

Minutes of August 19, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on August 19, 2025, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Elaine Chaney, Collin Jacobs, Matthew Riggan, and Amanda Farmer.

Prayer was led by Collin Jacobs.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

The council discussed candidates for appointment of City Council Place 2. A motion was made by Elaine Chaney to appoint Tyler Newberry for City Council Place 2 and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025, Called City Council Meeting and July 22, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the staff reports. Chief Conklin stated School Resource Officer resigned. Abatement team working hard, most properties have garbage and debris hidden by high grass and weeds. Chief Harris stated that he submitted 4 grant applications, also donated old extrication equipment to View FD and Abilene FD. Public Works Director Russell stated that the city is in the process of water disinfection and chlorine conversion.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow public input regarding the Potentially Substandard Structure situated on the following property: Merkel West Mobile Home addition, block B, Lot 11, Acres 0.1524, commonly known as 245 High Cotton Parkway at 6:25 PM.

The public hearing closed at 6:26 PM.

Chief Conklin gave description of the property at 245 High Cotton Parkway. A motion from Collin Jacobs determining that the structure on 245 High Cotton Parkway is a substandard structure was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Collin Jacobs to enter an order to remove or demolish the structure at 245 High Cotton Parkway within 10 days of the date of the order was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow public input regarding the Potentially Substandard Structure situated on the following property: Merkel West Mobile Home addition, block B, Lot 8, Acres 0.1469, commonly known as 197 High Cotton Parkway at 6:35 PM.

Chief Conklin gave description of the property at 197 High Cotton Parkway. A motion from Elaine Chaney determining that the structure on 197 High Cotton Parkway is a substandard structure was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Riggan to enter an order to remove or demolish the structure at 197 High Cotton Parkway within 10 days of the date of the order was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

Motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance No. 09162025 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 (FY2026) was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance No. 09162025-1 an Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas fixing and establishing a tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 (FY2025) was made by Matthew Riggan and seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0 with Riggan, Chaney, Jacobs, and Farmer with all voting yes.

Matthew Riggan motioned to approve Ordinance No. 08192025 an ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas amending Ordinance No. 08192024-2 providing an increase in Water, Sewer Utility and Solid Waste Rates. Amanda Farmer seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion by Elaine Chaney to approve the City of Merkel Water and Sewer Department Service Charges was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the new fee schedule adjusting animal control fees and code enforcement fees. Motion to approve the fee schedules as amended was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Elaine Chaney's motion to adjourn was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 PM.


Evelyn Morse, City Secretary


Ray Cobb, Mayor