

Minutes of August 19, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on August 19, 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 Matthew Riggan, Collin Jacobs and Rode McElreath. Brady Rutledge was absent.

Prayer led by Collin Jacobs.

Mayor Schrampfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Matt Riggan motioned to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting and August 8, 2024, Called City Council Meeting. Rode McElreath seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. City Manager Weaver stated that PSI has completed the testing of the meters, the inspector from CCSS has started with the city, visited Coleman for a seminar on grants, and met with Jacob & Martin for possible grants for water loss. The council discussed census numbers and how they affect grant approvals.

D'Anne Carson from Government Capital spoke about bond costs and interest rates for the Fire Station. Collin Jacobs discussed with Chief Harris about Merkel becoming the HUB of West Taylor County.

Motion was made by Collin Jacobs to adopt Ordinance No. 08192024 calling for a bond election to be held on November 5, 2024, and was seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 3-0.

The Council discussed Resolution No. 05202024 an EDC project approving a partially forgivable loan for a laundromat with property donated by the EDC. Discussion of location, infrastructure issues, other funding options, and EDC budget. Collin Jacob motioned to deny Resolution No. 052024 and was seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 3-0.

Mayor Schrampfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed zoning change of property described as Lot S 180 W 240, Block 3-4, Porter Heights Addition from agricultural open space district (AO) to single family residence district (SF-1) at 7:44 PM.

3 Letters were entered into the public hearing. The public hearing closed at 7:46 PM.

Rode McElreath motioned to table Ordinance No. 08-19-2024-A and Matt Riggan seconded. Approved 3-0.

The Council reviewed the Ordinance No. 08-19-2024-B regarding substandard housing. City Manager stated that the city would look at vacant housing initially. Matt Riggan suggested mass mailing so

citizens would be aware of the new ordinance. Code enforcement will be following the building codes adopted and can use discretion for timely completion.

Discussion of the FY 2024-2025 Budget regarding updates made.

Motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance No. 09162024 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025 (FY2025) was made by Matt Riggan and seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 3-0.

Discussion of Ordinance No. 09162024-1 for establishing a tax rate for the FY2025. Discussion of the no new revenue rate versus the voter approval rate. Merkel doesn't have exemptions such as homestead or tax freeze. Discussion of budget for next year based on tax rate, city needs for vehicles, growth needed, and street signage. Council agreed on tax rate of \$.5600. Called meeting will be set to approve the tax ordinance.

Collin Jacobs motioned to approve Ordinance No. 08192024-1 an ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas amending Ordinance No. 08142023 providing an increase in Water, Sewer Utility and Solid Waste Rates. Rode McElreath seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

The council reviewed the 3rd quarter FY 2023-24 Budget numbers.

Motion to approve the 3rd quarter FY 2023-24 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matt Riggan. Approved 3-0.

Motion to table new EDC Board members was made by Matt Riggan and seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 3-0.

The council reviewed the Mellinger Park Agreement and exhibit A attachment including the designs for the park. Questions were asked about the time-length of the construction, the costs covered by the city, and section 2 of the agreement needing to be detailed. Discussion of the park being under construction and not available during the homecoming and Christmas parade.

Rode McElreath motioned to approve the Mellinger Park Agreement with the addition of the Mellinger Park Project Exhibit A replacing section 2-A was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 3-0.


The Council discussed vacancy of City Council, Place 5 and introduced Elaine Chaney as candidate.

Collin Jacobs motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor