

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, October 20, 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).***

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.

4. ***Minutes:*** Discuss/Consider approval of the minutes of September 8, 2026, Called City Council Meeting and September 15, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.
5. ***Acceptance*** of Staff Reports.

Regular Agenda

6. ***Discuss/Consider*** Resolution 10202026-1 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERKEL , TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND.
7. ***Presentation*** from Retail Coach.
8. ***Discuss/Consider*** exception to Water Meter Policy for pre-existing taps installed by the City.
9. ***Discuss/Consider*** Approval of EDC Budget FY2027.
10. ***Discuss/Consider*** Appointment/Reappointment of EDC Board Members.
11. ***Update*** – EDC properties and projects.

12. **Discuss/Consider** Transfer of 2015 PD Vehicle to MISD.
13. **Update** on Cloud Conversion.
14. **Update** – Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone.
15. **Discuss/Consider** County Waste Service Contract Extension.
16. **Update** – Police Department hiring.

ADJOURNMENT

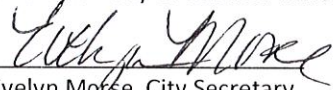
All items on the agenda are for discussion and possible action.

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 13th day of October 2026.


Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

PUBLIC TESTIMONY NOTICE: Persons wishing to address the City Council 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 Council meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the City Council. No discussion or action may be taken by the City Council on a matter unless the matter has been placed on a properly posted agenda in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

POSTING OF AGENDA PACKET: The posting of the agenda packet on the City's website is for transparency and convenience of the public. All documents, such as ordinances and resolutions, are included in the packet in draft form and presented to the City Council for use in their deliberations at the Council meeting. It is not the intent of the City Manager or City Council to consider the draft documents as adopted or not subject to revision. All draft documents discussed at duly called City Council meetings will be revised pursuant to action taken at the meeting, and the final form of such adopted documents is subject to review by the public under the Public Information Act.

Minutes of September 8, 2026, Called City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Called City Council Meeting on September 8, 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, Collin Jacobs, Lexi Smith and Matthew Riggan. Tyler Newberry was absent

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 a Public Hearing to allow for public input regarding Budget Ordinance No. 09082026 for FY 2026-2027 at 6:10 PM.

Public Hearing closed at 6:11 PM.

Motion was made by Elaine Chaney to postpone the vote for the FY 2027 Budget Ordinance until the meeting on September 15, 2026. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Discussion of the amended budget with the breakdown of the unspent funds from the FY2025 budget. Motion was made by Collin Jacobs to approve the Ordinance 09-08-2026-1 An Ordinance Of The City Of Merkel, Texas Amending Ordinance No. 09162025 to amend the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026, adopting said budget as amended; and providing for an effective date. Motion was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

Lexi Smith motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

Ray Cobb, Mayor

Minutes of September 15, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on September 15, 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, Collin Jacobs and Matthew Riggan.

Mayor Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

Prayer was led by Collin Jacobs.

Citizens were given an opportunity to comment.

Police Chief Trevor Barnes, Clyde Police Department, presented Chief Conklin with the Law Enforcement Command Officer Professional (LECOP #208) Award from the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

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

Chief Conklin gave the Police report for August, explaining the contact vs citations for the month and talked about the vacant positions still within the department. Chief Harris gave the August Fire report, stating that the heat is keeping them busy with fires. Harris stated that he was looking into the coding unknown on the report. Public Works Director Russell gave the August report, stating that would be starting street patching this month, 5 Atmos crews in town at this time, and busy repairing water leaks. City Manager Hitt gave the August Water report and the Municipal Court report.

Introduction of Safebuild inspector, Rey Salinas. Mr. Salinas spoke on his qualifications and experience.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow for public input regarding the FY2026 - 2027 Budget at 6:35 PM.

Public Hearing closed at 6:36 PM.

Matthew Riggan moved to approve the budget as presented. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 with Councilmembers Riggan, Chaney, Jacobs, Smith and Newberry with all voting yes.

Matthew Riggan motioned to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget. Lexi Smith seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow for public input regarding the proposed tax rate of \$0.63 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation for the 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year at 6:38 PM.

Public Hearing closed at 6:39 PM.

Collin Jacobs moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.63 which is effectively a 13.37% percent increase in the tax rate. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

David Ratliff, Director of Business Development, from County Waste Services was in attendance to go over the contract extension for the City of Merkel. Along with the cost freeze for FY2027, County Waste Service will provide monthly bulk pickup.

The Council discussed the city comprehensive plan and water/sewer rates. City Manager Hitt also stated that the survey results from 304 participants showed that the water improvements were number 1, long term goals were more housing, and that the water line replacement showed 57% supporting it. Hitt also went through the Townhall handout with the council going over the water rate increase and study. The council discussed the TIRZ, water line replacement cost and longevity, an increase in population to help with cost of replacements and how it aligned with identified needs from the survey for the Comp Plan.

