

Minutes of February 12, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on February 12, 2024, 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 Larry Hewitt, Gary Hicks, Brady Rutledge, and Matthew Riggan. Keith Darby was absent.

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 January 8, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting and the January 29, 2024, Called City Council Meeting. Gary Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Chief Harris gave the January Fire Department Report. Chief Conklin gave the January Police Department Report. Mayor Schrampfer gave the January Water Usage and Municipal Court reports. City Manager Weaver spoke on the current water projects, the leaks that were detected last month, and software viewing at Coleman on Thursday. Weaver reported to council that the Police Department will be helping with Code Enforcement.

Presentation of Annual Financial Report (Audit) for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023, was given by Cathrine Wilks, CPA.

A motion to approve the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023, was made by Matt Riggan. Seconded by Larry Hewitt. Approved 4-0.

Cory Higgins from Jacob & Martin discussed the WWTP lagoon dredging and aeration project and the bids that were received on January 24, 2024. Gary Hicks expressed his concerns about the previous project and if there would be the same issues as before. Mr. Higgins explained how the bidding process worked and the low base bid turned in was from Merrell Bros. Inc. and the low bid with the additive alternative was turned in by Rhino Industries. Mr. Higgins discussed the differences between the bids and recommended the low bid from Merrell Bros. Inc. for the project. Discussions were brought up about possibly rebidding the project, delays to the project, how the sludge amount was determined, and an option to finish cleanout if desired at unit cost.

Brady Rutledge motioned to award bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lagoon Dredging to Merrell Bros. Inc. and Matt Riggan seconded. Approved 4-0.

Chief Conklin presented the 2023 City of Merkel Crime Statistics and Racial Profiling Report.

The council discussed the SWOT analysis and action plan that was presented on January 29, 2024, by T2 Professional Consulting. City Manager Weaver stated that the city could adopt an action plan option without hiring T2 Professional Consulting. The 3 options were discussed, and a motion was made by Gary Hicks to adopt Option A of the action plan and to complete internally by the city. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Weaver discussed with the council the junked vehicle ordinance and the changes that were made by City Attorney Hayman to make it more concise and easier to enforce.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 02-12-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 01-14-2019; declaring junked vehicles to be public nuisances; prohibiting junked vehicles; providing definitions; providing procedures for abatement of junked vehicles; providing for exceptions; providing a severability clause; declaring a penalty; and establishing an effective date was made by Brady Rutledge and seconded by Gary Hicks. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the Merkel Planning and Zonings recommendation to the council for the replat of 602 Rose. Brady Rutledge motioned to approve the recommendation from the Merkel Planning and Zoning Committee to replat 602 Rose, Lots 10 and ½ of Lot 11, Block 3, Miller Addition, City of Merkel. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Gary Hicks to approve the Order of Election to be held on May 4, 2024 and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the Joint Election agreement and contract for election services. Gary Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion to approve the 1st Quarter FY 2023-2024 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Gary Hicks and seconded by Larry Hewitt. Approved 4-0.

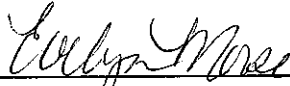
The council reviewed the 1st Quarter budget numbers of Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Motion was made by Larry Hewitt to approve the equipment list for liquidation and was seconded by Gary Hicks. Approved 4-0.

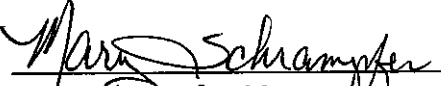
The Council discussed changing the meeting dates to the 3rd Monday of the month. A motion was made by Matthew Riggan to change the City Council meetings to the 3rd Monday of each month and was seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 4-0.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor