

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2025 – 6:30 PM
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
400 S. OHIO AVE., MERCEDES, TX 78570**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Oscar Montoya

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez, City Manager
Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney
Jonas Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Meredith Hernandez, Finance Director
Francisco Sanchez, Police Chief
Juan Vasquez, I.T Specialist
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Kristine Longoria, HR Director
Armando Villela, Parks Director
Richard Morin, Rec Director
Denisse Hernandez, Planning Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

Four members of the City Commission were present, constituting a quorum. Mayor Montoya was absent.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Commissioner Martinez.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Elora De La Cerda.

5. Open Forum

There were no residents present who signed up for the Open Forum.

6. Presentation

- a. Recognition of Retirement for Mercedes Police Officer Roy Rocha

Chief Sanchez addressed the Commission to recognize Officer Roy Rocha for his years of service to the community and to congratulate him on his retirement. He highlighted Officer Rocha's work history and expressed appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the City of Mercedes.

Commissioner Howell shared remarks acknowledging Officer Rocha's contributions to the school district and his positive impact on local youth. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana and Commissioner Garcia also thanked Officer Rocha for his service and dedication to the community and youth.

Commissioner Martinez expressed gratitude to Grandmaster Saldana for his contributions to the community's youth. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana then read a proclamation in his honor. Grandmaster Saldana thanked his predecessors, students, parents, and his wife for their guidance and support. Attendees joined in singing Happy Birthday to him.

b. Presentation of Campaign for Spay and Neuter of Animals

Chief Sanchez addressed the Commission regarding the City's campaign for the spaying and neutering of animals. He reported that an event is being considered for December at the Dome, which would include a drive-thru microchipping service. Additionally, a low-cost vaccination clinic is being explored, offering vaccinations for \$20 per animal. The City would be responsible for registering the animals and providing microchips. Pre-registration would be required for animals participating in the spay and neuter program. Chief Sanchez noted that Donna has microchips available and the City could partner with them to support the event. He recommended starting with a drive-thru format and expanding services in the future.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana added that he has observed programs where residents are provided vouchers allowing them to have their animals spayed or neutered at a reduced cost within a specified timeframe.

c. Presentation by Planning Department on Developments

Planning Director Hernandez addressed the Commission regarding development activity since 2023. He reported that, to date, 1,921 new developments are anticipated, including 313 lots outside the city limits. Four subdivisions were annexed this year, consisting of two commercial properties and two residential property owners. Projected revenue includes approximately \$500,000 in park fees and \$1.8 million in property taxes. Director Hernandez also noted that future development for 2026 and 2027 is expected to reach approximately 3,000 new units.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held September 16, 2025 & September 23, 2025. Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve Item A, which was amended to include approval of Items A and B. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

b. Approval of Series 2025 Budget Amendment

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

a. Public Hearing regarding the Urban County Needs Assessment

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana opened the public hearing at 7:20 P.M.

Mr. Jose Jameson, representing Nuestra Clinica Del Valle, requested funding in the amount of \$15,000 to provide medical services for residents of Mercedes. Services include laboratory tests, nutrition counseling, sonograms, and other medical care for low-income residents without insurance.

Ms. Jesus Morales, representing Amigos Del Valle, requested \$10,000 from CDBG funds to provide meals to homebound senior citizens in Mercedes. The program will provide one meal per day, seven days a week, beginning October 1, 2025.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana closed the public hearing at 7:25 P.M.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

a. Approval of Resolution 2025-573 approved the Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right-of-Way - Veterans Day Parade 2025

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the item. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Approval of Ordinance 2025-31 to include a standard design for Fire Hydrants and Saddles

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the item and to forego the reading. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Bids/Contracts

a. Approval of renewal of Workers Compensation Insurance with Texas Mutual
HR Director Mrs. Longoria reported that claims have decreased this year and noted that the City remains in-network. Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve the item. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 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 Howell made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:30 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 Anchor- Section 551.087

12. Open Session

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana reconvened the meeting at 8:20 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

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to proceed with Project Anchor as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. Commissioner Howell commented on his anticipation for a project focused on innovation. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.