City Manager Hitt went over the Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Study with the council. It gave a detailed summary of the different alternatives available if it were affordable. Current water supply is still the cheapest for the city, the next would be partnering with other municipalities to build new direct line to water source or drilling new wells with water treatment plant.

Mayor Cobb opened a Public Hearing to allow for public input regarding the FY2026 - 2027 utility rate increase at 7:12 PM. Citizen asked about the outside city limits water meter policy.

Public Hearing closed at 7:15 PM.

The Council discussed the water rate increases and the differences of percentages if outside city limits. Councilman Newberry stated the studies show that the city needs to raise the rates, citizens want good clean water, yet he stated he doesn't agree with charging outside city limit customers more. The council discussed the difference in the cost to replace lines outside city limits and project costs if percentage was across the board. Tyler Newberry motioned to amend Ordinance No. 09152026-2 to 23% cost increase. No second on motion. Matthew Riggan motioned to approve Ordinance No. 09152026-2 amending Ordinance No. 08192025 providing for an increase in water and sewer utility rates. Elaine Chaney seconded the motion. Approved 4-1, Newberry opposed.

The Council discussed whether to retain the Merkel Connect app, which had only 74 active users. Elaine Chaney moved to continue the app, and Matthew Riggan seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion to approve the Special Event Permits for the Homecoming Parade and Downtown Bash was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Lexi Smith. Approved 5-0.

City Manager Hitt gave an update on Retail Coach prospects, stating 2 businesses have reached out. Councilman Jacobs asked to have Retail Coach attend a meeting.

The council discussed the 2025 excavator that public works would like to purchase. Motion was made by Tyler Newberry to approve the purchase of 2025 John Deere Excavator for \$60,000.00 and was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 5-0.

The Council discussed the street sign design and quotes provided. The signs were in the budget from the unspent funds from the previous year. Motion to approve the customer requested design and purchase from CPC sign company was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 5-0.

Discussion was brought before the council for the Manhole relining project with quotes provided. Project was in this budget from unspent funds from the previous years and is continued in 2027 budget. Motion to approve quote from Hudman Plumbing for Manhole relining project was made by Elaine Chaney. Motion was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Lexi Smith motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

Ray Cobb, Mayor

City of Merkel completed September 2026

Streets

Prepare downtown and streets for Homecoming/Block Party

Mow all city properties

Shred right of way and Sewer ponds

Abatelements:

211 Ash

911 Oak

Infrastructure

Repaired water leaks:

S 10th/Oak

S 7th/Cherry

Heritage Dr/S 8th

FM 126 –(Cleaver)

508 CR 287

Water Taps:

(4) Humphreys Village

Sewer Taps:

Repair Sewer Leaks:

S 10th /Oak

Lead line replacement surveying (2) x guys daily

Mark water/sewer lines for Atmos

TCEQ Sewer inspection



WATER USAGE REPORT September 2026				
		August	August	Water Usage
	Meter ID			
Blair Tye	62351637	14,583,000	14,850,000	267,000
Blair Merkel	987	131,648,000	133,462,000	1,814,000
City Hall	65769703	740,000	742,000	2,000
City Barn	52979213	4,050,000	4,090,000	40,000
Heritage Hall	53637454	331,000	333,000	2,000
Fire Station	31216592	22,000	22,000	0
Little League Fields		2,064,000	2,064,000	0
Softball Fields	31021803	128,000	128,000	0
County Barn	31185404	819,000	823,000	4,000
South Park	31033658	378,000	381,000	3,000
North Park		86,600	92,000	5,400
Mellinger Park	536200	543,000	543,000	0
Texas Forest Service		400	400	0
Fire Station hydrant		16,350	37,250	37,250
Flushing		125,500	215,000	215,000
Leak		128,000	83,500	83,500
Taylor County Bulk		35,000	75,000	75,000
Merkel Water Sold		5,990,000	6,007,000	6,007,000
Total Water Usage				8,555,150
Merkel Master	65012507	482,746,000	488,716,000	5,970,000
Total Water Usage				8,555,150
Difference in volume of water purchased and water sold				-2,585,150
Difference expressed as %				-0.43
Difference expressed in dollars				(\$15,536.75)

North Park read was misread in August



MERKEL MUNICIPAL COURT
CLERK'S REPORT
OCTOBER 2026

VIOLATIONS FILED IN September -

6 - TRAFFIC

0-NON-TRAFFIC

1 - STATE LAW

1 - CITY ORDINANCE

TOTAL POSTED: \$1889.33

TECH/SEC FUNDS COLLECTED: \$71.79

FINE, FEES, ETC: \$1817.54

2- SET UP ON PAYMENT PLAN

0 -SET UP FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

1 -JAILED AND SERVED TIME

0 -INDIGENT

6 - PAID IN FULL

6 - ACTIVELY MAKING TIME PAYMENTS

WARRANTS -

CURRENT BALANCE: \$177,286.35

PREVIOUS BALANCE: \$173,490.54

8 - NEW WARRANTS

371 - ACTIVE WARRANTS AS OF **SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

