

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.  
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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

<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney(webex)
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Ervin Vilchis	IT Assistant
	Nereida Perez	Finance Director
	Joaquin Hernandez	Public Works Director
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Ruben Gutierrez	Fire Marshal

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Axel Vallejo, Brianna Casares, Jose Gomez, Isoforo Pena, Ramon Mejia,

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

All members of the Commission were present, which constitutes a full quorum.

**3. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Saldana said the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Howell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

- Mr. Jose Gomez stated that social media is only promoting certain information and are not including pending lawsuit or other topics citizens are concerned about. He stated the People are asking about the status of the contingency lawsuits. Mr. Gomez stated that the city can use the 36 acres to help the city grow. He added that updating the public will help build trust in city leaders.
- Mr. Isoforo Pena expressed his concerns with a bad experience he had at city hall and law enforcement was called. He stated that he went to city hall to check for information at which was not updated. Mr. Pena stated he had an issue with brush services not taking all of the brush from the site. He stated that citizens are charged for the service but are not reimbursed if there is no brush.
- Mr. Carlos Gonzalez and Mr. David Escobares signed up but did not speak as they are part of the agenda.
- Mr. Ramon Mejia stated that over the weekend he went to the aquarium and USS Lexington because there's no place to visit in Mercedes. He stated that the elida reyna concert did not go

as the city planned. He asked how much the city spent on the event and how much did they pay Elida Reyna. He stated we are teaching our children “party time”. He added that now the chamber asked for more money for the street festival and a KMB member is asking for travel expenses. He stated the old fire station could be repaired. He stated that an individual was paid \$140K for a grant writer. In 2018 the City commission borrowed \$9.9 Mil for streets and in 2020 another \$9 Mil was borrowed. He asked where is the money. Mr. Mejia stated a contract should not be discussed behind closed doors.

**6. PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. Recognition of Dr. Sammy Garcia**

Ms. Brianna Casares recognized Dr. Samuel Garcia, for his achievements with NASA and is a STEM education specialist. He presented to the youth at the Library and the Recreation Center what it’s like to be an astronaut. Dr. Garcia thanked the community of Mercedes, expressed his condolences to Commissioner Howell for the loss of his father. He thanked his family for their help. All people need are the opportunity to excel. Dr. Garcia gave the commission a small token of appreciation. Mayor Montoya thanked Dr. Garcia and commended his achievements and wished him to a great career. Commissioner Howell stated that he will inspire the next generation of children to work hard.

**b. Rock N Boots Presentation**

Mr. David Escobares and Mr. Carlos Gonzalez presented to the Commission and requested to partner with the City of Mercedes. Mr. Gonzalez want the event to be a part of the Community. His goal is to make this a place for residents from other cities to attend. They are looking for a place to have the event. It’s a 2-day event with different genres of music. Mr. Escobares stated that this can help the city grow and bring people to Mercedes. He stated the are ready to allocate the moneys to help the city bring in the tax costs.

**c. Legislative Update by Congresswoman Mayra Flores**

Congresswoman Mayra Flores was unable to attend the meeting.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held July 5, 2022 & July 19, 2022.**

**b. Second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2022-15 to approve the TGS RGC COSA.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve all items under consent agenda. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS: *Present, Discuss, Consider and Possible Take Action Regarding:***

**a. Public Hearing regarding the Water Conservation Plan.**

**i. Approval of Resolution No. 2022-11 for the Water Conservation Plan**

Mr. Ramirez presented the water conservation plan as required by TCEQ. The plan is a long-term plan of the City goals. The Drought contingency plan addresses the short-term issues. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez thanked staff for working on these plans due to the current water levels and asked if there are any regional incentives. Mr. Ramirez stated the city has been awarded for a water well and if the City has ground water then the city does not need to rely on the Rio Grande and other water sources. Mayor Montoya opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 P.M. Mr. Mejia stated that water is life. Public hearing closed at 7:10 P.M.

**b. Public Hearing regarding the Drought Contingency Plan**

**i. Approval of Resolution No. 2022-12 for the Drought Contingency Plan.**

Mayor Montoya opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 P.M. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Montoya closed the hearing closed at 7:11 PM. Mayor Pro- Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Commissioner Saldana stated that under the water conservation plan the City's use is 177 gallon per capita per day and the goal is to get to 99gallons of water per capita use. There is a continued public education source that can be used. Commissioner Saldana stated that education is the best way to conserve water. Mayor Montoya stated there is cost component to the city on water shortage. Mayor Montoya stated this is huge responsibility and the city and citizens need to do their part and get educated about water conservation. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously for both resolutions.

**9. MANAGEMENT ITEMS(S): *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possible Take Action Regarding:***

**a. Chamber of Commerce request for funds for Texas Street Festival.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez made a motion to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Mr. Perez stated that funds are being moved from another line item. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez stated that hotel motel tax must be used for promoting tourism. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez stated that in order to fix the streets and issues of the city is through sales tax. He informed everyone of all the Cities that have events to promote tourism for their city. Commissioner Howell stated he is grateful to be on the EDC board. He stated they are moving money around where its better used. He stated that instead of having little Nashville all year, making it a seasonal event to use those funds on other items. Commissioner Garcia stated that the funds from the street festival fund that are received are given out to students as scholarships. Commissioner Saldana stated that these events are important for the community to come together. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**b. Selecting a member to the Amigos Del Valle Board of Representatives.**

Commissioner Howell motioned to nominate Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez for the Amigos Del Valle Board of Representatives. Mayor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Montoya approved and designated Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez.

**c. Approval of Gran reimbursement for historically designated property 304 S. Texas Ave.**

Ms. Vidales stated Ms. Manuela Garza applied for the reimbursement for her property. She had roof repairs and spent a total of \$21K. The cap for the roof grant is \$10K. It was already budgeted and the Historical board approved. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Ms. Vidales stated that they need to apply for the renovations first and the board has to review their improvements prior to verifying the renovations to make sure it will not affect the integrity of the building. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**d. Approval of Travel expense for KMB committee members.**

Mr. Ramirez stated a KMB member attended the Keep Texas Beautiful conference in Austin that occurs every year. Commissioner Garcia motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez abstained. No one seconded. Motion died due to lack of a second.

**10. BIDS/CONTRACTS: *Present, Discuss, Consider, and Possibly Take Action Regarding:***

**a. Memorandum of Understanding between Region One Educational Service Center and the City of Mercedes on behalf of the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library.**

Ms. Vidales stated that Region One will be going back to in person classes and are asking to use the space. Commissioner Saldana motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**b. Approval to secure bids for Audit Services for FYE 2022.**

Ms. Perez stated that there are additional funds to be audit and the dates for the due date of the audit. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Mr. Perez informed the commission of the audit process. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Montoya called the meeting into executive session at 7:40 P.M. Returned from executive session at 9:37 P.M.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**a. Consultation with Attorney regarding water meters – Section 551.071**

**b. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071**

**12. OPEN SESSION: *Discuss, Consider, and Possible Take Action Regarding:***

**a. Item A from Executive Session.**

**b. Item B from Executive Session.**

No action on items A and B. Commissioner Howell stated that discussing things out of executive can jeopardize legal matters.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Saldana motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.