

**MERCEDES CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 23, 2020 – 12:00 PM
MERCEDES CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

CITY COMMISSION PRESENT

Mayor Henry Hinojosa
Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal
Cris Hernandez
Jose Gomez
Leonel Benavidez

STAFF PRESENT

Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary
Mark Sossi, City Attorney
Sergio Zavala, City Manager
Hugo Peralez, I.T.
Dago Chavez, ACM/Police Chief
Javier Campos, Int. FD Chief/EMC

OTHERS PRESENT

Velda Garcia
Claudio Hinojosa, Mercedes Enterprise

(NOTE: due to the '10' rule, people
would come in & out during meeting)

(NOTE: meeting was FB live streamed)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Henry Hinojosa, noticing that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was present. All members of the City Commission were present, with no one being absent.

3. INVOCATION

City Manager Sergio Zavala expressed a prayer on behalf of those present.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal led those present in an honorable declaration of our country's Pledge of Allegiance.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO POSTPONE THE MAY 2, 2020 CITY OF MERCEDES GENERAL ELECTION UNTIL NOVEMBER 3, 2020.

City Manager Sergio Zavala briefed the City Commission over the option of postponing the May 2, 2020 City of Mercedes election until the November 3, 2020 General Election, citing the Governor's encouragement to do so to thus reduce the risk of COVID-19 contamination; and the County of Hidalgo's stance on not assisting in any May election costs/staffing should the subject city decide to retain the May election date.

Discussion ensued on this item where Com. Gomez cited that he had taken a poll from all the candidates and that the majority wanted to keep the May election date. Com. Gomez added that if the election was moved to November, there was no guarantee that the health risk would be any less than if the election was held in May 2020.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal made a motion to approve that the May 2, 2020 city election be postponed until November 3, 2020. Seconding the motion was Commissioner Cris Hernandez. Upon a called vote, the motion passed by a vote of 4-1 (Com. Gomez dissenting).

Commissioner Leonel Benavidez then commented that no others could file for office with the postponement of the election until November 2020.

6. DISCUSSION AND ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH THREAT; TO INCLUDE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.

City Manager Sergio Zavala briefed the City Commission over departmental measures taken due to the COVID-19 situation.

The City Commission had a discussion and provided a consensus to staff to prepare a Flyer to be sent to all Mercedes citizens citing health safety measures to be seriously complied with; including posting a similar message on the city's water bill.

This item was a discussion and direction item, i.e., a non-action item.

7. ADJOURN.

With no further business to conduct, Mayor Pro-Tem Leo Villarreal moved for adjournment, with Commissioner Leonel Benavidez seconding. Upon a called vote, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.