

## **Minutes of the March 14, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on March 14, 2022, at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM. Mayor Schrampfer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Matthew Riggan, Brady Rutledge, Shae Garrett, Larry Hewitt, and Joseph Wilson.

Mayor Schrampfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizen comments – Citizens commented on type of asphalt repair material available and inquired about how election votes are tabulated.

Joseph Wilson made a motion to designate Brady Rutledge as Mayor Pro Tempore. Shae Garrett seconded the motion. Approved 4-0. Brady Rutledge abstained.

Shae Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting and was seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 4-1. Matthew Riggan opposed.

Councilman Riggan inquired about the Fire Station and Code enforcement not on the agenda. Mayor Schrampfer responded these will be discussed during the staff reports.

Chief Conklin gave the February Police Department Report. Chief Conklin stated there are 2 candidates in the Police Academy who should graduate in September. Chief Harris gave the February Fire Department Report. Harris stated that they have 3 personnel graduated Intro to the Fire Academy and he received the approval letter for the grant to obtain bunker gear. Harris also invited the council to see improvements at the station after the meeting. Discussion regarding new Fire Station, how it could be financed, and future possibility of ESD. Campbell responded that there are many other needs within the city to be discussed also. Mayor Schrampfer suggested to Chief Harris to set meeting with the City Manager to present details/plans for Fire Station. Campbell stated that complete plans can be used for cost estimates. Mayor Schrampfer stated will put discuss fire station on next City Council agenda. City Manager Campbell gave the February Municipal Court report.

Councilman Riggan would like to see report for Code enforcements monthly with the staff reports. City Manager Campbell stated that he could provide a monthly report. Councilman Riggan provided the Council with a booklet of pictures from around the city with timelines. Councilman Riggan stated that the process for code enforcement should be more aggressive along with the consequences to achieve the results needed. Riggan suggested notice sent out to all violators. Campbell explained how the process for junk vehicles and nuisance violations are completed. Campbell stated that permitting can be contracted with outside company which will require all plumbers and electricians be licensed. The city would need to change the permit fees to cover basic costs. Mayor Schrampfer ended discussion to continue meeting. Discuss code enforcement to be put on the next City Council agenda. City Manager Campbell gave the February Water Usage report.

Brady Rutledge made a motion to approve the request to waive the accrued payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) in the amount of \$8,434.33 from the Housing Authority of the City of Merkel. Joseph Wilson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Shae Garrett made a motion to consider an Oral Resolution authorizing completion of the sale of the McElroy Metal property according to the title commitment policy. That property being more particularly described in Exhibit "A" in said policy. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Joseph Wilson made a motion to consider Oral Resolution authorizing City Manager, Steve Campbell, to sign necessary paperwork to complete the sale of McElroy Metal property and was seconded by Shae Garrett. Approved 5-0.

Brady Rutledge's motion to adjourn was seconded by Joseph Wilson and approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 PM.

  
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Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
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Mary Schramper, Mayor