

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 16, 2026 – 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
Commissioner Rolando Garcia

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez, City Manager
Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney
Meredith Hernandez, Finance Director
Francisco Sanchez, Police Chief
Juan Vasquez, I.T Specialist
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Marisol Vidales, Library Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Martinez said the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner A. Garcia led in the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to move up item #6. Commissioner A. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Commission proceeded to move to item 6 followed by item 5 Open Forum.

5. Open Forum

Mr. David Garza addressed the commission regarding item 8 on the agenda. The proposed street naming agenda item, expressing support for recognizing individuals but suggesting that, since the individual being honored already has a library and statue dedicated in his name, the Commission should instead consider naming the street after a Mercedes veteran

who lost their life in military service. He stated that this perspective was shared by several members of the local veteran community and mentioned the names of three fallen veterans as possible honorees. He emphasized that his comments were intended to honor all veterans while recognizing the contributions of the individual currently being considered.

6. Presentation

a. Proclamation for MISD Student Athletes

Mayor Montoya called forward **Lexie Pogue, Matthew Perez, and Isabella Parker** to receive a special proclamation from the Commission. Mayor Montoya shared several words of encouragement with the recipients, highlighting their outstanding character. The Mayor emphasized that they represent the next generation of leaders and serve as exceptional examples to the younger generation within the community. Following his remarks, Mayor Montoya formally read the proclamation into the record, detailing the specific achievements and contributions being recognized. On behalf of the recipients, **Ms. Isabella Parker** addressed the room, expressing her sincere gratitude to the Mayor and the Commission for their continuous support.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held May, 28, 2026 and June 2, 2026

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the items under the consent agenda. Commissioner R. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

a. Discussion and Possible Action related to naming of street in honor of Dr. Hector P. Garcia

Mr. Skyler Howell addressed the Commission regarding a request to rename a street in honor of Dr. Hector P. Garcia. A committee previously formed to gather community input conducted a survey, which revealed that **70% of respondents** voted in favor of renaming Ohio Ave. Mr. Howell highlighted that Dr. Garcia's impact extends far beyond his military service; he was the founder of the American GI Forum and the first Hispanic recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His primary legacy rests on his monumental contributions to civil rights.

In response to inquiries, Mr. Howell noted that choosing a **ceremonial street designation** rather than a full renaming would prevent residents from facing the administrative burden of changing their legal addresses. The committee ultimately recommended a recognition sign to designate a specific section of the road. Mr. Howell suggested that this designation could set a positive precedent for honoring other local war heroes in the future. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana clarified that this specific initiative goes beyond general veteran recognition, focusing instead on a figure of national, presidential-level significance whose greatest achievement was civil rights advocacy. It was noted that, per a recommendation by Mr. David Garza, the City could proactively reach out to developers of new residential subdivisions to name future streets after local veterans. Ms. Garcia provided the Commission with a brief historical overview of Dr. Hector P. Garcia's accomplishments.

Commissioner Martinez motioned to proceed with a ceremonial name change on a designated section of Ohio Ave. and to direct the City Manager to oversee the implementation. **Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded** the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion **passed unanimously**.

- b. Consideration and possible action to appoint members to the Charter Review Commission pursuant to City Charter Section 9.09

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve Amenda Vela-Martinez, Danny Salinas, Roy De Leon, Joel Quintanilla, Fernando Flores, April Castaneda, Laura Lopez, Joe Flores, Jaime Ortiz, Mario Dominguez, Edna Martinez, Barbara Hinojosa. Commissioner R. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

- a. First Reading of Ordinance 2026-15 Establishing the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee

Ms. Denisse Hernandez addressed the Commission about the ordinance to establish a committee to establish impact fees. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana made a motion to approve and forego the reading. Commissioner A. Garcia seconded. At a question, Ms. Hernandez stated that they will bring member applications to the next agenda. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of "City of Mercedes, Texas Combination Tax and Subordinate Lien Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2026C (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund)"; providing for the payment of said certificates by the levy of an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property within the city and further securing said certificates by a subordinate and inferior lien on and pledge of the net revenues of the system; and other matters incident and related thereto (Ordinance 2026-16)

Mr. Bobby Villarreal addressed the Commission regarding the loan for \$19 Mil and the city has a forgivable rate of 20%. Mr. Matt Lujan stated on slide 6 that the 4th and 5th line from the bottom is clean water. Calculated coverage ratio 1.25 coverage. The certificates of obligation. Principal forgiveness is the net revenues of the utility system. The water rate study was for three years to help cover the certificates of obligation. If approved tonight, the transaction will close on July 21, 2026. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve and forego the reading. Commissioner A. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Consideration and approval of a Resolution 2026-32 approving the Principal Forgiveness Agreement Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the amount of \$7,234,647 and an Escrow Agreement relating thereto; and other matters in connection therewith (Resolution 2026-22)

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the resolution and forego the reading. Commissioner R. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Consideration and approval of Resolution 2026-33 by the City Commission of the City of Mercedes, Texas rescheduling the sale from June 16, 2026, to July 7, 2026, of

obligations to be issued and designated as "City of Mercedes, Texas Combination Tax and Subordinate Lien Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2026C"; and resolving other matters in connection therewith

No action.

10. Bids/Contracts

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on the Cooperation Agreement between the County of Hidalgo and City of Mercedes for the Urban County Program Fiscal Years 2027-2029
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Armando Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Monthly Departmental Reports

- a. City Sec/HR, Planning, IT, Library, Recreation Center, Fire, Public Works

Commissioner Martinez and **Commissioner A. Garcia** commended and thanked city staff for their hard work and rapid mobilization during the recent heavy rain event. **Mr. Perez** extended his gratitude to the volunteers who assisted at the community shelter. It was noted that the roof at the Recreation Center held up successfully during the storm.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana reported that the city's drainage projects performed effectively. Water flowed continuously, ditches did not overflow, and the retention ponds and drainage improvement projects functioned as designed. **Commissioner R. Garcia** noted that a local resident posted drone photography online confirming that areas previously prone to severe flooding remained clear of water during this event. **Mayor Montoya** stated that the city received **5 to 6 inches of rain** during this event. While acknowledging that significant improvements have been made, he reminded the Commission that the system is not yet perfect.

Mayor Montoya addressed the presence of false information posted by residents on social media regarding the storm. He urged citizens to rely only on trusted, verifiable sources. Residents are strongly encouraged to monitor the official **City of Mercedes** page for accurate updates rather than unofficial citizen accounts. Mayor Montoya urged all citizens to sign up for the City's emergency alert system. Furthermore, he recommended looking into a resolution that would automatically register residents for the alert system with an option to opt out, pending legal review.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana requested an update regarding the Tranquil Estates and Palladium developments from Ms. Hernandez. **Ms. Hernandez** clarified that Palladium Energy has been approved, but developers have not yet submitted their final plat.

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 A. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was called into

executive session at 7:39 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 T2 - Section 551.087
- d. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts for the Municipal Court Judge, City Prosecutor, City Manager, City Attorney, and Border Affairs - Section 551.071

13. Open Session

Mayor Montoya reconvened the meeting at 11:59 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.
- d. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item D
No Action.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner A. Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 A.M.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]