Merkel Fire Department

09/01/2026 - 09/30/2026 (30 Days)



17

INCIDENTS



9

EVENTS



20

PERSONNEL



5

1 PERSON RESPONSES



0

NO RESPONSE



0

DISPATCH ERRORS

Personnel Participation Summary		09/01/2026 - 09/30/2026					
		Incidents		Events			
Name	Title	#	%	#	%	Hours	
Andrew T Shearer (Started: 11/24)	Firefighter	4	24	2	22	10	
Briley James Snowden (Started: 07/23)	Lieutenant	3	18	2	22	12	
Charles Nathaniel Stark (Started: 02/24)	Firefighter	2	12	0	0	3	
Charles F Tice (Started: 03/25)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	
Clinton Wayne McKeehan (Started: 01/07)	Captain	3	18	2	22	5	
Dale Martin Bilbrey (Started: 09/24)	Firefighter	3	18	3	33	9	
Eddy B Harris (Started: 09/88)	Chief	13	76	9	100	29	
John F Starbuck (Started: 01/94)	Firefighter	0	0	4	44	7	
Joseph Adam Carnes (Started: 11/21)	Firefighter	4	24	2	22	6	
Joshua J Landry (Started: 04/26)	Firefighter	10	59	3	33	16	
Justin R Ray (Started: 11/07)	Assistant Chief	9	53	6	67	21	
Kris Shannon Hester (Started: 02/99)	Assistant Chief	4	24	2	22	10	
Kristy Lynn Carnes (Started: 11/21)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	
Nathaniel D Tice (Started: 08/25)	Firefighter	4	24	3	33	10	
Parker Tyler Jones (Started: N/A)	Firefighter	4	24	0	0	7	
Robert Tanner Harris (Started: 03/22)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	
Ryan Jeffery Staples (Started: 12/21)	Lieutenant	5	29	5	56	14	
Steven Ross Steele (Started: 01/23)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	
Tim James Clyburn (Started: N/A)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	
Tryce Daniel Pape (Started: 09/21)	Firefighter	0	0	0	0	0	

Merkel Fire Department

09/01/2026 - 09/30/2026 (29 Days)

NERIS Incidents

Breakdown by Incident Category

Incident Category	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	6	37.5%
Hazsit	5	31.25%
Noemerg	3	18.75%
Medical	2	12.5%
Total	16	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type

Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Confined cooking appliance fire	1	6.25%
Elec power line down arching malfunc	1	6.25%
Motor vehicle collision	3	18.75%
Room and contents fire	1	6.25%
Smoke from nonhostile source	1	6.25%
Smoke investigation	1	6.25%
Standby request	2	12.5%
Structural involvement fire	1	6.25%
Unknown	2	12.5%
Wildfire wildland	3	18.75%
Total	16	100%

Merkel Fire Department

Date Range: 09/01/2026 - 09/30/2026

Consumable Usage Breakdown for Districts

District	Water
Merkel Fire Department	37250

Consumable Breakdown

NERIS Incidents

Water			
Date	Incident #	Incident Type	Amount (Gallons)
09/01/2026	2026-00000113	FIRE - OUTSIDE FIRE - WILDFIRE WILDLAND	500
09/01/2026	2026-00000114	FIRE - STRUCTURE FIRE - STRUCTURAL INVOLVEMENT FIRE	30,000
09/10/2026	2026-00000120	FIRE - OUTSIDE FIRE - WILDFIRE WILDLAND	6,000
09/26/2026	2026-00000125	FIRE - OUTSIDE FIRE - WILDFIRE WILDLAND	250
09/26/2026	2026-00000126	FIRE - STRUCTURE FIRE - ROOM AND CONTENTS FIRE	500
Total	5 Incidents		37,250 Gallons



MERKEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Report

REPORTING PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 2026



MERKEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Pride in Community, Serving with Honor"

100 Kent Street, Merkel, Texas 79536
Phone (325) 928-4766 Fax (325) 928-1642
www.merkeltx.gov

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mayor and City Council,

During the month of September 2026, the Merkel Police Department and Code Enforcement Division continued to provide proactive public safety services, maintain operational accountability, and address quality-of-life concerns throughout the community. Overall police activity remained steady, with officers responding to 72 calls for service compared to 80 calls in August. The department maintained an average response time of approximately 3 minutes. Although total calls for service decreased, officers spent an average of 36 minutes per call, up from 28 minutes in August, with total time allocated to calls increasing to 43 hours and 2 minutes. This reflects a greater time commitment per call and does not include time spent on follow-up investigations, reporting, or additional case work.

