

**Minutes of the September 12, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on September 12, 2022, at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM. Mayor Schrapfer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Matthew Riggan, Gary Hicks, Larry Hewitt, and Brady Rutledge. Joseph Wilson was absent.

Mayor Schrapfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Prayer led by Larry Hewitt.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Gary Hicks motioned to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, August 16, 2022, Special Called City Council Meeting and the August 29, 2022, Called City Council Meeting. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Chief Conklin gave the August Police Department Report. Mayor Schrapfer gave the August Fire Department, Municipal Court, and Water Usage reports.

Council discussed the permit and fee schedule from Bureau Veritas and the needs of the city. Questions were brought up regarding licensed contractors and how this affects the current renovations being done. Brady Rutledge motioned to table the decision to approve the fee schedule until representative from Bureau Veritas can speak with the council. Gary Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Schrapfer began discussion for appointing committee to review the city manager applicants, who should be on the committee and how long to post the advertisement for city manager. Motion was made by Brady Rutledge to appoint the City Manager Applicant Review and Recommendation Committee including Mayor Schrapfer, Matthew Riggan, Gary Hicks, Chief Conklin, and Evelyn Morse. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Schrapfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed Budget Ordinance 09122022 fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023 at 8:26 PM.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

Public hearing closed at 8:28 PM.

Matthew Riggan made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 09122022 An Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year

beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Brady Rutledge seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Schramper opened a Public Hearing at 8:29 PM to allow public input on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5949 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. The proposed rate is an increase in taxes above the established no-new-revenue rate.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

Public hearing closed at 8:30 PM.

Brady Rutledge made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of Ordinance 09122022-1 fixing and establishing the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Larry Hewitt and approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 PM.

  
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Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
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Mary Schramper, Mayor