

Minutes of July 21, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on July 21, 2026, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Councilman Jacobs 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 Collin Jacobs. Matthew Riggan and Ray Cobb was absent.

Prayer was led by Collin Jacobs.

Councilman Jacobs 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.

Councilman Jacobs 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 6:05 PM. No citizens spoke.

Public Hearing closed at 6:08 PM.

City Manager Hitt gave an update from the EDC for the July 4th celebration/parade. City Manager Hitt thanked the volunteers and sponsors for the event.

The council discussed the service agreement between Retail Coach and the Merkel EDC. The council discussed traffic counts, commercial growth needed, general retail, and zoning areas. Elaine motioned to approve the City of Merkel Services Agreement between Retail Coach and the Merkel EDC. Lexi Smith seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The council discussed the Water Rate Study and the need for town hall meetings. The council discussed the estimated costs for both water and sewer line replacement and the need for the increase in rates. City Manager Hitt explained the pricing difference between inside and outside city limits.

The council reviewed the 3rd quarter FY 2026 Budget.

A motion to approve the 3rd Quarter FY 2025-2026 Quarterly Investment Report was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0

City Manager Hitt discussed the draft FY2027 Budget, stating numbers will change once the city receives the Certified Values from the appraisal district.

The Council entered executive session at 6:46 pm under Texas Gov't Code Section 551.086 (Economic Development). Executive session ended at 7:57 pm.

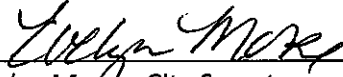
The Council reconvened to open meeting at 7:58 pm.

Motion to approve phase 2 part of the Zactax contract was made by Tyler Newberry. Lexi Smith seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

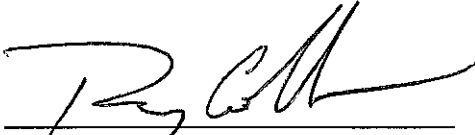
Motion to approve the property purchase at 9987 I-20 and 9995 I-20 was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Lexi Smith. Approved 4-0.

Lexi Smith motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Ray Cobb, Mayor