

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Oscar D. Montoya Sr.	Mayor
	Dr. Ruben Saldana	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Joe Martinez	Commissioner
	Dr. Jacob Howell	Commissioner
	Armando Garcia	Commissioner
STAFF PRESENT:	Alberto Perez	City Manager
	Martie Garcia-Vela	City Attorney (virtually)
	Joselynn Castillo	City Secretary
	Javier Ramirez	Asst. City Manager
	Meredith Hernandez	Chief Accountant
	Marisol Vidales	Library Director
	Michael Rocha	I.T Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Juan Vasquez, Ruth Valdez, Orlando Diaz

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 commission.

3. INVOCATION

Commissioner Martinez said the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana led in the pledge of allegiance.

5. OPEN FORUM – There were no residents that signed up for open forum.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Presentation by Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show

Mr. Saldana showed a short video of all the events that happened at the livestock show grounds. The events included rodeo, live music, rides, food, parade, and livestock show competition. Mr. Saldana came to thank the commission and staff for their support. He stated the city tent was turned into a family rest area. He informed of the issues that occurred where staff was quick to respond. Mr. Saldana added that they facilitated the process by providing the city with a list of the vendors and they paid the fees for all of the vendors. The changes include the going from 4 rodeos to 5 rodeo events. The cowboys and cowgirls were from different areas in the world, they had 7,500 livestock entries, \$1.7 million of contributors, and had 85 food vendors alone. Specialty acts included a sea lion splash, stilt walkers, chainsaw artist, and racing pigs. They hit last years numbers by Friday. They had 11 headliners musicians and 14 openers were local artist. Mr. Saldana announced that the Music Pavilion had a grand opening. Special needs

children were greeted by law enforcement. The hotels were completely booked during that week. Mayor Montoya commended them working together with staff on traffic control and the quick service. No action required for this item.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting(s) held March 19, 2024 and March 22, 2024

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. MANAGEMENT ITEMS:

a. Request for change order #3 for Capisallo Terrace Project

Mr. Ramirez stated its change order #2 and #3. He stated that change order #2 is and extension of 45 days and change order #3 is for \$5500 with an additional 6 days. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve to change order 2 and 3. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Ash Street is completed and Beech Street is still being worked on. Mr. Ramirez stated that the ground water is very shallow and the labor and costs is going into dewatering the ground water where the sewer line is to be placed. At a question, the line is the main line for moving the sanitary sewer water to the water and wastewater plant. New completion date of the project is June 1, 2024. The main sewer line and manholes must be placed before paving the road. Mr. Ramirez stated the curb and gutter is close to complete and will be meeting soon. Mr. Ramirez stated that a sewer line can be installed in two weeks but has taken much longer on this project. Mayor Montoya wanted everyone to know that the flooding is not the only issue but the sewer issues which included sewer backups and flushing issues. Mr. Ramirez stated they will continue to provide oversight on the project. Mayor Montoya clarified the drainage system works. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of purchase of 913.4475 acre-feet of Municipal Water Rights from Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2

Commissioner Howell motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. BIDS/CONTRACTS:

a. Approval of Interlocal Agreement 2024-2026 between the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District 9-1-1 and the City of Mercedes Police department for 9-1-1 service

Mr. Manuel Cruz, Executive Director and Lt. Diaz were present. Mr. Dennis Moreno, Assistant Director, spoke about the two-year agreement. Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Mr. Cruz stated they receive about 700 9-1-1 calls from the city of Mercedes. They also have a text system. The text system will allow you to hide in a dangerous situation and text with 9-1-1. They are looking at implementing a video system that will provide the video to the dispatcher. They are working on an initiative for special needs children and adults to educate when to call 911 and what to report. Mayor Montoya informed about the funding changes with 911 and spoke about Vale program to show sign language and special needs assistance. Mr. Cruz stated that

the 911 calls are never dropped or unanswered because the call will continue to go to the next peace app. The system is in place to recognize when a dispatcher is offline to transfer the call to the next city available to answer. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Grant Contract with Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Commissioner Martinez motioned to approve. Commissioner Howell seconded. Ms. Vidales stated they were awarded the family place grant to have an area in the library designated for small children and their family. Two staff members will be attending a training in Round Rock, Tx. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Howell motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The commission went into executive session at 7:29 p.m.

10. 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)*

- a. Discussion with City Manager regarding personnel matters and civic organizations – Section 551.074
- b. Consultation with Attorney regarding update on litigation – Section 551.071
- c. Consultation with Attorney regarding contracts – Section 551.071

Mayor Montoya called the meeting back to order at 8:49 p.m.

11. OPEN SESSION:

- a. Item A from Executive Session
- b. Item B from Executive Session
- c. Item C from Executive session

Mayor Pro-Tem Saldana motioned to approve as discussed in executive session to authorize the city manager and legal to hire counsel to negotiate the purchase of 913.4475 Acre-Feet of water for \$3 Million as approved in management item 8B and to hire any experts as needed to provide guidance and counsel in executing such contract. Commissioner Martinez seconded. Mayor Montoya stated the city is short in 1,000 acre feet of water for the city and commended the staff for having the foresight and for locating a purchase of this size. This will ensure the citizens are taken care of in the future. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martinez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Upon a called vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.