

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 8, 2025 – 5:00 PM
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 by Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana**
- 4. Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner Garcia**
- 5. Open Forum**
- 6. Presentations**
 - a. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Commissioner Place 4 and Place 2
- 7. Adjournment**

Notice is hereby given that the City Commissioners of the City of Mercedes, Texas will meet in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM. 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 5TH DAY OF MAY, 2025.

ATTEST:



Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Time of Posting: 4:45 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.

Presentations

DATE: May 8, 2025**FROM:****ITEM:** Discussion and possible action to Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Commissioner Place 4 and Place 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On March 18, 2025 the City Commission accepted the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates and declared the Commissioner for Place 2 and Place 4 elected. As per Texas Election Code Section 2.053, the declaration of the unopposed candidate serves as the legal substitute for the canvass and the order declaring the candidates fulfills the certification function. The next step is to swear-in the Newly Elected Commissioners for Place 4 and Place 2.

BOARD REVIEW/CITIZEN FEEDBACK: N/A

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: (Total Costs)

Proposed Expenditure/(Revenue):

\$

Account Number(s):

Finance Review by: N/A

LEGAL REVIEW: Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Certificate of Unopposed Candidate
2. Order of Cancellation
3. 03-18-25

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: No action required. Swearing-in is a presentation.

**CERTIFICATION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR OTHER
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (NOT COUNTY)
CERTIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS ÚNICOS
PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLITICAS (NO EL CONDADO)**

To: Presiding Officer of Governing Body
Al: Presidente de la entidad gobernante

As the authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared, I hereby certify that the following candidates are unopposed for election to office for the election scheduled to be held on May 3, 2025.

Como autoridad a cargo de la preparación de la boleta de votación oficial, por la presente certifico que los siguientes candidatos son candidatos únicos para elección para un cargo en la elección que se llevará a cabo el 3 de mayo del 2025.

List offices and names of candidates:

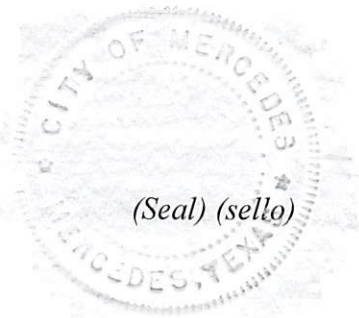
Lista de cargos y nombres de los candidatos:

Office(s) Cargo(s)

Armando Garcia
Ruben J. Saldana

Candidate(s) Candidato(s)

City Commissioner Place 2
City Commissioner Place 4





Signature (Firma)

Joselynn Castillo

Printed name (Nombre en letra de molde)

City Secretary

Title (Puesto)

03/13/2025

Date of signing (Fecha de firma)

ORDER OF CANCELLATION
ORDEN DE CANCELACIÓN

The City of Mercedes hereby cancels the election scheduled to be held on
(official name of governing body)

May 3, 2025 in accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas
(date on which election was scheduled to be held)

Election Code. The following candidates have been certified as unopposed and are hereby elected as follows:

La Ciudad de Mercedes por la presente cancela la elección que, de lo contrario,
(nombre oficial de la entidad gobernante)

se hubiera celebrado el 3 día de mayo del 2025 de conformidad, con
(fecha en que se hubiera celebrado la elección)

la Sección 2.053(a) del Código de Elecciones de Texas. Los siguientes candidatos han sido certificados como
candidatos únicos y por la presente quedan elegidos como se haya indicado a continuación:

Candidate (Candidato)

Armando Garcia
Ruben J. Saldana

Office Sought (Cargo al que presenta candidatura)

City Commissioner Place 2
City Commissioner Place 4

A copy of this order will be posted on Election Day at each polling place that would have been used in the election.

El Día de las Elecciones se exhibirá una copia de esta orden en todas las mesas electorales que se hubieran utilizado en la elección.


