

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 30, 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

STAFF PRESENT: Alberto Perez, City Manager (virtual)
Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney
Patricio Avila, Asst. City Manager (virtual)
Francisco Sanchez, Police Chief
Juan Vasquez, I.T Specialist
Tom Villagomez, Public Works Director
Adrian Perez, Planning Director

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Montoya welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

All members of the Commission were present which constitutes a full quorum.

3. Invocation

Commissioner Howell said the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Garcia led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. Open Forum

There were no comments from the public.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held January 7, 2025
- b. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-01 regarding the voluntary annexation of 0.628 Acres, more or less, out of Lot 14, Block 64, Capisallo District Subdivision

(Gregoria Rodriguez)

- c. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-02 regarding the voluntary annexation of 2.025 Acres, more or less, out of Lot 4, Block 26, Capisallo District Subdivision (William Leggett)
- d. Approval of Annual Racial Profiling Report FY2024
- e. Final Plat Approval for Shops at Mercedes
After monthly reports
- f. Final Plat Approval for Mile 2 East Meadows
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve all items under consent agenda.
Commissioner Garcia seconded. Commissioner Martinez amended his motion to approve and forego the readings of the Ordinances. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Task Force
Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. Chief Sanchez stated this is a collaboration with Hidalgo County to assist in motor vehicle crime prevention.
- b. Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Water and Sewer for Camino Heights
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the interlocal agreement. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Sewer for Las Cabanas
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the interlocal agreement for Las Cabanas. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Ordinances/Resolutions

- a. Approval of Agreement and Resolution 2025-01 for the Temporary Closure of State Right-of-Way - 86th Annual RGVLS 2025
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve item A and B under item 8 titled Ordinances/Resolutions. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Approval of Agreement and Resolution 2025-02 for the Temporary Closure of State Right-of-Way - 86th Annual RGVLS Parade
This item was approved with the motion stated in item A of Ordinances/Resolutions.
- c. Approval of Resolution 2025-03 regarding the City of Mercedes 2025 Workplans with Urban County Program Year 38
Mr. Adrian Perez informed the Commission about the Urban County Work plan for 2025-2026. He stated the project will include street overlay of Willacy St. (from N. Vermont Ave. to N. Washington Ave.) and Cedar St. (From Garcia Ave. to N. Washington Ave.). Commissioner Howell motioned to approve Resolution 2025-03. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of Resolution 2025-04 approving the creation of the San Jacinto Redevelopment Authority

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated there was a piece not updated. He motioned to approve subject to amendment to Article 8. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- e. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-03 Ordering the Election for the 2025 City Commission Election for Commissioner Place 2 and Commissioner Place 4
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-03 and forego the reading. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- f. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-04 regarding Sludge Transporter Permits

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana informed that part of the motivation for this ordinance is due to an oil spill on the expressway. He thanked staff for working on the ordinance to require permits to bring sludge into the city. Mr. Adrian Perez informed that the transporters will need a TCEQ permit and a city permit. City Code enforcement will be the lead in enforcing the ordinance. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve and forego the reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- g. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-05 to rezone Camino Heights from "N" Newly Annexed to "R-TH" Townhouse Residential District
Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-05 and forego the reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Bids/Contracts

- a. Approval of professional services contract with South Texas Brightwater Solutions related to sanitary sewer and water system management.

Mr. Alberto Perez stated the city needs to have a licensed individual for water and sewer services. The agreement will assist in bringing the city in compliance with TCEQ regulations. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the agreement with South Texas Brightwater Solutions. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of selection of Municipal Court Judge authorize the City Manager to enter into contract

Commissioner Martinez motioned to select Ms. Melisa Canales. He would like to see if staff can do an analysis to see if the city would need an alternate judge. Mr. Perez stated staff can get them a report of the cases pending. The City went out for bids on November 12, 2024 and two bids were submitted by Marcos Garcia and Alvarez and Canales Attorney at Law. Commissioner Martinez motioned to select Mrs. Melisa Canales for Municipal Court Judge. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Approval to select a contractor for Drainage Pipe Installation Services

Mr. Avila stated on December 18, 2024 the city went out for bids for drainage pipe installation. On January 3, 2025 the city received two bids from AM Utilities and Construction, LLC and Betancourt Legacy Construction, LLC. The lowest responsible

bidder is in the amount of \$380,000 from AM Utilities and Construction, LLC. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the recommendation of AM Utilities. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Mr. Avila stated that both companies are qualified, and the second bidder quoted the city at \$395,000. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Monthly Departmental Reports

Mayor Montoya stated he is impressed with the staff for being proactive in repairs prior to lines breaking. Mayor Montoya would like the city to purchase cameras to look into the pipes. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated the Public Works staff impressed him with all their safety gear on. He added he went to a site where a fire hydrant was being installed, and stated that the staff were making progress. At a question, Mr. Avila stated the amount of cost for a street overlay. There was discussion regarding replacing 13 fire hydrants and the water pressure. Mayor Montoya would like a follow-up on the parks plan. No action required.

- a. IT Monthly Report
- b. Planning Monthly Report
- c. Fire Department Monthly Report
- d. Library Department Monthly Report
- e. Rec Center Monthly Report
- f. City Secretary/HR

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 7:22 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 economic development and Project BCIE - Section 551.087
- d. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts - Section 551.071

12. Open Session:

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 9:26 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

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the contract with the City Attorney and to instruct the City Manager to enter into negotiations. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana moved to approve the contract with Ambiotec with the stipulation that the items discussed in executive session be changed as discussed.

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

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.