Criminal activity increased during September, with 9 criminal investigations conducted compared to 2 in August. Of those investigations, 4 were cleared either by arrest, administrative closure, or unfounded disposition. The department reported 1 adult arrest and 2 juvenile arrests during the month, along with 1 warrant arrest. Year-to-date, the department has investigated 46 criminal cases and 6 non-criminal cases, with a total clearance rate of 90%. While the year-to-date clearance rate decreased from 100% in August, the overall clearance rate remains strong and reflects continued investigative follow-up and case management.

Traffic and enforcement activity decreased slightly during September when compared to August. Officers issued 8 warnings, conducted 11 traffic contacts, and issued 6 citations. Motor vehicle accidents remained at 3 for the month, which is unchanged from August. Ordinance citations and ordinance warnings remained at 0. The Sexual Offender Registry currently lists 19 registered sex offenders, up from 18 in August, with 1 annual verification completed and 3 violations or absconder matters remaining noted.

Staffing continues to remain one of the department's primary operational challenges. The department remains staffed with 5 sworn personnel, consisting of the Chief of Police, 1 Lieutenant, and 3 Patrol Officers. Civilian staffing includes 1 Code Enforcement Officer and 1 Administrative Clerk assigned to property and evidence, police records, and administrative support. Current vacancies remain at 2 Patrol Officer positions and 1 Lieutenant position. A more detailed staffing and hiring update has been prepared and will be addressed this month as a separate agenda item for discussion with City Council.

Municipal warrant activity showed improvement in enforcement outcomes during September. 3 new warrants were added, compared to 7 in August, and 5 warrants were cleared during the month. The total number of active warrants decreased from 95 in August to 92 in September. Additionally, 5 warrants were cleared by arrest, compared to 0 warrant arrests during August. This reflects a positive step in addressing active municipal warrants and improving warrant accountability.



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Code Enforcement activity increased significantly during September, particularly in field inspections and compliance outcomes. The division completed 101 property inspections, up from 65 in August. New cases opened decreased from 37 to 31, while cases escalated to enforcement increased from 28 to 31. The majority of violations continued to involve high weeds and vegetation, followed by rubbish and debris and junk vehicles. Cases closed or brought into compliance increased from 7 in August to 20 in September, and abatements increased from 7 to 12. These figures reflect continued progress in addressing nuisance conditions, improving neighborhood appearance, and moving cases toward resolution.

Code Enforcement financial activity also showed signs of improvement. Total billed increased slightly from \$111,481.58 in August to \$111,731.58 in September. Total paid increased from \$20,072.35 to \$21,150.26, with \$1,077.91 collected during the month. Outstanding balances decreased from \$91,409.23 to \$90,581.32, and property liens decreased from 36 to 31. While outstanding balances remain significant, the reduction in outstanding amounts and liens reflects continued follow-up and progress in financial recovery efforts.

Overall, the September reporting period reflects continued progress in public safety operations, criminal investigations, municipal warrant enforcement, and code compliance activity. While staffing challenges remain, the department continues to provide effective service through proactive patrol, investigative follow-up, community engagement, and code enforcement efforts focused on public safety and quality of life. The accomplishments outlined in this report reflect the continued professionalism and dedication of department personnel and our ongoing commitment to serving the citizens of Merkel with accountability, integrity, and honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Conklin
Chief of Police
City of Merkel, Texas



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Monthly Police and Code Enforcement Report Reporting Period: **SEPTEMBER 2026**

1. Calls for Service

- **Calls for Service:** 72 (down from 80 last month)
- **Average Response Time:** 3m
- **Average Time Spent on Calls:** 36m
- **Total Time Allocated to Calls:** 43h02m
 - *Time does not reflect time spent on investigations beyond the initial call for service.*

2. Crime & Incident Data (Current)

- **Total Criminal Cases:**
 - Criminal Cases Investigated: 9
 - Non-Criminal Cases: 0
 - Arrests: 1 Adult 2 Juvenile
- **Warrants:**
 - 1 Warrant Arrests
- **Investigations and Case Clearance:**
 - A total of 9 criminal investigations were conducted, 4 investigations were cleared, either by arrest, administratively, or unfounded.



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3. Crime and Incident Data (YTD)

- Criminal Cases Investigated: 46
- Non-Criminal Cases: 6
- Total Clearance Rate: 90.00 %
- Arrests – Adults: 10 Juvenile: 2

4. Traffic & Enforcement Activity

- **Warnings Issued:** 8 (down from 17 last month)
- **Traffic Contacts:** 11 (down from 20 last month)
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents:** 3 (down from 5 last month)
- **Citations Issued:** 6 (down from 9 last month)
- **Ordinance Citations:** 0 (0 same as last month)
- **Ordinance Warnings:** 0 (0 same as last month)

5. Sexual Offender Registry

- **Registered Sex Offenders (SOR):** 19
- **Annual Verification:** 1
- **Violations & Absconders:** 3

