MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Ruben Saldana
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioner Armando Garcia
STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez, City Manager Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney Meredith Hernandez, Interim Finance Director Adrian Perez, Planning Director Michael Rocha, I.T Director Javier Campos, Fire Chief/EMC

OTHERS PRESENT: Juan Vasquez, I.T Specialist

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 Garcia was absent.

3. **Invocation**
   Commissioner Martinez said the invocation.

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Commissioner Howell led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. **Open Forum**
   Mr. Mark Aasmund addressed the Commission about road improvements to Mile 2 West. Mr. Aasmund's main concern was the road heading into Camino de Verdad is in bad shape and is requesting a full repair of the road rather than patch work. Its 6/10th of a mile. He requested that the Commission visit the site and consider the full repair. Mayor Montoya informed Mr. Aasmund that they are not allowed to respond but recommended he speak with the public works director.

6. **Presentation**

a. Recognition of the Mercedes JROTC

Stephanie Salazar Rodriguez, Diana Contreras, Mary Jane Alanis, Sgt. Olvera were present to accept the Proclamation. Mayor Montoya read the proclamation. Ms. Alanis expressed her passion for being a part of JROTC.

7. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-03 Ordering the Election for the 2025 City Commission Election for Commissioner Place 2 and Commissioner Place 4

b. Approval of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-04 regarding Sludge Transporter Permits

c. Approval of Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-05 to rezone Camino Heights from "N" Newly Annexed to "R-TH" Townhouse Residential District

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve all items under consent agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

a. Approval of Appointments/Reappointments of Members to the Development Corporation of Mercedes Board of Directors

Ms. Melissa Ramirez stated Tony Garza and Roel Villanueva expressed their willingness to continue serving on the board. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the reappointments of Tony Garza and Roel Villanueva. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of 1st Amendment to Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Mercedes And The County Of Hidalgo Texas For Emergency Medical Services.

Chief Campos stated the only change to the original agreement is the term for the leased ambulance. The amendment will allow for a one-year agreement with three additional one-year extensions. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Sponsorship Request by Mercedes ISD Superintendent Scholarship Fund

Mayor Montoya stated he received the request for sponsorship for the Superintendent Scholarship Fund. Commissioner Martinez expressed concern for the donation. Commissioner Howell motioned to approve a $2000 donation for the scholarship fund. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. **Ordinances/Resolutions**

a. Resolution 2025-05 Annual Approval of the City of Mercedes Investment Policy and Strategy

Ms. Meredith Hernandez stated the policy has no changes but needs approval every year. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Resolution 2025-06 regarding Credit Card Resolution update from Aaron Solis to Nellie Zamora

Ms. Hernandez stated they need to change the card to Ms. Zamora due to Mr. Solis being no longer employed with the City. Commissioner Martinez motion to approve.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Bids/Contracts

a. Approval of Blanket Illumination Agreement between TxDOT and the City of Mercedes

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana stated that the Expressway is dark. Mr. Perez stated that it could cost the City $65,000 and the City would need to get the specs for the lights and reach out to TxDOT about how to move forward with repairing the lights. Mr. Perez stated the repairs would need to be outsourced. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to approve. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed 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 Martinez motioned to go into executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting went into executive session at 7:02 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. Consultation with Attorney regarding contract negotiations - Section 551.071

12. Open Session

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:29 P.M.

a. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item A

b. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item B

c. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item C

d. Possible Action pertaining to executive session item D

No action was taken on the items discussed in executive session.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Howell seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.