would provide a safe haven for them who are enduring a crisis hardship case to help assist them and acute emergencies in The City of Mercedes such as a house fire and or natural disaster. We, would be utilizing our property but we are seeking funding to help us with our goal and dream for such a safe haven in Mercedes.

Pastor Roland Jacques would further inform with information to Mayor Montoya and City Commission.

Living Stone is seeking funding for Living Stone Pantry. We, have a pantry that is comprised of donations through church members. We, also promote can drives through our members as well. We, have had private donors help us with financial support in turn canned goods are purchased. We, have a need in our Community of Mercedes. We, are accessible at different hours to our citizens according to their urgency and need. Please help us allocate funding to our pantry to better serve the residents of The City of Mercedes. Bertha O. McBride will provide Mayor Montoya and City Commission with further information.

We, truly appreciate any and all efforts on your behalf to place us on the Agenda of City of Mercedes Commission. We, thank you for your consideration to help sponsor through donations and or sponsorship for our vision here in The City of Mercedes.

Respectfully,

Executive Pastor: Dr. Roland Jacques

Community Liaison: Bertha O. McBride

Bertha O. McBride
Cell phone number: (956)756-9691

Tax Information:

State: 1-7422799431 IRS: 7422799431

Website: www.livingstonevalley.com

Website: Livingstonechristianacademy.com

livingstonechristianacademy.com

Living Stone 612 S. Texas Avenue Mercedes Texas 78570 (956)565-1509

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 13, 2024 – 9:00 A.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Dr. Ruben J. Saldana Joe Martinez Armando Garcia	Mayor Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Commissioner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Dr. Jacob C. Howell	Commissioner
STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez Martie Garcia-Vela Joselynn Castillo Javier Ramirez Meredith Hernandez Michael Rocha Juan Vasquez Kristine Longoria Francisco Sanchez Javier Campos Marisol Vidales Tom Villagomez	City Manager City Attorney (Virtual) City Secretary Asst. City Manager Interim Finance Director I.T Specialist I.T Specialist Human Resources Police Chief Fire Chief/EMC Library Director Public Works Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Four members of the Commission were present which constitutes a quorum.
Commissioner Howell was absent.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Martinez said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Garcia led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments during open forum.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

Mayor Montoya explained the budget process and the importance of having the budget to meet the needs of the city throughout the year.

Fire Chief Campos presented to the Commission the budget for Fire/EMS. Chief Campos informed that EMS expenditures increased from \$500,000 to \$682,763.00. This increase is primarily due to the need to replace the chassis of one of the ambulances. The replacement process for the chassis is expected to take about three months. Meanwhile, the city has three other ambulances on shift. The Fire Department has 18 full-time firefighters, 9 of whom are paramedics, 2 advanced EMT's and 7 basic EMT's. Personnel

costs for full-time employees increased from \$101,000 to \$120,000 to account for fire certification pay. Chief Campos highlighted the need for additional staff due to the high volume of calls. He requested three additional personnel to ensure one per shift and a part-time employee to assist the Fire Marshal. In response to a question about revenues, Chief Campos explained that the Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with the County to service the rural areas of Mercedes. The City invoices the county for any calls attended outside city limits. Chief Campos proposed establishing a training facility. The facility would provide opportunities to acquire equipment from South Texas College and potentially host a fire academy. Chief Campos outlines his capital outlay requests, including the purchase of a new brush truck for \$183,413 from the CO funds for 2025 and new radios. The Fire Department's budget increased from \$1.5 million to \$1.9 million to cover personnel and volunteer expenses. There was discussion about establishing a substation for the Fire Department. Chief Campos suggested that the substation could be beneficial on Mile 2 West and North of Mile 9, given the high volume of calls from that area.

Police Chief Sanchez requested an increase in the overtime budget. He explained the schedule change to 12-hour shifts with a 4-day work week, which impacts overtime needs. The increase also covers costs for active response training. There was a discussion about establishing a shooting range, highlighting that the city's central location in the valley makes it an ideal spot. The budget also reflects an increase in ammunition costs for training purposes. Mr. Perez discussed a two-step approach for adjusting police department salaries to remain competitive with neighboring cities. There was discussion about parking issues for staff and the police department, including the need for security cameras and improved lighting in the parking lot. Animal control currently has two employees, with no changes proposed to their budget. Mayor Montoya expressed interest in organizing an event for spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and tagging. Mr. Perez emphasized the need for the animal shelter and the 24/7 operation to adequately care for the animals.

