

Minutes of May 12, 2026, Called City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on May 12, 2026, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Elaine Chaney, Collin Jacobs, Tyler Newberry, and Lexi Smith, 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.

Administer Oath of Office to Ray Cobb, Mayor, Matthew Riggan, City Council Place 1, Tyler Newberry, City Council Place 2, Collin Jacobs, City Council Place 3, and Alexis Smith, City Council Place 4.

Collin Jacobs motioned to approve Consent Agenda and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow for public input on regarding the submission of a Local Park Grant to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 6:08 PM. Morgan Verette from Public Management was in attendance for any questions about the application. Verette stated that there is a need for community involvement and letters of support for the process to move forward. City Manager Hitt spoke about the EDC having approved the 1-1 match necessary for the funds needed. Verette described the improvements discussed for the softball fields the city owns.

Public Hearing closed at 6:28 PM.

The council discussed the Rebranding/Logos presented from Ryan Feerer. City Manager Hitt read the presentation to the council that showed the different logos and color schemes. The council discussed the previous votes, possible town halls, and options presented. Tyler Newberry motioned to approve the Windmill city designs and the brighter color palette. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed the Resolution 05-12-2026 authorizing the intervention in AEP's application. Matthew Riggan motioned to approve Resolution 05-12-2026 authorizing intervention in AEP's application. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed Ordinance 05-12-2026-1 adopting the new Code of Ordinance for the City of Merkel. Elaine Chaney motioned to adopt and enact Ordinance 05-12-2026-1 Code of Ordinances. Tyler Newberry seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

A motion was made by Collin Jacobs to adopt Ordinance 05-12-2026-2 Prohibiting Engine Braking and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

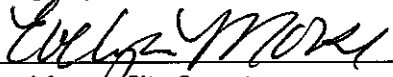
The council discussed the Water Rate Study with City Manager Hitt explaining a quote from Jacob & Martin for time and expense for a cost for solutions study. The Council discussed a possible new water line from the treatment plant, where the city line begins and increased water rates.

The council reviewed the 2nd quarter FY 2026 Budget.

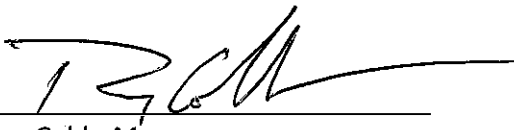
City Manager Hitt gave an update from the EDC stating that at the last meeting the board drew straws for terms, the board approved the cost for the Food Truck park, the board closed on the property adjacent to the Ranch 2 Rail, and there was approval to add sponsor money for downtown events.

Elaine Chaney motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Lexi Smith. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 PM.



Evelyn Morse City Secretary



Ray Cobb, Mayor