6. Staffing

- **Sworn Personnel:** 5 (Chief, Lieutenant, 3 Patrol Officers)
 - **Civilian Personnel :** 1 Code Enforcement Officer ; 1 Administrative Clerk (Property & Evidence, Police Records, and Administrative Assistant)
 - **Vacancies:** 2 Patrol Officers and 1 Lieutenant
-



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7. Municipal Warrants (Assigned to MPD)

- 3 new warrants have been added with 5 warrants cleared this month.
- Total active warrants: 92.
- 5 Warrants Cleared by Arrest

8. Officer Complaints & Internal Affairs (Formal)

- No complaints received this month, same as last month.
- No Use of Force reports

9. Code Enforcement Summary

- **Total Property Inspections:** 101 (up from 65 last month)
- **New Cases Opened:** 31 (down from 37 last month)
 - High weeds & vegetation: 27
 - Rubbish & debris: 3
 - Junk vehicles: 1
 - Substandard structures: 0
 - Other: 0 (Zoning & Nuisance)
- **Cases Escalated to Enforcement:** 31 (up from 28 last month)
 - High weeds & vegetation: 27
 - Rubbish & debris: 3
 - Junk vehicles: 1
 - Substandard Structure: 0
 - Other: 0
- **Cases Closed/Complied:** 20 (up from 7 last month)
 - High Weeds and Vegetation: 11



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-
- Rubbish and Debris: 3
 - Junk Vehicle: 3
 - Substandard: 0
 - Nuisance (Other): 3
 - **Abatement: 12**
 - High Weeds and Vegetation: 12
 - Rubbish and Debris: 0
 - Substandard Structure: 0
 - Other: 0
 - **Financials:**
 - Total billed: **\$111,731.58 (up from \$111,481.58 last month)**
 - Total paid: **\$21,150.26 (up from 20,072.35 last month)**
 - **Total collected this month: \$1077.91**
 - Outstanding: **\$90,581.32 (down from \$91,409.23 last month)**
 - Property liens: 31 liens (down from 36 last month)

END OF REPORT

RESOLUTION 10202026-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERKEL , TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Merkel desires to develop a viable community, including decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low-to-moderate income; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of the City of Merkel to apply for funding under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS,

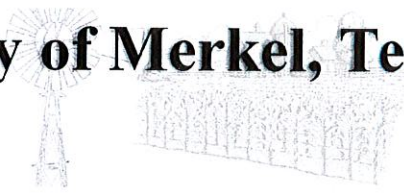
1. That a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program application for the 2027-2028 Community Development Fund is hereby authorized to be filed on behalf of the City with the Texas Department of Agriculture, and to be placed in competition for funding under the Community Development Fund.
2. That the City of Merkel commits to dedicating no less than 51% of grant funds for activities identified by the state planning region as First Priority.
3. That all funds will be used in accordance with all applicable federal, state, local and programmatic requirements including but not limited to procurement, environmental review, labor standards, real property acquisition, and civil rights requirements.
4. That the City of Merkel is committing to provide \$26,250 in matching funds toward the application's activities, with the specific usage and funding source to be determined prior to any award of grant funding.

Passed and approved this 20th day of October, 2026.

Ray Cobb, Mayor
City of Merkel, Texas

Evelyn Morse, City Secretary
City of Merkel, Texas

City of Merkel, Texas



City of Merkel Policy

New Water Connections Outside City Limits

Due to the finite nature of the City of Merkel's water supply, the goal is to ensure a sufficient water supply for current residents and businesses, as well as an ample supply for future potential residents and businesses. This is in addition to the City of Merkel's goal to expand its city limits and tax base, thereby ensuring continued economic opportunities and a high quality of life. Merkel will not connect any new utility services outside the city limits of Merkel without an economic development agreement.

Any Economic Development Agreement agreeing to provide new water connections outside the City Limits should meet three criteria.

- Clear and obvious direct benefit to the City of Merkel
- Full cost of connection, line replacement, and or upsizing to be paid for by the applicant
- Limited water usage and impact on Merkel's available water supply

Reviewed and Approved by City Council on October 21st 2025

"The Windmill City"

100 Kent Street | Merkel | Texas | 79536

☎ (325) 928-4911

🖨 (325) 928-3171

City of Merkel, Texas



City Council Meeting Date

October 20, 2026

Topic:

Water Connections Outside City Limits on Parks Ranch Road

Background:

Last October, Council passed a “New Water Connections Outside City Limits” policy, which is included in the packet. Since that time, the City has received requests from two properties on Parks Ranch Road for new water meters. Both requesting properties (Tract 6 and Tract 7) have water taps installed by the City of Merkel in approximately 2019. Based on one’s reading of the Water Connections Policy, “Merkel will not connect any new utility services outside the City limits without an economic development agreement.” This request may or may not be aligned with the existing policy. To the best of Public Works’ knowledge, these are the only two properties with pre-existing taps installed by the City that have never had a meter installed, so this clarification is limited in scope.

