

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

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on July 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 Brady Rutledge, Matthew Riggan, Collin Jacobs and Rode McElreath. Keith Darby was 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 June 10, 2024, Called City Council Meeting, June 17, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting and June 21, 2024, Called City Council Meeting. Rode McElreath seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. City Manager Weaver spoke on the wastewater plant project completion with removal of 690 tons of sludge, options to maintain the ponds, NorthPark bathrooms complete, and possible contract for inspection services.

Motion to approve resignation letter from Keith Darby, City Council Place 5 was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Schrampfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed Ordinance No. 07152024 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 97-02 and Ordinance No. 4-12-2010; adopting the 2021 Edition of the International Building Code, the 2020 National Electrical Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Residential Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Plumbing Code, the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Fuel Gas Code, and the 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code; adopting local amendments for same; providing for a penalty for any violation of this ordinance not to exceed \$2,000 per violation; providing for savings, severability, and repealing clauses; providing for an effective date; and providing for the publication of the caption hereof at 7:16 PM.

One citizen asked the council to consider ordinance carefully. Stating that the ordinance will make us on the same level as other cities.

The public hearing closed at 7:18 PM.

The council discussed Ordinance No. 07152024 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 97-02 and Ordinance No. 4-12-2010; adopting the 2021 Edition of the International Building Code, the 2020 National Electrical Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Residential Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Plumbing Code, the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Fuel Gas Code, and the

2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code; adopting local amendments for same; providing for a penalty for any violation of this ordinance not to exceed \$2,000 per violation; providing for savings, severability, and repealing clauses; providing for an effective date; and providing for the publication of the caption hereof. City Manager Weaver stated that amendments were written by the WCTCOG and endorsed by the Big Country Builders Association.

Motion to approve Ordinance 07152024 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 97-02 and Ordinance No. 4-12-2010; adopting the 2021 Edition of the International Building Code, the 2020 National Electrical Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Residential Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Plumbing Code, the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Fuel Gas Code, and the 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code; adopting local amendments for same; providing for a penalty for any violation of this ordinance not to exceed \$2,000 per violation; providing for savings, severability, and repealing clauses; providing for an effective date; and providing for the publication of the caption hereof was made by Rode McElreath and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Discussion of approval of the variance recommendation from the Merkel Planning and Zoning Committee of the temporary operations building for the Taylor County EMS. Matt Riggan preferred it to be located away from south park. City Manager Weaver stated this location was decided so the EMS could have access to the Fire Department building to house the ambulances. Possibility of permanent housing at new fire station if bond passes.

Rode McElreath motioned to approve the Merkel Planning and Zoning Committees recommendation for a variance for the temporary operations building for the Taylor County EMS at the south park. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion and was approved 3-1.

Jake Lawrence from Government Capital spoke to the council on options of general obligation bond years, level or wrap, interest rates, tax impact, and average market value of homes. Bond election will need to be called by August 19th meeting.

The council reviewed the proposed FY2025 budget. Matt Riggan asked for a 10-city survey for salary comparison. Questions were asked about salaries, maintenance and supplies, training, street projects, and software support.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schrammfer, Mayor