

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 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

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
Michael Rocha, I.T Director
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Marisol Vidales, Library Director
Kristine Longoria, Human Resources
Denisse Hernandez, Interim Planning Director
Armando Villela, Parks Director
Javier Campos, Fire Chief/EMC

OTHERS PRESENT: Orlando Diaz, Juan Vasquez, Eduardo Castellanos

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

All members of the Commission were present which constitutes a full quorum. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana was present virtually.

3. Invocation

Invocation by Commissioner Martinez.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Howell.

5. Open Forum

Dr. Jacob Howell addressed the Commission on behalf of School Triumph, which relies heavily on external funding. He requested assistance from the City in obtaining blue and orange paint, as well as paint brushes. Dr. Howell asked if the City could either help purchase these supplies or consider making a donation to support the school's needs.

6. Presentation

a. Recognition for Mercedes High School Softball Team

The Mercedes High School reached out to have the recognition rescheduled due to a game. This item is tabled until further notice.

b. Proclamation for Camargo Boots

Mayor Montoya read a proclamation honoring Camargo Boots and its owner, Mr. Henry Camargo. In his remarks, Mayor Montoya shared a personal story highlighting the significance of Camargo Boots to the community. Following the proclamation, Mayor Montoya welcomed Mr. Camargo to say a few words.

Mr. Camargo expressed his gratitude to the Commission and everyone in attendance for the recognition, thanking them for the honor and continued support.

c. Presentation by the LRGVDC - Public Safety's LISTO RGV

Mr. Cesar Merla, Director of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice, addressed the Commission to promote the LRGVDC Public Safety's LISTO RGV Annual Conference, which will take place from September 24 to September 26, 2025, at South Padre Island. Mr. Merla explained that the conference focuses on the recovery phase of disasters and provides credit opportunities for both TCOLE and health professionals. He also shared that the goal for next year's conference is to offer it at no cost to attendees. Mayor Montoya emphasized the importance of encouraging residents to register and report damages through the iSTAT system, highlighting its value in effective disaster response and recovery.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held May 27, 2025

b. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-14 amending the Construction, Placement and Excavation in Right-of-Way

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve all items under consent agenda.

Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Management Items: Present, discuss, consider and possibly take action regarding:

a. First Public Hearing for the Voluntary Annexation of Arturo Palacios

Mayor Montoya opened a public hearing at 6:53 p.m. regarding the voluntary annexation request submitted by Mr. Arturo Palacios for property located on Business 83 between Mile 1 E and Mile 2 E. There were no comments from the public. The public hearing was closed at 6:57 p.m. No action required for a public hearing.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

There were no ordinances or resolution to discuss on the agenda.

10. Bids/Contracts

a. Approval of contract renewal with South Texas Bright Water Solutions for 3 months

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the renewal of three months for South Texas Bright Water Solutions. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion

passed unanimously.

b. **Approval of Settlement Agreement with the Outlet Mall**

Mr. Perez informed the Commission that the settlement agreement addresses non-payment issues between the City and the Outlet Mall. The original agreement began in 2007, and from 2009 through 2016, the City failed to make the agreed payments. This settlement agreement will allow the City to bring its payments current and remain compliant with the original contract terms. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve the settlement agreement with the Outlet Mall. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. 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 7:00 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. Discussion regarding Project Cruz - Section 551.087
- d. Discussion regarding Project Arts - Section 551.087

12. Open Session

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:27 p.m.

- a. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item A
No action was taken on item A in executive session.
- b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item B
No action was taken on item B in executive session.
- c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item C
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve a loan of up to \$70000 at 3.5% over 10 years for Project Cruz. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item D
No action was taken on item D in executive session.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]