Reasons to grant the request:

The Water Tap was done by the City in 2019 with the intention of a meter being installed. The City of Merkel’s standard operating practice is to install taps when requested and charge for the tap installation once the meter is requested. In this instance, the taps have not been paid for, and granting the meter request would ensure the City is compensated for the existing water taps.

Reasons to deny the request:

Both meters are outside of the City Limits. The water taps were installed seven years ago; the property owners had not previously requested a water meter, and City policy has since changed. The properties are within the City of Merkel ETJ, and the property owners may request annexation to receive City services.

Staff requests direction on whether Council would like to grant or deny the request for new water meters at these two locations based on the above information.

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Merkel Economic Delevopment Corporation

	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>	<i>BUDGET Amended</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>	<i>BUDGET</i>
	<i>2024-2025</i>	<i>as of 9/30/25</i>	<i>2025-2026</i>	<i>as of 7/31/26</i>	<i>2026-2027</i>
Revenue					
Sale of Assets		\$ 55,000.00			
Sales Tax	\$ 208,750.00	\$ 224,660.81	\$ 217,750.00	\$ 187,279.97	\$ 231,120.00
Interest Income	\$ 23,690.00	\$ 36,258.68	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,419.19	\$ 30,000.00
Misc. Income		\$ 26,795.52		\$ 1,500.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 232,440.00	\$ 342,715.01	\$ 247,750.00	\$ 214,199.16	\$ 261,120.00
Expense					
Advertising/Promotional	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 9,998.50	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,420.00	\$ 16,000.00
Business Incentive	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ 45,000.00
Façade Grants	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
Public Hearing	\$ 500.00	\$ 186.65	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Utilities		\$ 837.39			\$ 1,000.00
Investment/Property	\$ -		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 30,284.66	\$ 40,000.00
Property Tax	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,877.04			
Property Insurance			\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,025.68	\$ 8,000.00
Park Improvements		\$ 182,963.84			
Financial Assistance		\$ 246,170.00			
Dues/Registration Fees	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 870.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	
Misc. Expenses		\$ 30,962.20			
Professional Fees	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 52,338.92	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 24,583.34	\$ 30,000.00
Legal Fees			\$ 40,000.00	\$ 32,659.30	\$ 20,000.00
Maintenance & Supplies	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 116.73	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 238.96	\$ 500.00
Lot Clean Up/Demolition	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 37,514.22	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 37,579.15	\$ 40,000.00
Building Renovation/Repair			\$ 5,000.00		
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ 222.99	\$ 200.00	\$ 42.81	\$ 200.00
Travel/Seminars	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 656.77	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,500.00
Bank Fees			\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	
Director Salary	\$ 67,229.76	\$ 75,532.28	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 16,666.72	\$ 25,000.00
Office Expense	\$ 600.00	\$ 818.33	\$ 600.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 500.00
Total Expense	\$ 232,429.76	\$ 656,065.86	\$ 397,935.00	\$ 157,350.62	\$ 257,900.00
Net Profit	\$ 10.24	\$ (313,350.85)	\$ (150,185.00)	\$ 56,848.54	\$ 3,220.00

Assets	As of 6/30/26	Address	Appraised Value
EDC Checking Acct	\$0.00	401 KENT,	\$2,538
EDC Savings Acct	\$38,554.90	1422 N 1ST,	\$3,675
EDC - Checking Acct. FF	\$285,609.85	311 KENT	\$4,410
EDC - CD 2140000266	\$372,405.24	1400 N 1ST, TX	\$385,000
EDC - CD 2140000265	\$228,772.80	1508 N 1ST, TX	\$4,514
EDC - CD 2140000267	\$185,926.42	1408 N 1ST, TX	\$14,000
		1410 N 1st, TX	\$14,000
		9995 I-20/9987 I-20	\$225,000
		1412 N 1st, TX	\$8,250
	\$1,111,269.21		
			\$666,049

Derrell Riggan Resume

Born a Merkel Hospital 1957

Lived in Mulberry Canyon most of my life.

Went to Trent & Merkel Schools

Graduate Merkel 1957

McMurry College & Ranger JC 2 years

Worked Merkel Hocker Plant from 13

years old till 17 farm & ranching &

process cattle & hogs. As well

as numerous other jobs.

Worked in oil & gas industry &

owned Riggan Dirt Const. started

DWR Oil Co. Inc. in 1992. Have drilled

100 plus oil well in Texas & New Mexico

as well as ranching & farming most of

my life. Was the Mayor of Merkel

2004 through 2007. Race Horse

business last 25 years. Merkel

has always been a passion of mine.

