

Minutes of the June 12, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on June 12, 2023, 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 Keith Darby, Gary Hicks, Larry Hewitt, and Brady Rutledge. Matthew Riggan was absent. Eileen Hayman was present.

Prayer led by Larry Hewitt.

Mayor Schramper led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Gary Hicks motioned to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, May 16, 2023, and May 31, 2023, Called City Council Meetings. Brady Rutledge seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Chief Conklin gave the May Police Department Report. Conklin explained about Senate Bill 1445 and standards that will be required by municipalities. Justin Ray gave the May Fire Department Report and said the fundraiser went well. Mayor Schramper gave the May Water Usage and Municipal Court reports.

The motion made by Brady Rutledge to appoint Kim Baggett as City Judge was seconded by Gary Hicks. Approved 4-0.

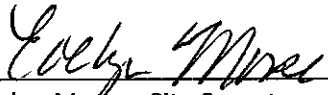
The council discussed adopting the juvenile curfew Ordinance No. 06122023. Questions were brought up about police coverage for the curfew and if the sheriff department would enforce the ordinance.

Motion was made by Gary Hicks to adopt Ordinance No. 06122023 and ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas adopting a Juvenile Curfew Ordinance to regulate the movement of persons under 17 years of age at night; providing a penalty not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation of this ordinance; providing affirmative defenses; and establishing an effective date. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Brady Rutledge and Keith Darby voting against. Mayor Schramper broke the tie voting in favor. Approved 3-2.

Presentation by D'Lynn Lee, Merkel Chamber of Commerce President, for beautification of Mellinger Park. The Chamber would like to use the side of the park for the Chamber office if the council approves. Discussion was brought up about private business use of the park and if an agreement would need to be drawn up. The Council discussed having the Chamber get designs for possible improvements to the park. Discussion of possible fundraisers to help with cost of project or having the EDC fund the park project. Ms. Lee would also like to have the Chamber represented on the EDC board.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gary Hicks. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor