

## **Minutes of September 11, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on September 11, 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, Brady Rutledge, and Matthew Riggan. Larry Hewitt was absent.

Prayer led by Brady Rutledge.

Mayor Schrampfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Mayor Schrampfer appointed City Manager, Brian Weaver. Motion to approve appointing Brian Weaver as City Manager was made by Brady Rutledge. Gary Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Matt Riggan motioned to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting and August 24, 2023, Called City Council Meeting with correction. Keith Darby seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Justin Ray gave the August Fire Department Report and will be purchasing radio's that had gone up considerably. He also stated that Chief Harris is expected to return around September 18th. Chief Conklin gave the August Police Department Report and will need supplies for the offices at the school. Conklin also stated they will be transitioning to new software by January 1<sup>st</sup> and still must download all data from Eforce software. Mayor Schrampfer gave the August Water Usage and Municipal Court reports. Morse reported the city crew and Taylor County precinct shredded and cleaned the ditches on S 11<sup>th</sup> and CR 398.

Mayor Schrampfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed Budget Ordinance 09112023 fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, at 7:37 PM.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

The public hearing closed at 7:38 PM.

Gary Hick's motion to go to Executive Session to continue discussion on the FY 24 Budget was seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 4-0.

The Council entered executive session at 7:39 pm under Texas Gov't Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D. Executive session ended at 8:00 pm.

The Council reconvened to open meeting at 8:01 pm.

Motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 09112023 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024 (FY2024) was made by Brady Rutledge and seconded by Keith Darby. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Schramper opened a Public Hearing at 8:03 PM to allow public input on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5568 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. The proposed rate is an increase in taxes above the established no-new-revenue rate.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

The public hearing closed at 8:03 PM.

Motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 09112023-1 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024 (FY2024) was made by Gary Hicks and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM.

  
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Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
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Mary Schramper, Mayor