Secretary (Secretario)

(seal) (sello)

03-18-2025
Date of adoption (Fecha de adopción)


Mayor (Alcalde)

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025 – 6:30 PM
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
400 S. OHIO AVE., MERCEDES, TX 78570**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez, City Manager
Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney
Patricio Avila, Asst. City Manager
Meredith Hernandez, Interim Finance Director
Francisco Sanchez, Police Chief
Javier Campos, Fire Chief/EMC
Kristine Longoria, Human Resources
Michael Rocha, I.T Director
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Armando Villela, Parks Director
Adrian Perez, Planning Director
Marisol Vidales, Library Director
Richard Morin, Recreation Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Juan Vasquez

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

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

3. Invocation by Commissioner Martinez

4. Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Howell

5. Open Forum

There were no residents signed up for open forum.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held March 4, 2025

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to approve. 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 appointment(s) to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Member George Salinas submitted his resignation from the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Michael Rivera has submitted his application. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to appoint Mr. Michael Rivera. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval to accept the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates for the May 2025 Election

City Secretary Castillo informed the commission that the candidates were unopposed. The next step is to certify that the election is unopposed. Commissioner Martinez motioned to accept the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates for the May 2025 election. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval to cancel the May 2025 Election for Commissioners Place 2 and Place 4
Commissioner Howell motioned to accept the candidate and approve canceling the election. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. At a question, Ms. Castillo stated the City would avoid spending \$45,000 that was budgeted for the election.

8. Bids/Contracts

a. Approval of E-Rate Category 2 bids for Library

Ms. Vidales informed the commission that this is federal funding to purchase new network equipment with a 15 percent match for funds from next fiscal year. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Agreement for Specialized Professional Ambulance Billing Services.

Fire Chief Campos stated the current billing contract with S&V Billing ends May 31, 2025. Chief Campos stated that partnering with Emergicon will significantly increase revenues and improve billing services. Mr. Brent Irving from Emergicon was present virtually. He provided a brief history of the company and stated they would handle all aspects of the EMS account management, including coding, billing and payment posting. With Emergicon's expertise and technology-driven approach, it could result in a potential increase in overall billing revenue from \$399,562.08 to a projected \$825,000.00. Emergicon will go live on May 1, 2025. At a question, Chief Campos stated their monthly report would provide stats. It's a one-year contract and will automatically renew unless the city opts out. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Monthly Departmental Reports

a. Planning Monthly Report

Mr. Adrian Perez stated projects are going as planned. They are currently working on updating that all businesses get their business license. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated he has received compliments about good customer service from the planning department. No action required

b. Library Monthly Report

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana commended the library for receiving the Library of Excellence Award. No action required.

c. Finance Monthly Reports

Ms. Hernandez stated they are at 80 % complete on the audit. Ms. Hernandez stated she updated her monthly report and started a new format. No action required.

d. IT Monthly Report

Mr. Rocha informed about the light pole needed to install the camera behind the fire department. He stated we have moved forward with the Agenda software and provided chromebooks for the commission meetings. He added the website update is almost complete. No action required.

e. Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Campos informed about the progress on the brush truck and ambulance chassis. There was discussion about CodeRed. No action required.

f. City Sec/HR Monthly Report

Ms. Castillo informed about the numbers for the numbers on her report. Ms. Longoria added the HR related information such as vacancies, resignations, retirements and new hires. No action required.

g. Parks Monthly Report and Project Status Spreadsheet

Mr. Villela informed the commission about the parks and stated he could provide commission on the revenues collected for the rental of the fields. They will be updating the play structure at HEB park and adding mulch for the swing sets.

Mr. Morin from the Rec/Dome Center spoke about their programs, sports for adults and children's leagues and lifeguard hiring.

Chief Sanchez from PD spoke about training, Stock show traffic plan and autism awareness.

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)

Commissioner Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 7:54 p.m.

- 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 Project Updates - Section 551.087

11. Open Session

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:17 p.m.

- 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. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.