

## **Minutes of July 22, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on July 22, 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.

Prayer was led by Lou David Allen.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the minutes of June 3, 2025, Called City Council Meeting and June 16, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Eliane Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. Chief Harris that Merkel Fire has not started covering outside Tye city limits. Public Works Director Russell stated his department has been abating properties, patching streets, and doing cleanup from storms. Russell also spoke on the infiltration happening in the sewer ponds from the Merkel River. Chief Conklin stated code enforcement has started on substandard structure letters, SRO back in schools July 28<sup>th</sup>, and went over the speed trailer data.

City Manager Hitt explained the changes in the Branding and Design agreement from Ryan Feerer. Elaine Chaney motioned to approve the Merkel Branding and Design agreement between Ryan Feerer and the Merkel EDC. Amanda Farmer seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt started the conversation regarding Mellinger Park 10 ft mural wall. The city is asking for a variance from City Council. Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the variance for the Mellinger Park Mural Wall and was seconded by Amanda Farmer. Approved 4-0.

Collin Jacobs motioned to accept Rode McElreath, City Council Place 2 resignation. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The Council discussed changing the meeting dates and times to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. A motion was made by Matthew Riggan to change the City Council meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM and was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

The council reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 2024-25 Budget numbers.

Motion to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 2024-25 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

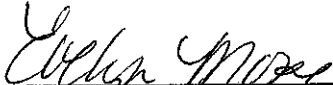
The council discussed the new fee schedule adding credit card fees, plan reviews, and poly cart changeout fee. Motion to approve the new fee schedule was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.


The Council reviewed the FY 2026 proposed budget. Discussion of vacant position removed, department head salaries, and water/sewer rate increases.

The Council entered executive session at 8:22 PM under Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters). Executive session ended at 9:29 PM with no action taken.

Collin Jacobs motioned to adjourn was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:31 PM.

  
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Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
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Ray Cobb, Mayor