I.T Specialist Michael Rocha addressed the Commission about the I.T Budget for all departments. Mr. Perez commended the I.T staff for their efforts in cyber security training. Mr. Rocha highlighted the implementation of the KnowBe4 training program, which costs \$7,000 per year for three years. He added that H2O is the licensing software used for Utility Billing. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana expressed the desire for the city's website to be updated. He suggested that each department should manage their respective pages to ensure current and accurate information. Mayor Montoya inquired if every Police Department unit has in-car laptops and connectivity. Mr. Rocha confirmed that all units are equipped with these technologies. Mr. Rocha included in the budget the installation of camera for City Hall, the library, and public works. VTX1 offered to place an access point in the back parking lot along with a camera for enhanced security and connectivity.

Mayor Montoya called a 5-minute recess at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 11:12 a.m.

Planning Director Ramirez informed the Commission about the budget changes and increases. Material testing has a increased costs, which is reimbursable to the city. Contractual Services had an increase of \$5,000 for GIS software maintenance. Mr. Ramirez proposed to add an inspector/code enforcement/ GIS mapping employee for fieldwork. Subscriptions and Travel and Training increased due to necessary licenses for the Planning Director, Building Official and Inspector. Mr. Ramirez stated the city has one antenna for GIS surveying with centimeters accuracy. Capital Outlay also increased to purchase a vehicle for the new inspector/code enforcement/GIS mapping employee. Mayor Montoya suggested starting a program to educate the public about new regulations, such as brush placement dates and pick-up schedules. Commissioner Martinez recommended having staff register people at community events. Mayor Montoya also recommended using utility bills to sign up every household for CodeRed, allowing them to opt out if desired. Mr. Ramirez stated that 8 businesses will be brought before the Building and Standards Commission to either work with them or condemn the properties. Mr. Ramirez stated the Urban County budget will be allocated to street improvement for 10th street. He added that the waterline on 10th street has been relocated, and paving is expected to start next week and the school and residents will need to be notified. Mr. Ramirez informed the commission about the software the planning department uses to help improve their process for permits. Mr. Ramirez discussed the grants and projects which included water well grant, FEMA Dome Project, Mercedes Lateral, a crossing at Maryland and 14th Street upgrade, and the EPA Grant.

Mayor Montoya called for a 30-minute recess at 12:12 p.m. for lunch. Mayor called the meeting back to order at 12:32 p.m.

Library Director Marisol Vidales addressed the Commission about requesting one additional staff member to support the department. Ms. Vidales added funds to travel and training for the Historical Committee and to send more staff members to various trainings. She increased the budget to include a book repair machine and diaper changing tables for the restrooms. The budget increased to purchase software and licenses for reading challenges, which can be used for summer reading or throughout the year. Ms. Vidales increased funding by \$2,000 for the purchasing of new books. She went on to explain the criteria and process for selecting books for the library collection.

Public Works Director Tomas Villagomez informed of the departments plan to purchase a John Deere Tractor, fuel tanks, a truck for the streets division, a 4-seater Gator, a line striper, a backhoe and a new trailer for the parks division. Mr. Perez mentioned the projects on street improvements which included Mile 1 E. Project, Dakota Street, and Mile 2 W to Llano Grande. Mr. Villagomez recently purchased a hotbox machine to assist with paving repairs. He spoke about the irrigation efforts to install pipes in the park. However, watering has been minimized due to water restrictions. There was ongoing discussion about the needs and conditions of parks and playground equipment.

Interim Finance Director Meredith Hernandez stated the budget has increased from \$15 million last year to \$17 Million this year. There is a projection of \$7 million increase in reserves. The Enterprise Fund in previous years had a balance of \$0 and the general fund was subsidizing the expenditures. Last year the enterprise fund saw a increase in revenues

of \$600,00 and this year is projected to end in a balance of \$2 million. Both last year and this year, the Utility fund repaying the general fund \$300,000. Water rates are scheduled to increase again on October 1, 2024.

