

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 1, 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 Armando Garcia
Mayor Pro-Tem Ruben Saldana

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Jacob Howell

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
Kristine Longoria, Human Resources
Michael Rocha, I.T Director
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Armando Villela, Parks Director
Denisse Hernandez, Interim Planning Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Juan Vasquez, Juan Cuba, Orlando Diaz, Michelle Muniz

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.
Commissioner Howell was absent.

3. Invocation by Mayor Montoya

4. Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana

5. Open Forum

There were no comments from the public.

6. Presentation

a. Lighting Project Update by Marco Arredondo, Inc. and AEP

Mr. Perez informed the Commission that a meeting was held with AEP to address the streetlights that are currently non-operational throughout the City. AEP reported that they have resolved issues with 41 streetlights to date. Additionally, AEP committed to providing the City with weekly updates on the status of pending lighting repairs. This process was not in place previously. There was no further discussion on this item.

- b. Proclamation for Fair Housing Month
Mayor Montoya read the proclamation recognizing April as Fair Housing Month.

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

- a. Approval of the Fair Housing Policy
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the Fair Housing Policy. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held June 17, 2025
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the items under consent agenda.
Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

- a. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-13 amending the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance
Interim Planning Director Ms. Hernandez presented proposed ordinance changes related to the operation of ice cream trucks within the City. She informed the Commission that the updated regulations will now require ice cream truck vendors to obtain a business permit and comply with sanitation standards, time-of-operation limitations, and insurance requirements. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the ordinance and forego the reading. Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Second and Final Public Hearing for the Voluntary Annexation of Arturo Palacios
Ms. Hernandez informed the Commission that this is the property with the pallet warehouse between Mile 1 1/2 E. and Mile 2 E. on Business 83. Mayor Montoya opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Montoya closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.
- 1) Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-15 regarding the voluntary annexation for Arturo Palacios
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the ordinance and forego the reading.
Commissioner Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of Ordinance 2025-16 designating 3rd Street as a One-Way Street between Texas Ave. and Ohio Ave.
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the ordinance and forego the reading.
Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Bids/Contracts

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on the review of Contracts for Engineering Services
Ms. Castillo addressed the Commission regarding the review of engineering service contracts. She explained that the item was placed on the agenda as part of the annual contract review process, noting that the current engineer's contract is set to expire at the

end of August. However, she clarified that the list of engineers was not yet complete and that there are additional firms on rotation. She recommended splitting the review and placing the remaining engineers on the next agenda. Mayor Montoya suggested tabling the item until the complete list of engineers can be presented. Commissioner Martinez motioned to table the review of contracts for Engineering Services. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Rio Delta Engineering
 - 2) SDI Engineering
 - 3) Freese & Nichols Engineering
 - 4) Supreme Engineering
- b. Contract Review between the City of Mercedes and Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, LLP and possibly go out for RFP's
- Ms. Castillo informed the Commission that the City has been contracted with Perdue for approximately 15 years, and the current contract is set to expire at the end of the fiscal year. In response to a question from the Commission, Ms. Castillo stated that the City has not recently gone out for bids for these services. Mayor Montoya clarified that the City had previously gone out for bids several years ago. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve renewing the contract with PBFCM. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve The Interlocal Agreement For Police Services Between The City of Mercedes And The Mercedes Independent School District

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Mercedes and the Mercedes Independent School District (MISD). Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. In response to a question, Lt. Diaz clarified that the agreement contains no changes from the previous year and is simply a renewal for an additional year. He added that the City will continue to provide five officers under the terms of the agreement.

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 6:55 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

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 the item discussed in executive session.
- b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item B
No action was taken on the item discussed in executive session.
- c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item C
No action was taken on the item discussed in executive session.

13. Adjournment

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