

Minutes of April 15, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on April 15, 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, Matthew Riggan and Keith Darby.

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 March 18, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting. Keith Darby seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. City Manager Weaver spoke on the current water projects, the city auction, and the park bathrooms. Riggans asked about the status of the WWTP project. Heidi Haynes spoke on taking wastewater and making it potable water that would be sellable by the city.

Mayor Schrampfer presented the Proclamation-National Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15th and National Police Week is the week that May 15th falls in.

Brady Rutledge motioned to approve the 2nd Reading of Resolution No. 03182024-3 A Resolution of the City of Merkel, Texas authorizing the Merkel Economic Development Corporation to undertake a project to promote new or expanded business enterprises by providing a grant to Lupe Rubio. Larry Hewitt seconded and was approved 4-1.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the application for participation in the Texas Short Term Asset Reserve Program (TexSTAR). Keith Darby seconded the motion. Approved 5-0

City Manager Weaver started discussion for holding a workshop to discuss the vision, setting a mission statement and goals for the city. Weaver suggested including the MISD, EDC, Chamber and P & Z committee in the workshop.

The council discussed Resolution No. 04152024-01 a resolution of the City of Merkel, Texas authorizing the Merkel Economic Development Corporation to undertake a project to promote new or expanded business enterprises by providing a partially forgivable low-interest loan to Zachary Thomas. Questions were asked about employees, bank loan availability, and property appraisal. The Council discussed the EDC helping with small businesses loans, performance agreements, and business incentives. Motion was made by Brady Rutledge to approve Resolution No. 04152024-01 and no one seconded.

Motion was made by Gary Hicks not to approve Resolution No. 04152024-01 a resolution of the City of Merkel, Texas authorizing the Merkel Economic Development Corporation to undertake a project

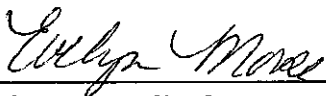
to promote new or expanded business enterprises by providing a partially forgivable low-interest loan to Zachary Thomas. Matt Riggan seconded. Approved 4-1.

Mayor Schramper opened the floor to E'Lisa Smetana from the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary Expansion Summary Partners. Smetana explained that they work with TxDOT, Counties and Cities for transportation projects. They have presented Resolution NO. 04152024 a Resolution of the Merkel City Council, Merkel, Texas, requesting membership into the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization. Judge Crowley also spoke on the expansion of the boundary being beneficial to Merkel.

Motion was made by Gary Hicks to approve Resolution No. 04152024 a Resolution of the Merkel City Council, Merkel, Texas, requesting membership into the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization. Larry Hewitt seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor