

## **Minutes of June 16, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on June 16, 2025, at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM. Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Elaine Chaney, Collin Jacobs, Matthew Riggan, and Amanda Farmer. Rode McElreath was absent.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

A motion to appoint Matthew Hitt as City Manager was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025, May 15, 2025, Called City Council Meetings and May 19, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. EDC Director Wortham discussed creating a Southwest Energy Summit holding conferences in Merkel, possible 2026 Parks and Wildlife grant for Softball/Baseball field improvement. Chief Conklin stated the code enforcement official completed training last week, Conklin completed the IBMC training also, and they are working on high weeds abatements. Chief Harris spoke on grants they have received, and equipment purchased. Harris stated that Merkel Fire will cover outside Tye city limits until Tye Fire Department is able to. Public Works Director Russell stated his department has been abating properties, patching streets, and doing cleanup from storms. Russell stated that he has hired 3 people for summer help. Russell also spoke on the infiltration happening in the sewer ponds from the Merkel River.

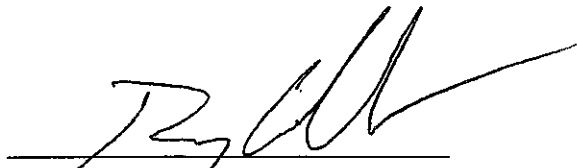
Ryan Feerer gave a presentation for Branding and Marketing Merkel that consisted of previous designs and companies he has worked with. Feerer stated that he is available for a 2 month window offering a brand system. EDC President Riggan stated it would be a fresh face for Merkel.

Michael Boese from Clear Career Professionals gave the presentation on the Police Department Organizational Review. Boese suggested executive leadership training program, regular command staff meetings with goal setting, policy discussions, officer performance reviews, and adopting a SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment). Also suggested was to transition Chief to FLSA-exempt salaried status and have the Chief directly report to the City Manager.

Collin Jacobs motioned to adjourn was seconded by Amanda Farmer. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 PM.

  
Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
Ray Cobb, Mayor