

Minutes of June 17, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on June 17, 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 Brady Rutledge, Matthew Riggan and Collin Jacobs. Rode McElreath and Keith Darby were absent.

Prayer led by Brady Rutledge.

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 May 20, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting. Matt Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. City Manager Weaver spoke on the wastewater plant project completion and need of change order, starting with ECode, code enforcement class and ordinances.

The council discussed Resolution No.05202024-1 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 Jody Cory for demolition of the Merkel Locker Plant. Discussion of cost of asbestos removal, working with the Department of Health and Human Services, for abatement and if TFS wants property.

Collin Jacobs motioned to approve 2nd reading of Resolution No. 05202024-1 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 Jody Cory and was seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 2-1.

The council discussed Resolution No. 05202024 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 and conveying property to Brandon and Lindsey Feagan. The Council discussed the EDC helping with small businesses loans, property tax increase, possibility of bank loan and building/equipment cost. Suggestion that EDC should be doing small loans for equipment, signage, etc. City Manager Weaver asked council for suggestions of how to bridge gap/requirements needed to move forward with project.

Motion was made by Brady Rutledge to table Resolution No. 05202024 which Collin Jacob seconded. Approved 3-0.

Discussion of an investment grade audit with Performance Service Inc. to identify projects that will help reduce maintenance costs/save water, replace meters, Lead and Copper Replacement Rule, every connection checked, rehab manholes, isolation valves, scada system to valves, and replacement of clay pipes. Questions for grants, training and software availability.

Motion to approve moving forward with an Investment Grade Audit with Performance Service, Inc. in accordance with Texas Government Code 302 was made by Brady Rutledge and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 3-0.

Motion to designate First Financial Bank as depository for the City funds was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 3-0.

Chief Harris presented the new fire station proposal for a Bond Election in November. The current fire station was built in 1966 and needs repair. Chief Harris discussed the current fire trucks, the need for new equipment to replace outdated fire engines, quality trained volunteers and iso rating. The new station can be used as a weather building for emergencies such as a tornado. The build timeline is 1 year. Property would be donated to the city if bond election goes through. Cost based on 2026 prices which would be 48% higher. Building could possibly be an ESD with Taylor County having a paid department.

Motion to approve Merkel Fire Department 2024 Bond Election was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 3-0.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:13 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor