

Minutes of April 21, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on April 21, 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 Elaine Chaney, Collin Jacobs, Matthew Riggan, Brady Rutledge and Rode McElreath.

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 March 6, 2025, March 31, 2025, Called City Council Meetings and March 17, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. The council discussed the EDC report on the progress of the purchase by the TFS, the status of the Motel/Restaurant lot demolition completion, the Hotel Feasibility report and the Façade Grant program. Public Works Director Russell discussed previous leaks, concrete lines that need replacing, issues at sewer ponds, and possible aerator project. Chief Conklin stated have applicants for the code enforcement official position, new SRO started April 14th, and schedule changes.

Brady Rutledge started the discussion of the contract for Attorney's Fergus & Fergus. Motion was made by Collin Jacobs to approve the Attorney – Client contract with Fergus & Fergus and seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Schrampfer started the discussion of the request from the Chamber of Commerce for the \$53,000.00 to complete the Mellinger Park Project. The Chamber explained what still needs to be completed, possible donations and stated that any unspent money from donations/funds will be returned to the EDC that was dedicated to park project. Councilman Riggan questioned the costs/future costs of park project. Councilman Jacobs question the Chamber if project is compliant with the city ordinances, insured and inspected. Rode McElreath motioned to approve the EDC/Chamber of Commerce request for the \$53,000.00 and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0. Elaine Chaney recused herself from the vote.

The council discussed Ordinance 04-21-2025 that would adopt regulations regarding substandard buildings.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 04-21-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 110998-2; ADOPTING REGULATIONS REGARDING SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE AND ABATEMENT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY

CLAUSES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE was made by Elaine Chaney. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.


Motion to approve the request from the Rural Taylor County Aging Service for \$6,000.00 was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Brady Rutledge. Approved 4-0. Rode McElreath recused himself from the vote.

Collin Jacobs motioned to approve the equipment list for liquidation and was seconded by Rode McElreath. Approved 5-0.

Elaine Chaney motioned to approve the Police Department Organization Review proposal from Clear Career Professionals was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Brady Rutledge's motion to adjourn was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



~~Mary Schramper, Mayor~~