

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2022 – 6:30 P.M  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Oscar D. Montoya Sr. Joe Martinez Ruben Saldana Armando Garcia	Mayor Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Commissioner
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Jacob Howell	Commissioner
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Alberto Perez Joselynn Castillo Javier Ramirez Nereida Perez Joaquin Hernandez Javier Campos Kristine Longoria Marisol Vidales Ervin Vilchis Martin Johnson	City Manager City Secretary Asst. City Manager Finance Director Public Works Director Fire Chief Human Resources Library Director IT Director Asst. Rec. Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Axel Vallejo, Meredith Hernandez, Isidro Alvarado, Erika Noriega, Ricardo Castillo, Adrian Saucedo, Juan Vega Jr., Nicholas Vallejo, David Mena, Rodolfo Zuniga, Samuel Ochoa, Albert Agueros, Jose Celedon, Antonio Gonzalez, Guillermo Ramos, Ysidro Lopez, Jesus Tamez, Aaron Villarreal, Francisco Sanchez, Jose Hernandez

**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. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez arrived at 6:44 P.M. Commissioner Howell was absent.

**3. INVOCATION**

Mayor Montoya said the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Juan Vega Jr. led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Montoya took some time to thank the Public Works Department for their hard work.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

- Mr. Ricardo Castillo stated that promises were made for wages. Equipment has been purchased but the raise has not happened. Mr. Castillo stated that he has been employed with the City of Mercedes for 17 years and some employees are making more than him. Mr. Castillo asked for the Commission to make the employees proud.
- Mr. Adrian Saucedo, utilities supervisor, stated that there is an employee that's been here for 40 years that is earning less than \$11.00 per hour. He added that cost of living has gone up and the employees travel from other cities to work in Mercedes. Mr. Saucedo asked the

Commission for increases for laborers and for standby. Mr. Saucedo stated that the public works staff deserve a raise.

- Mr. Joshua Gallegos, the past 14 years the public works department has only been given small raises. He stated the Public Works department work long hours, and help at all the events. He added that prices and cost of living have increased. He stated that their take home is about \$500 every two weeks. The conditions are dangerous for the laborers and they deserve a raise.

**6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2022-2023.**

Mr. Perez stated that the current budget is a work in progress but have balanced the budget. Five a/c units are currently out that were not foreseen for this year. Ms. Perez stated that 22% of revenue is from sales tax. The city is relying on new development as property tax is not increasing. The City is working to build up the cash reserves. The budget started with a \$1.8 Mil shortfall. Ms. Perez stated that 13 departments have an increase, the requested amount was at \$12 Million and increased to \$14.1 Million. Sales tax is budgeted at a 3% increase which is conservative. Property tax will not go into effect until the next year. Commissioner Saldana stated its good to plan conservatively and receive more. Mr. Perez stated that the fund policy and investment policy was passed and there is currently \$3.9 mil in reserves. The reserves are required to have a minimum of 90 operational days.

Mayor Montoya stated that raises are permanent and the city finally has a plan. There is a proposed increase. Ms. Perez stated there was an increase on license and permits fees and the city used to collect \$200K to 500K and are now up to \$1.8 mil. General fund was subsidizing the utility fund and this year the utility fund will be paying back to the general fund approximately \$300K. Mayor Montoya stated that the changes are to level the employees. The budget for street repair was \$150k last fiscal year and requested the same amount for the next fiscal year. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez asked if streets are also allocated for sidewalks. Mr. Hernandez stated that sidewalks is not budgeted and there's no personnel to work on the sidewalks. Mr. Hernandez stated that only one person can do concrete work. The Commission stated to look into including a plan for sidewalk repairs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to go into executive. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into executive session at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m.

The Commission would like to add two employees to streets, one executive admin, and three School resource officers and would like to bring back at the next meeting a line items for sidewalks.

**7. ADJOURNMENT.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.