

Minutes of January 27, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on January 27, 2026, 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.

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

No action was taken on Agenda items 6 & 7.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow public input on petition requesting annexation and municipal service agreement for Tin Cup RV Park LLC. at 6:11 PM.

No citizens spoke during the public hearing. The public hearing closed at 6:12 PM.

The council discussed the Chapter 43 Municipal Service Agreement for the Tin Cup RV Park LLC providing sewer and trash from the city. Councilwoman Chaney discussed the advantages for the tax roll if annexation was approved. Councilman Jacobs asked about the golf course and Hutch Builders property. Motion to approve the Municipal Service Agreement between the City of Merkel and Tin Cup RV Park LLC was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt started the discussion of the Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement between the City of Merkel and Tin Cup RV Park LLC, stating the starting dates changed. The agreement shows the tax rebates per year the Tin Cup RV Park will receive. Motion to approve Chapter 380 Economic Development Incentive Agreement was made by Matthew Riggan and seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

Motion to approve Ordinance 01-27-2026-1 An Ordinance annexing 7.33 acres of land out of Lot No. 22 of a partition of the Homer Patterson, et al lands, located in League No. 148, Grimes County School Land, Taylor County, to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas was made by Tyler Newberry. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed Ordinance 01-27-2026-2 An Ordinance of the City of Merkel, Texas amending Ordinance No. 110804 to create an additional exception to the prohibition against certain heavy vehicle traveling on city streets. The council heard from Chance Browne of CP Trucking that parks his trucks on a commercial lot. The council discussed charging application fee, requiring a special use permit, 6 month renewal terms and maintenance of alleys in use. Councilman Riggan spoke against the amendment. Collin Jacobs motioned to approve Ordinance 01-27-2026-2 An Ordinance of the

City of Merkel, Texas amending Ordinance No. 110804 to create an additional exception G. Tyler Newberry seconded the motion. Approved 3-1 with Riggan against.

Motion to approve the Economic Development Agreement between the City of Merkel and Brit and Krista Pursley to pay for a TIRZ study was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

Motion to approve the Zactax agreement for the TIRZ study to include task 4 as part of phase 1 of the agreement was made by Elaine Chaney. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

City Manager Hitt gave an update for Merkel Economic Development Corporation on possible projects.

Motion to approve Resolution 01272026 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to prepare and submit an application for Federal Transportation funding under the FY 2026 Build Grant Program was made by Elaine Chaney. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion to approve the 1st Quarter FY 2025-2026 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0

City Manager Hitt gave the council an update providing the Merkel Identity Survey tallies. Hitt stated waiting for 3 prototypes designs and the next steps.

The council discussed the need to fill City Council place 4. No action taken.

City Manager Hitt discussed the 10 City Salary Survey for the Police Department. Hitt stated still contacting cities for salaries. No action taken.

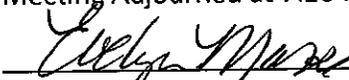
Motion to appoint City Manager, Matthew Hitt, as Public Funds Investment Officer for the City of Merkel was made by Collin Jacobs. Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Elaine Chaney to approve the Order of Elections to be held on May 2, 2026 was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

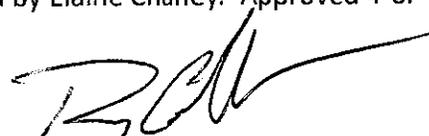
Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Merkel and the City of Tye for the sale of equipment was made by Tyler Newberry and seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 4-0.

Collin Jacobs motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Ray Cobb, Mayor