

Minutes of September 16, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on September 16, 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, Collin Jacobs and Elaine Chaney. Matthew Riggan and Rode McElreath 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 August 19, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting and August 26, 2024, Called City Council Meeting. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. City Manager Weaver stated he had a meeting with possible hotel investor and will have a hotel feasibility study that would also help bringing in new local businesses, met with Government Capital and Chief Harris regarding the Bond Election and will set up townhall meetings on Oct. 14th and 22nd, demolition of Locker Plant started on Monday, and discussed with Chief Conklin possible stipend contract for academy students to increase personnel in police department.

The council discussed Ordinance 09162024-A that would adopt regulations regarding substandard buildings. City Manager Weaver spoke on the dilapidated structures, hearing/appeal process, abatement process and guidance on details needed in the ordinance. Council discussed the financial burden that could affect the citizens, fairness of ordinance, and possibly reworking ordinance.

Elaine Chaney motioned to rework Ordinance 09162024-A so it will not be so invasive. Brady Rutledge seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

Mayor Schrampfer opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed Budget Ordinance 09162024 fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, at 8:02 PM.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

The public hearing closed at 8:02 PM.

Motion to approve 2nd 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 Brady Rutledge and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 3-0.

Mayor Schramper opened a Public Hearing at 8:04 PM to allow public input on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5600 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. The proposed rate is an increase in taxes above the established no-new-revenue rate.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

The public hearing closed at 8:05 PM.

Motion to approve 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 09162024-1 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 (FY2025) was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 3-0.

The Council discussed the Façade Grant approved by the EDC Board, roll-off projects, EDC Director, and the FY25 budget.

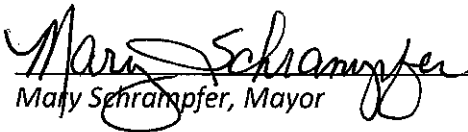
Motion to approve the Merkel Economic Development Corporation's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was made by Collin Jacobs. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor