

Minutes of the January 10, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on January 10, 2022, at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM. Mayor Schramper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Matthew Riggan, Brady Rutledge, Shae Garrett, and Larry Hewitt. Joseph Wilson was absent.

Mayor Schramper led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizen comments – Phil Crowley introduced himself as a candidate for Taylor County Judge.

Brady Rutledge made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Chief Harris gave the December Fire Department Report. Harris stated that they have 7 new volunteers and will need additional funds to cover Bunker and Wildland gear. Steve Campbell gave the December Police Department Report, Water Usage and Municipal Court reports. Campbell spoke of water/sewer projects.

Presentation of Annual Financial Report (Audit) for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021 was given by Cathrine Wilks, CPA.

A motion to approve the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021 was made by Larry Hewitt. Seconded by Shae Garrett. Approved 4-0.

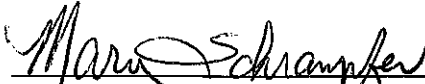
Matt Riggan began the discussion of options for code enforcement, possibility of hiring/contracting position. City Manager Campbell stated that a contract for plumbing and building inspection with Bureau Veritas is a possibility to help with permitting in Merkel. Campbell spoke of the process how he prioritizes code enforcement. Campbell was strongly opposed to hiring a Code Enforcement Officer and stated that he would enlist the Police Department to help more. Councilman Garrett stated that he did not feel hiring a Code Enforcement Officer was needed, Campbell invited Councilman Riggan to observe/review procedures and process of past and current code violations at his convenience at City Hall.

Brady Rutledge made a motion to adjourn at the time. Shae Garrett seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor