

Minutes of January 20, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on January 20, 2025, 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, Brady Rutledge and Rode McElreath. Elaine Chaney 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 December 16, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. The council looked over the completed projects for December asking about the Merkel River manholes. Councilman Riggan asked Chief Conklin about the code enforcement report. Chief Conklin stated that the department will be back to 24/7 patrolling as of February 17th. Conklin also stated that there is a continual advertisement for School Resource Officers.

Presentation of Annual Financial Report (Audit) for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024, was given by Cathrine Wilks, CPA.

A motion to approve the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024, was made by Rode McElreath. The motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Motion to increase asset threshold to \$5,000.00 effective 1/20/2025 was made by Brady Rutledge and seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Collin Jacobs to approve the Order of Election to be held on May 3, 2025, and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

A motion to approve the 1st Quarter FY 2024-2025 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0

Mayor Schrampfer opened the discussion with Chief Conklin regarding the demo radar trailer. Chief Conklin described the features available for the trailer, the display panel sizes available, and the advantages for each department's use. Councilman Riggan asked about possible used trailer availability. Motion was made by Collin Jacobs to approve the purchase of the Message Center MC360 trailer and was seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 4-0.

The Council discussed the purchase of new vehicles for the Police Department. Chief Conklin described the vehicles the department currently has, the costs of new vehicles with uplift and the needs for the department. Motion was made by Collin Jacobs to table the discussion of purchasing

Police vehicle requesting more information for next meeting. The motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

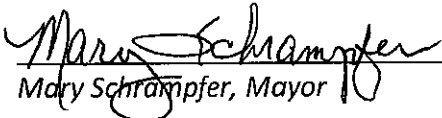
A proposal showing additional cost for the sign project for the Scottish Inn was presented to the council. The council discussed the size, cost, location of the digital sign and the need for additional funds. The council spoke of the façade grant and the opportunity for the Scottish Inn to apply for it. The motion was made by Brady Rutledge to stay with the original quoted price for the Scottish Inn sign. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Brady Rutledge's motion to adjourn and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Mary Schramper, Mayor