Commissioner Martinez thanked management and staff for all their hard work.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 16, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia Vela	City Attorney
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Meredith Hernandez	Interim Finance Director
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Juan Vasquez	I.T Specialist
	Tom Villagomez	Public Works Director

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. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana was absent.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Garcia led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM-

- Mr. Joe and Mary Cano stated they addressed the Commission on May 21, 2024. They provided pictures and prices for the van they need for Amigos Del Valle. The members of the center would like to attend events but fear the van will break down any moment. The van has faulty A/C and is crowded. They are requesting approval to replacing their 2009 van for a new 15 passenger van.
- Mr. Albert Cano expressed his concern about his wife who fell at home and was in pain. He dialed 9-1-1 and received no answer, he then called Mercedes PD and again no answer, however, Mercedes PD called him back. Mr. Cano stated it took 16 minutes for someone to arrive as of his first phone call. He stated the EMT's did an awesome job, but expressed his concern with not being answered when he called PD.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held June 18, 2024 & July 2, 2024

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

7. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. Approval of first reading of ordinance 2024-06 amending ordinance 2023-04 regarding garbage accounts

b. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2024-07 to rezone Hacienda Olivia Phase II.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the items under Ordinances/Resolution both A & B and forego the reading. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

a. Approval to accept the Voluntary Annexation Petition filed for Las Cabanas

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Mr. Ramirez stated it is required to have the city approve the petition in order to move forward. Mile 2 West and Mile 9 north on the south east side of the intersection. This is a 14.9 acre of Lot 3 block 120. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The properties were originally ½ acre.

9. Departmental Monthly Report

Reports are included for their review.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 6:48 p.m.

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. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 7:52 p.m.

11. 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

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 7:53 p.m.

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 24, 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
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MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
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STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez Martie Garcia Vela (Virtual) Joselynn Castillo Meredith Hernandez Francisco Sanchez Kristine Longoria Juan Vasquez	City Manager City Attorney City Secretary Interim Finance Director Police Chief Human Resources I.T Specialist
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Montoya 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. Commissioner Howell was absent.

3. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Martinez led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Approving Resolution 2024-20 by the City Commission of the City of Mercedes, Texas Authorizing and approving publication of Notice of Intention to Issue Certificates of Obligation; Complying with the Requirements contained in securities and exchange commission Rule 15c2-12; and Providing an Effective Date**
- b. **Approving Resolution 2024-21 relating to establishing the City’s Intention to Reimburse itself for the Prior Lawful Expenditure of funds relating to constructing various city improvements from the proceeds of Tax-Exempt Obligations to be issued by the City for Authorized purposes; authorizing other matters incident and related thereto; and providing an Effective Date**

Mr. Bobby Villarreal addressed the Commission about item B, the reimbursement resolution allowing the city to make the purchases and use the CO funds to reimburse itself. He listed the city’s outstanding debt and noted that the I&S tax is 27 pennies per 100. Mr. Villarreal stated \$881 million of the preliminary tax valuation of the city that is not being contested. City has a rating of A+. The majority of the CO funding will be allocated to water needs such as water well, water plant property and water rights. Mr. Don Gonzalez stated that the city is moving in the right direction, highlighting that this funding would help address immediate needs and prepare for future infrastructure projects. He emphasized that the city has built credibility by fulfilling its promises, including ensuring that the utility fund would sustain itself.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approved both resolutions and forego the reading. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously at 6:51 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-04 BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS, UPDATING SCHEDULE E – DEPOSITS; ESTABLISHING GARBAGE ACCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS AND REPEAL CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS:

Section – 1: Amending “Schedule E – Deposits” of Ordinance 2023-04 to read as follows:

SCHEDULE E – DEPOSIT

A deposit of \$100.00 for homeowners and \$250 for renters shall be required for service for all new residential and garbage accounts. A deposit of \$500.00 shall be required for service for all new commercial and commercial garbage accounts. Such deposit fees, exclusive of Interest earned, shall be returned to the customer upon closing of the account and full payment of the final account bill by the customer.

SECTION 2. If any section, subsection, phrase, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance or their applications to other persons or sets of circumstances, and to this end, all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and all ordinances or parts of ordinances regarding water and sewer rates, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become and be effective in accordance with the City Charter of the City of Mercedes, Texas and the laws of the State of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON FIRST READING, THIS THE 16TH DAY OF JULY, 2024.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING, THIS THE 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

CITY OF MERCEDES

Oscar D. Montoya Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary

Martie Garica-Vela, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE CLASSIFICATION FOR ZONING PURPOSES OF THE FOLLOWING TRACT OF LAND: LOT 7, BLOCK 67, CAPISALLO DISTRICT SUBDIVISION OF THE LANDS OF THE AMERICAN RIO-GRANDE LAND AND IRRIGATION COMPANY (13.80 ACRES), FROM CLASS “N” NEWLY ANNEXED TO CLASS “A-2” SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS AND REPEAL CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on the 1st day of July, 2024 a public hearing was held for the purpose of hearing any objections as to why: **LOT 7, BLOCK 67, CAPISALLO DISTRICT SUBDIVISION OF THE LANDS OF THE AMERICAN RIO-GRANDE LAND AND IRRIGATION COMPANY (13.80 ACRES)**, Mercedes, Hidalgo County, Texas, should be rezoned and classified as follows: from a Class “N” Newly Annexed to a Class “A-2” Single Family Residence.

WHEREAS, the City Commission at its Regular Meeting of July 16th, 2024, having considered the rezoning of the above-described property as listed in the foregoing section and having heard the pros and cons as to such rezoning request, is of the opinion that the aforementioned rezoning is in the best interest of the City of Mercedes, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS:

Section 1: : **LOT 7, BLOCK 67, CAPISALLO DISTRICT SUBDIVISION OF THE LANDS OF THE AMERICAN RIO-GRANDE LAND AND IRRIGATION COMPANY (13.80 ACRES)**, Mercedes, Hidalgo County, Texas, should be rezoned and classified as follows: from a Class “N” Newly Annexed to a Class “A-2” Single Family Residence.

Section 2: That the aforementioned rezoning of the above property be incorporated into the official map of the City of Mercedes, Texas by the City Planner of said City.

Section 3: That if any provision, section, subsection, phrase, paragraph, sentence, clause or portion of this Ordinance shall for any reason be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance or their application of persons or sets of circumstances and to this end, all provisions of this Ordinance or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall become and be effective in accordance with the City Charter of the City of Mercedes, Texas and the laws of the State of Texas.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON FIRST READING THIS THE 16TH DAY OF JULY 2024.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING THIS THE 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

CITY OF MERCEDES

Oscar D. Montoya, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**Joselynn Castillo,
City Secretary**

**Martie Garcia-Vela,
City Attorney**

Benefits of a Lending Library by the Police Department

Leadership Mercedes Class 3:

Leadership Mercedes Class 3, a group dedicated to community improvement, is spearheading the implementation of this lending library project. They would like to propose placing the lending library by the Police Department in Mercedes. Their involvement ensures that the project will be well-organized, community-focused, and sustainable. Leadership Mercedes Class 3 brings together a diverse group of community leaders who are committed to making a positive impact.

A lending library is a small, free-standing structure where people can borrow and donate books for free. The idea is to promote reading and community sharing. Placing such a library in front of the Police Department can have numerous benefits for the community.

Community Hub:

A lending library serves as a focal point for community interactions. It creates a welcoming space where people can gather, exchange books, and engage in conversations. This can foster a sense of community and belonging among residents.

Police-Community Relations:

Placing the library in front of the Police Department can foster positive interactions between police officers and residents. It provides an opportunity for officers to engage with the community in a non-enforcement capacity, helping to build trust and rapport.

Promoting Literacy and Education:

The lending library provides easy access to books for all ages and demographics. It encourages reading and promotes a culture of lifelong learning. The library can include a variety of educational materials and resources, supporting students and adults alike.

Positive Visibility:

The presence of a lending library in front of the Police Department shows the department's commitment to the community's well-being. It creates a positive image of the police force, emphasizing their role as community partners and supporters of local initiatives.

Implementation Plan:

- Location: The location we are looking to implement this project is to the south of the Police Department on the elevated grass section by the Flagpole.
- Library Design: While the class is still finalizing the design of the project, a police theme would be appropriate.
- Book Collection: The leadership class will gather book donations and maintain the collection as needed.
- Maintenance: Our class will establish a plan involving its current members to ensure the library remains organized and stocked.

Potential Challenges and Solutions:

- Vandalism: While the location of the lending library is close proximity of our Police Department, vandalism is still a possibility. The cameras located on the perimeter of the building will help as a deterrent.
- Book Supply: Ensure a continuous supply of books through regular community donations and partnerships with local organizations.
- Weather Damage: The leadership class is currently discussing the materials to be used for the project. The use of durable, weather-resistant materials for the construction of the library will benefit the overall project to withstand environmental conditions.

Community Involvement:

Encourage community members to volunteer in maintaining and organizing the library. Partnerships with local schools, libraries, and businesses can enhance the project's sustainability and reach.

Conclusion:

A lending library in front of the Police Department can significantly enhance community engagement, promote literacy, and build trust between the police and residents. With the dedicated efforts of Leadership Mercedes Class 3, this project is set to become a valuable resource for our community, demonstrating the department's and the community's investment in cultural and educational development. Let's work together to bring this valuable resource to our community.

PUBLIC
POLICE CALL BOX

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY
In the Spring 2011

WELCOME FRIENDS
- Borrow A Book
OR
- Keep A Book & Donate
Another Book To It!
- Make Donations anytime

READ

READ





