

Minutes of August 11, 2026, Called City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on August 11, 2026, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Cobbs called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and announced a quorum present. Council members present were Elaine Chaney, Collin Jacobs, Tyler Newberry, Lexi Smith and Matthew Riggan.

Prayer was led by Collin Jacobs.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

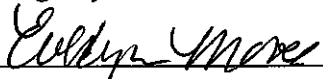
Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Mayor Cobb opened the budget workshop with discussion of different scenarios to manage the deficit in the proposed budget. Discussion of property tax rates and unused increments, new legislature for property taxes being proposed, and street maintenance. The council discussed the need for a fire station, new fire truck, vehicle replacements for the public works and extra personnel. Councilman Riggan made a suggestion speaking on scenario (2) of possibly cutting a vacant officer position this year and adding 1-2 positions back next year due to no applicants, keeping street project, with small tax increase. Councilman Jacobs suggestion of scenario (4) but was against the hiring of cadets for the academy stating the city hasn't had good results with the program. Councilman Newberry stated that the city should consider scenario (3) at a minimum to continue growth with new housing/infrastructure. Councilwoman Chaney stated with the needs of the fire truck scenario (4) would give the city some surplus but agreed that scenario (3) moves the city forward. Councilwoman Smith agreed with scenario (3). Mayor Cobb stated that the first step to fill void, not disrupt city services, and need good streets, he suggested scenario (4).

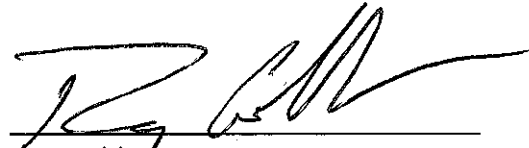
Discussion of water and sewer rate increases. Solid waste contract will possibly be extended with additional services. Discussion of outside versus inside city limit rates and why the difference of cost.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 PM.



Evelyn Morse, City Secretary



Ray Cobb, Mayor