Try to make it good place to raise

a family & work. I thank the

Council for the privilege of

serving on the EOC Board

~~the~~ As president and the great experience of the members of the board we have ~~have~~ ~~try~~ tried to put structure & parameters in the EDC and expand our real estate need funded the new park downtown for the Chamber of Commerce changed our director to Matt Hitt as far as I know all past business deals are cleaned up no baggage is ~~being~~ hanging over board going forward My hope for the EDC going forward is screen and investigate the people and be careful who you get involved with. Think everything through and make good decision for the community and majority not for ~~any~~ a select few. Be a good steward of the tax payers money and have people on the this board with a heart to serve the Merkel Community

Carter Insurance Agency

Contact information

325 6686079

docarter@windstream.net

P.O. Box 427 Merkel, TX 79536

To

Merkel City Council

100 Kent St

Merkel, TX 79536

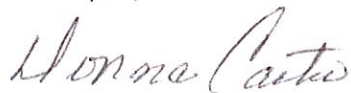
To The Merkel City Council

My name is Donna Carter. I am 67 years old and have owned a business in Merkel since 1982. After graduating from Merkel High School in 1970, I attended Cisco Junior College and completed numerous courses in the insurance field.

During my years in Merkel, I have served on several boards and participated in many organizations. Last year, I was fortunate to be appointed to the Merkel EDC board along with two other new members. Since then, the board has taken a proactive approach, completing several unfinished initiatives and launching new ones that I would like to help advance.

I believe every current board member shares a strong commitment to Merkel's best interests, and I would value the opportunity to continue serving with this group.

Thank you,



Donna Carter

EDC Board Interest

Donna J. Carter

Phone: Cell: 325 668-6079

Office: 325 928-5348

Home address: 582 County Road 408 Merkel, TX 79536

Mailing address: P.O. Box 427 Merkel, TX 79536

Please tell us about your Merkel background, your interest, and your EDC interests:

Merkel Background:

1. 1970 Merkel Graduate
2. 2 years at Cisco Jr. College
3. Have owned Carter Insurance Agency since 1982
4. Have been a member and board member of Merkel Chamber through the years and am serving on the existing board of directors
5. One of the three original founders of the Merkel Christmas Club
6. One of the three original organizers of the Nighttime Christmas Parade
7. Belonged to the Merkel Lions Club
8. Worked as the Merkel Librarian for three years
9. Helped organize a downtown flee market for two seasons

Interest

1. Grandchildren – I have the most wonderful two grandchildren in the world. No brag – just fact. Just ask me.
2. My insurance business – I have put my heart and soul into this agency, by doing this I have participated in so many activities in the insurance industry and community
3. Stain Glass – Have made windows for my home and church -

4. Little League sports—I especially enjoy watching girls' softball, but I also cheer on the boys.
5. Photography—I enjoy taking photos and consider myself an amateur who offers my services free of charge. I primarily photograph children's sports, homecoming, and Halloween events. Much of my work is available on Facebook.

EDC Interest

I have served on the EDC board for the past year. When I joined, it had been inactive for several months, and the council appointed two other members at the same time. In the past eight months, the reactivated board has resolved issues pending for at least two years and launched projects that I believe will benefit the community. I would like to continue contributing to this work and see these projects to the end.

CARRIE JONES

Trent, Texas | 817-929-9595 | carrielarkin1@yahoo.com

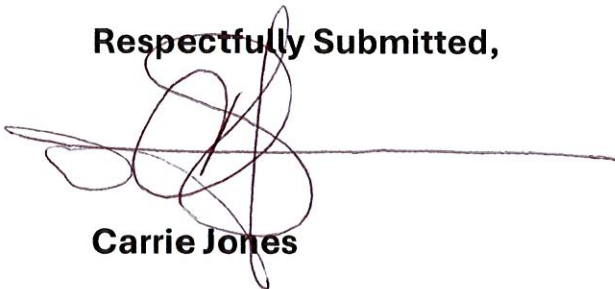
Candidate for the EDC Board

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board. I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute my time, experience, and perspective to help support the continued growth and success of our community.

I believe strong economic development is essential to creating a thriving community. Attracting new businesses, supporting existing local businesses, encouraging responsible growth, and creating opportunities for residents are all important parts of building a strong future. I would welcome the opportunity to work alongside other community leaders to help identify support initiatives that will benefit our community for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carrie Jones', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carrie Jones

CARRIE JONES

Trent, Texas | 817-929-9595 | carrielarkin1@yahoo.com

Candidate for the EDC Board

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Business owner and community leader offering 16 years of combined experience in hospitality and customer service, supported by hands-on business management and active service to the Merkel community. Brings the perspective of an entrepreneur who understands the daily responsibilities of operating a business, serving visitors, managing resources, and delivering on commitments.

Experience combines destination hospitality, large-event catering, and local nonprofit leadership—an especially relevant foundation for an economic development board seeking to strengthen existing businesses, encourage investment, and expand tourism. Offers a practical understanding of how business decisions affect customers, operations, and the surrounding community, together with a commitment to responsible growth and long-term local prosperity.

