

**Minutes of September 26, 2024, Called City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on September 26, 2024, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Schrapfer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Matthew Riggan, Collin Jacobs, Rode McElreath, Brady Rutledge and Elaine Chaney. Cassie Hughes was also in attendance.

Prayer led by Brady Rutledge.

Mayor Schrapfer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

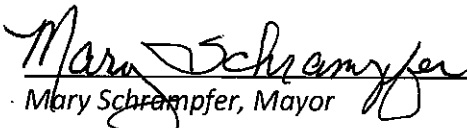
Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

The council discussed Ordinance No. 07152024 having concerns that the adopted codes will restrict building contractors wanting to build here in Merkel. Discussion of cost increases for building materials, real estate costs, permit costs, and foundation amendments. City Manager Weaver stated he spoke with local cities to compare the building codes adopted in the region. Cassie Hughes spoke on history of building codes and how they are reviewed, what is required by state law, standard prices for square footage, foundation requirements and provided foundation examples, energy codes, and plasticity index. Council discussed a residential code committee and what this would consist of. Question of how to facilitate growth for the city and the scrutiny of the codes. City Manager Weaver stated that sewer/water utility costs were the responsibility of the contractor and city budget restrictions. Cassie Hughes spoke about expectations of building developers for subdivisions and related costs and gave suggestions of what professionals to include on the residential code committee. The council discussed manufactured housing and zoning requirements within city limits.

Brady Rutledge motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 PM.

  
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Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
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Mary Schrapfer, Mayor