

CITY OF MERKEL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS

This notice is posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, (Vernon's Texas Code Annotated, Government Code, Chapter 551)

The City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas will hold a Regular City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM, September 15, 2026, at Heritage Hall, which is located at 111 Taylor Street, Merkel, Texas 79536, at which time the following items will be considered:

OPEN MEETING

1. ***Call meeting to order*** and announce a quorum is present.
2. ***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and TEXAS PLEDGE.***
3. ***Citizens Comments and Receipt of Petitions*** (At this time, anyone may speak on any matter other than personnel matters or matters under litigation for a length of time not to exceed three (3) minutes. ***(No Council/Board discussion or action can take place on any matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with the law).***
4. ***Presentation*** by Texas Police Chief Association of Law Enforcement Command Officer Professional Award to Phillip Conklin.

Consent Agenda

All items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion or presentation of these items unless otherwise requested by a Council Member. In the event one or more Council Members remove an item from the consent Agenda for separate discussion or presentation, the item or items removed will be considered in numerical order as part of the Regular Agenda and shall include a public hearing.

After the Council Members have requested any item on the consent Agenda be considered separately, the public comment period will be held. The public comment section of the consent agenda allows members of the public to present any ideas or information to the City Council and staff and also allows for public comment on the consent agenda items not otherwise pulled for separate consideration. Neither the City Council nor staff will engage in discussion with the public during the public comments unless the item is listed on the Council agenda.

5. ***Minutes:*** Discuss/Consider approval of the minutes of August 11, 2026, Called City Council Meeting, August 18, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and September 1, 2026, Called City Council Meeting.
6. ***Consider*** Approval of Official Ballot for the TMLIRP Board of Trustee Election.

Regular Agenda

7. ***Acceptance*** of Staff Reports.
8. ***Introduction*** – City of Merkel Safebuilt Inspector, Rey Salinas.
9. ***Public Hearing*** on Budget Ordinance No. 09152026 for FY 2026-2027.
10. ***Consider*** ORDINANCE NO. 09152026 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS FIXING AND ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 (FY 2027).

11. **Public Hearing** – on the proposed tax rate of \$0.6300 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The proposed rate is an increase in taxes above the established no-new-revenue rate.
12. **Consider** Ordinance 09152026-1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS FIXING AND ESTABLISHING A TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 (FY 2027).
13. **Discuss** County Waste Services Contract.
14. **Update** – City of Merkel Comprehensive Plan.
15. **Discuss** Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Study.
16. **Public Hearing** – Utility Rate Increase.
17. **Discuss/Consider** ORDINANCE 09152026-2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 08192025 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATES.
18. **Discuss/Consider** continuation of Merkel Connect app.
19. **Discuss/Consider** Special Event Permit for Merkel Homecoming Block Party.
20. **Update** – EDC (Retail Coach Market Profile and Demand Outlook).
21. **Discuss/Consider** 2025 John Deere 60 Excavator equipment purchase.
22. **Discuss/Consider** approval of Street Sign order and design.
23. **Discuss/Consider** approving proposal for Manhole relining project.

ADJOURNMENT

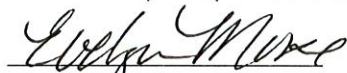
All items on the agenda are for discussion and possible action.

The Merkel City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time concerning any matters listed above, whenever it is considered necessary by the Council and is legally justified under the Texas Open Meetings Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D), as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.086 (Economic Development).

The City of Merkel is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation and equal access to communications will be provided to those who provide notice to the City Secretary, 325-928-4911, at least 48 hours in advance.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the City Posting Board at City Hall, 100 Kent Street, Merkel, Texas, on the 9th day of September 2026.


Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

PUBLIC TESTIMONY NOTICE: Persons wishing to address the City Commission during a “Public Hearing” or “Open Forum” shall complete and present a Public Testimony Participation Form to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the scheduled City Commission meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the City Commission. No discussion or action may be taken by the City Commission on a matter unless the matter has been placed on a properly posted agenda in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS
TAXPAYER IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared in accordance with House Bill 1522 (2025), amending Section 551.043 of the Texas Government Code to require that the notice of a meeting required to be posted under section 551.043(a) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, at which a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget for the governmental body, must include a taxpayer impact statement showing, for the median-valued homestead property, a comparison of the property tax bill in dollars pertaining to the property for the current fiscal year to an estimate of the property tax bill in dollars for the same property for the upcoming fiscal year.

The City of Merkel intends to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget and Tax Rate during the regular scheduled meeting of the Merkel City Council on September 15, 2026.

Taxpayer Impact Statement			
Property Tax Due on Median Valued Homestead			
2025 Rate vs 2026 Proposed Rate vs 2026 No New Revenue, Voter Approval, and De Minimis Rate			
	Rate per \$100 of Value	Median- Valued Homestead Property	Tax Due
2025 Adopted Rate	\$0.5600	\$119,308	\$ 668.12
2026 Proposed Rate	\$0.6300		\$ 751.64
2026 No New Revenue Rate	\$0.5557		\$ 662.99
2026 Voter Approval Rate	\$0.6598		\$ 787.19
2026 De Minimis Rate	\$0.8802		\$ 1,050.15

Tax Rates are Calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Property Tax Amount} = (\text{rate}) \times (\text{Taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The estimates contained in this Taxpayer Impact Statement are based upon Certified property values received from Taylor County Appraisal District.

A copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget is available for public inspection on the City of Merkel's website at www.merkeltexas.com and may also be reviewed during regular business hours in the City Secretary's Office at Merkel City Hall, 100 Kent St, Merkel, Texas.