

Minutes of November 18, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on November 18, 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, Tyler Newberry and Matthew Riggan.

Prayer was led by Collin Jacobs.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Councilman Jacobs started discussion with City Manager Hitt speaking on water bill complaints, difficulty reading certain meters, how manual reads are performed, water leak costs, and what customers are actually charged. Elaine Chaney motioned to approve Consent Agenda as presented and was seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt gave update on the SRO program and news that MISD may go to Marshall program.

City Manager Hitt and Councilman Jacobs gave update on EDC projects; CCM Advisors grant proposal, contacting consultant for hotel project, and Public Management Inc. for the 2026 park grant.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on proposed on amending the zoning ordinance to update provisions regarding nonconforming uses at 6:15 PM.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing.

The council discussed Ordinance No. 11-18-2025-1 and the changes within the ordinance. Elaine Chaney motioned to approved Ordinance No. 11-18-2025-1 An Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas amending Ordinance No. 072798; Revising Article II "permitted uses and area regulations", Section 6 "non-conforming uses" to update provisions regarding nonconforming uses; providing a penalty; providing repealer and severability clauses; and establishing an effective date. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the 4th quarter FY 2024-25 Budget numbers.

City Manager Hitt began discussion of special projects that the city would like to complete with the excess funds from the FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget. Councilman Newberry suggested to the council using \$10,000.00 of the funds for holiday pay for city employees. Collin Jacobs asked for the estimated cost of infrastructure replacement. Chief Harris spoke on the cost of replacing the SBCA equipment. Tyler Newberry asked if any fundraising was available to help with the cost. Matthew Riggan asked about staggering the purchase of police vehicles. Tyler Newberry motioned to take \$10,000.00 of the project money and use it for holiday pay for the city employees. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Collin Jacobs motioned to approve the amended list of potential projects. Tyler Newberry seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Jerry Dean of MD Health Pathways was in attendance to ask the council about survey he would like to send out to the citizens. He explained the affordable cost of healthcare, spoke on what the survey would entail, percentage for moving forward with offering to citizens and cost to the city.

City Manager Hitt gave the council an update on the Merkel Identity Survey saying they have had 131 responses. Hitt asked if survey should be extended to November 30, 2025, to allow the citizens more time. Paper copies available at the City Hall.

The council discussed the need to fill City Council place 4.

A motion was made by Elaine Chaney to cast all 16 votes for Downing Bolls, Jr for a position on the Board of Directors of the Taylor County Appraisal District. The motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

The Council discussed the proposal from CCM Advisors for grants program, the breakdown of fees and the split of cost with the EDC. Elaine Chaney motioned to approve the Grant Program proposal from CCM Advisors. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

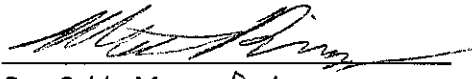
Elaine Chaney motioned to approve the Public Utility Easement Agreement from BW Gas & Convenience Real Estate, LLC. Motion was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt explained the installation of the sewer line the Sundown RV Park is wanting, cost of providing maintenance for line and necessity. Motion to approve the City Manager to negotiate and sign the contract with Sundown RV Park was made by Collin Jacobs. Tyler Newberry seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Matthew Riggans motion to adjourn was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 PM.


Evelyn Morse, City Secretary


Ray Cobb, Mayor Pro Tem
Matt Riggan