

## **Minutes of December 16, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.**

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on December 16, 2025, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Riggan 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 Pro Tem Riggan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Elaine Chaney motioned to approve Consent Agenda as presented and was seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt and Councilman Jacobs gave update on EDC possible project, and the ongoing Ranch 2 Rail issues.

City Manager Hitt gave an update on the special projects that were approved from FY25 budget, saying SBCA equipment has been ordered, Police vehicles on order, water rate study has begun, sewer smoke test was cancelled, holiday pay paid out and CCM grants began. Hitt spoke on other projects that are in progress and that were cancelled. Councilman Newberry suggested have agreement with Atmos revised.

City Manager Hitt gave the council an update on the Merkel Identity Survey saying they have had 159 responses. Hitt said he should have summary by January meeting.

The council discussed the need to fill City Council place 4. Motion to table the discussion was made by Matthew Riggan and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt presented the council with a copy of the contract with Sundown RV Park. The council discussed the specifications the city requires for the project.

The council discussed the need for a 10 City Salary Survey for the Police Department. Hitt suggested using the budgeted amount for SRO benefits to increase the salary for patrol officers. Councilwoman Chaney suggested cities and counties for comparisons. Councilman Riggan suggested city wide salary comparison also needed. Hitt to look for comparable police departments/towns similar to Merkel.

Elaine Chaney motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:48 PM.

  
Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

  
Ray Cobb, Mayor