

## **Minutes of the July 10, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on July 10, 2023, 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 Keith Darby, Gary Hicks, Larry Hewitt, Brady Rutledge, and Matthew Riggan.

Prayer led by Larry Hewitt.

Mayor Schrampfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Brady Rutledge motioned to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023, Called City Council Meeting and June 12, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting. Keith Darby seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Justin Ray gave the June Fire Department Report and said that Chief Harris is expected to return in 6-8 weeks. Chief Conklin gave the June Police Department Report. Conklin explained the hours that the department is covering and the code enforcement course he attended. Mayor Schrampfer gave the June Water Usage and Municipal Court reports. Public Works Director Russell gave an update on sewer line replacement that is now complete and Abilene water leaks causing the City main pump station not receiving water.

Discussion of the WWTP dredging and disposal project and the contract for Jacob and Martin professional services for the project. Discussion was brought up by Gary Hicks to possibly get bids from another engineering firm and questioned Mr. Higgins about the current contract.

Motion to approve both the future WWTP dredging and disposal project and contract for professional services for Jacob and Martin was made by Brady Rutledge. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

D'anne Carson from Government Capital gave funding options for the future WWTP dredging and disposal project.

Discussion of purchasing Pacific Tek Vacuum Excavator Trailer for the water and sewer department and the funding for the trailer.

Mayor Schrampfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on intent to file application for funding with USDA Rural Development for purchasing Pacific Tek Vacuum Excavator Trailer at 8:20 PM. Citizens commented that this equipment can help with labor savings for the city.

The public hearing closed at 8:22 PM.

Motion to file application for funding from USDA Rural Development to purchase the Pacific Tek Vacuum Excavator Trailer was made by Matt Riggan and seconded by Keith Darby. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed repealing the juvenile curfew Ordinance No. 06122023.

Motion was made by Brady Rutledge to repeal Ordinance No. 06122023 an 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. Matt Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Chief Conklin gave the presentation of the Merkel Police Department Comprehensive Analysis and Budget Proposal for FY 2023/2024.

The council opened discussion about the MISD school need of SRO on each campus. Councilman Riggan stated he called cities to see what the average pay for police departments are. Mayor Schramper feels that the council always supports the police department. Discussion of take-home vehicles, retention, pay, positions available in police department. Joseph O'Malley of MISD spoke about the need for SRO's and reimbursement of the base pay for SRO's.

The council reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 2022-23 Budget numbers.


Motion to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 2022-23 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Larry Hewitt and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Discussion of the FY 2023-2024 Budget. To have budget workshop on July 31, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gary Hicks. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43 PM.

  
Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
Mary Schramper, Mayor