

Minutes of June 16, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on June 16, 2026, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Cobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Elaine Chaney, Tyler Newberry, Lexi Smith, and Matthew Riggan. Collin Jacobs was absent.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

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

City Manager Matthew Hitt introduced Charles Tice as the new Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Tice spoke to the council giving a description of his background.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow for public input on regarding the annexation of a portion of FM 126 beginning at the present City Limits to the Northern Boundary of 1137 FM 126 at 6:09 PM. No citizens spoke.

Public Hearing closed at 6:10 PM.

The council discussed the application filing and authorized resolution for financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board. Elaine Chaney motioned to approve Application filing and Authorized Representative Resolution, a resolution by the City Council of the City of Merkel requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board; authorizing the filing of an application for assistance and making certain findings in connection therewith. Tyler Newberry seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the special event permit application for the July 4th parade. Motion by Elaine Chaney to approve the special event permit and Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the Safebuild Building Inspection proposal. Tracy Rodriguez was in attendance to answer question on the proposal and PowerPoint presentation.

A motion to approve the 2nd Quarter FY 2025-2026 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Tyler Newberry and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0

The council discussed the EDC Budget Amendment and Review. A motion was made by Matthew Riggan to approve the EDC Budget Amendment and was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approve 4-0.

City Manager Hitt gave an update from the EDC stating that improvements to the Food Truck park are on order, the board closed approved the Retail Coach proposal and there will be more to come for the July meeting.

City Manager Hitt spoke on the budget, property tax and values, health insurance costs and possible cost of living raise.

The Council entered executive session at 6:50 pm under Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters). Executive session ended at 7:47 pm.

The Council reconvened to open meeting at 7:48 pm.

Motion to amend Matthew Hitt's contract after annual performance evaluation where council expressed their appreciation of an excellent 1st year, with the addition of one week vacation, adjusting severance to 5 months to comply with state law and to allow annual merit raises was made by Elaine Chaney. Motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-0.

Matthew Riggan motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Lexi Smith. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM.


Evelyn Morse, City Secretary


Ray Cobb, Mayor