MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 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
Kristine Longoria, Human Resources
Denisse Hernandez, Interim Planning Director
Francisco Sanchez, Police Chief
Michael Rocha, I.T Director
Armando Villela, Parks Director
Marisol Vidales, Library Director
Javier Campos, Fire Chief/EMC
Richard Morin, Recreation Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Juan Vasquez, Orlando Diaz, Jesus Rodriguez, Juan Cuba, Salvador Gonzalez, Alejandro Bocanegra

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
   Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Establish Quorum**
   All members of the Commission were present, which constitutes a full quorum.

3. **Invocation by Commissioner Garcia**
4. **Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Montoya**
5. **Open Forum**
   There were no residents signed up for open forum.

6. **Presentation**
   a. Presentation of the FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award to the Mercedes Police Department Command Staff

Police Chief Sanchez addressed the City Commission regarding the FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award recently presented to the Mercedes Police Department. He explained that this award is given in recognition of the completion of leadership development training through the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. Chief Sanchez acknowledged and recognized the members of the command staff who successfully completed the training: himself, Lieutenant Diaz, Lieutenant Rodriguez, Sergeant Cuba, Sergeant Gonzalez, and Sergeant Bocanegra. The City Commission congratulated Chief Sanchez and the entire command staff on receiving this distinguished award and commended their continued dedication to professional development and public service.

b. Status update from Melden and Hunt Engineers on the Water Well Project

Mr. Mike Hernandez of Melden and Hunt Engineering provided the City Commission with a status update on the Water Well Project under the WaterSmart Program, which is funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. He reported that initial correspondence letters have been sent to the relevant agencies, with responses due within the next 15 days. Following that, a 30-day public notice period will commence, after which a public hearing will be held to gather community input. Comments from the hearing will then be submitted to the Bureau. Mr. Hernandez explained that a test well will be constructed and evaluated prior to developing a permanent production well. The proposed well site is located at Chapman and 5th Street. The test will determine water quality, specifically salinity levels, and whether outside treatment services will be needed. The goal is to produce approximately 2,000 gallons per minute, or about 2.5 million gallons per day. The current estimate for production capacity is around 1.7 million gallons.

He also noted the proximity of a 150-foot drainage ditch to the well site and emphasized the importance of completing the environmental report, which is expected within 30 days. Once finalized, the project will proceed through the notice and review process leading to the permanent well.

Mayor Montoya highlighted the strategic importance of the project, stating that the objective is not only to build a well but also to reduce the city's dependency on the Rio Grande as a sole water source. He noted that in the event of a break in the irrigation ditch, which could take months to repair, the well would serve as a critical backup water supply for residents, especially since the city does not currently have a water reservoir.

This item was for informational purposes only; no action was required.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held June 3, 2025 and June 6, 2025

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

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

a. Discussion and possible action on appointment and reappointment to the Library Board.

Ms. Vidales addressed the Commission regarding upcoming reappointments and one new appointment to the Library Board. Four current members were up for reappointment. Mrs. Deborah Benedict, Mrs. Lorri Marchant, Mrs. Diane Roman-Goldsberry and Ms. Yolanda

Cruz. Ms. San Juana Palacios submitted applications to fill a vacancy left by a member who had missed three consecutive meetings. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve both the reappointments and the new appointment. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

a. Approval of Resolution 2025-15 regarding Civil Rights for the 2019 Floods HMID Competiton grant

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve Resolution 2025-15 and to forego the formal reading. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Bids/Contracts

a. Approval to award a contractor for Bid No. 2025-002 - Dacota Ave. Roadway Improvement project

Assistant City Manager Avila presented the Commission with bid results for the Dacota Avenue Roadway Improvement Project. A total of nine bids were received, ranging from lowest to highest. Bids were submitted by: Rene Guerra & Sons Hauling, LLC; Eberle Materials Inc.; Econ Enriquez Construction; Jimmy Closner & Sons; D7J Site Construction; 2GS LLC dba Earthworks; Fuerza Construction; and Bluesteel Construction. Supreme Engineering reviewed the submissions and recommended awarding the contract to Eberle Materials Inc., the second lowest bidder, in the amount of $375,800.00. The lowest bidder, Rene Guerra & Sons Hauling, LLC, was disqualified due to a calculation error. Additionally, staff recommended including Alternate 1 for a 6" caliche base at an additional cost of $62,055.00 to provide a more stable foundation.

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve the recommendation made by Supreme Engineering. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Monthly Departmental Reports

a. Planning, City Sec/HR, IT, Library, PIO, Rec Center, Finance, Fire, Parks

Commissioner Martinez commended Mr. Villela for improvements to the basketball courts and expressed appreciation to all department heads for their ongoing efforts. Mr. Villela noted that the baseball season was scheduled to conclude this month and that field maintenance would follow. He stated that a scope of work for field upgrades would be provided to the Commission, which may include adjustments such as grass or red dirt on the infield. Work is also underway to improve lighting; a vendor is still needed for installation. He further reported that 10 miles of mountain bike trails have been completed and are ready for public use.

Mr. Morin reported that children's swim classes are full and noted growing interest in adult swimming programs. He also discussed the current status of lifeguard training. Mayor Montoya recommended the city consider offering preparatory classes to help local youth qualify for lifeguard positions when eligible.

The Commission recommended contacting the City's energy consultant regarding lighting issues in the parks and other areas around town. They also requested the consultant, along with a representative from AEP, be invited to the next Commission meeting.

12. 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 7:34 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

d. Discussion regarding Project HBM - Section 551.087

13. Open Session

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:34 p.m.

a. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item A

No action was taken on this item.

b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item B

No action was taken on this item.

c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item C

No action was taken on this item.

d. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item D

No action was taken on this item.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Garcia motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]