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Owner, Manager and Caterer | Sweetwater Creek Lodge

Trent, Texas

Purchased Sweetwater Creek Lodge with her husband and shares responsibility for operating a 100-acre hunting ranch offering dove, whitetail deer, turkey, and hog hunting. The property provides accommodations with 38 beds and three homemade meals daily, combining outdoor recreation, lodging, and food service within one destination business.

Coordinates daily property and hospitality operations, with responsibilities encompassing planning, budget management, vendors, guest service, and meal preparation. This work requires balancing financial considerations with dependable service and the practical demands of managing a substantial property.

Brings direct experience with the connection between a destination's facilities, hospitality, and visitor appeal—a valuable perspective for evaluating opportunities to strengthen local tourism and support the businesses that serve it.

Private Caterer | Slate River Ranch

Garner, Texas | 2013–2016

Provided catering for government, business, nonprofit, and community events, including gatherings ranging from more than 100 to 300 guests. Managed the preparation and delivery of food service for large groups, requiring careful organization, timing, resource coordination, and attention to client expectations.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Treasurer, 2026–2027 | Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Merkel Post 5683 | Life Member

Serves in a financial leadership role while participating in Auxiliary programs supporting veterans, older residents, youth, and families. Community involvement includes Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances, and the placement of American flags at the graves of more than 800 veterans at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Participates in Merkel's Homecoming, Independence Day, and Christmas activities, along with Treats Around Town and the Auxiliary's Christmas Angel Tree program for underserved children. Supports patriotic observances, events at the Post, and veterans' advocacy through legislative and community engagement.

This service provides a direct connection to the people, traditions, and organizations that shape Merkel, grounding her interest in economic development in the needs of the community.

VALUE TO THE EDC BOARD

Offers the board a combination of business ownership, operational leadership, budget management, and sustained community involvement. Brings the ability to develop and manage budgets, monitor expenses, allocate resources, and evaluate financial priorities—skills essential to assessing proposed projects and making responsible investment decisions.

Can contribute a business owner's perspective when assessing proposed projects, identifying practical obstacles, and considering how development can benefit existing enterprises and residents.

Areas of focus include business retention and expansion, downtown revitalization, tourism, and the infrastructure and workforce needs that support growth. Committed to thoughtful investment, collaboration with local businesses and community organizations, and decisions that strengthen Merkel's economic future while respecting its identity.

EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT AGREEMENT

This Extension and Amendment Agreement (the "Extension") is entered into as of the date of the last signature below and shall become effective on February 1, 2027 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the City of Merkel, Texas (the "CITY"), acting by and through its Mayor, duly authorized to act herein, and Taylor County Waste Service, LLC, d/b/a County Waste Service (the "CONTRACTOR"). The CITY and CONTRACTOR may each be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into that certain Waste Disposal Service Agreement dated February 1, 2022 (the "Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article I and Article X, Section 3 of the Agreement, the Parties desire to extend the term of the Agreement and amend certain provisions of the Agreement as provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Extension of Term. The term of the Agreement is hereby extended for an additional four (4) years beginning February 1, 2027, and ending January 31, 2031 (the "Renewal Term"). The Renewal Term supersedes any inconsistent provision of the Agreement concerning the expiration or renewal of the current term. Any extension of the Agreement beyond January 31, 2031, must be by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

2. Amendments to Agreement. As of the Effective Date, the Agreement is amended as follows:

- A. Article III, Section 1(c) is amended by changing its title from "Residential Bulk Waste Disposal Days" to "Residential Community Cleanup Days." Article III, Section 1 is further amended by adding a new subsection (f) as follows:

"(f) Residential Bulk Pickup. CONTRACTOR shall provide residential bulk pickup service one time per month on a date mutually agreed upon by the CITY and CONTRACTOR. Residential bulk pickup shall be available only to residential customers."

- B. Article IV, Section 2 is amended by adding a new subsection (e) as follows:

"(e) Residential Bulk Pickup. Each residential customer participating in a monthly bulk pickup shall be limited to: (i) bulky items occupying an area not exceeding 3.5 feet in height, 3 feet in depth, and 9 feet in length; (ii) no more than two large household items and five bags; or (iii) brush cut and bundled in lengths not exceeding four feet. Residents shall contact the CITY to be placed on the monthly bulk pickup list. The CITY shall provide CONTRACTOR with the final pickup list no later than 12:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled monthly pickup date."

C. Article VIII is amended by adding Section 4(a) as follows:

“(a) The three percent (3%) price adjustment otherwise scheduled to take effect in March 2027 shall not take effect at that time. Instead, prices shall remain unchanged through February 2028, and a single three percent (3%) price adjustment shall take effect in March 2028. Thereafter, price adjustments shall occur at the times and in the manner otherwise provided in Article VIII.”

3. Effect of Extension. Except as expressly amended by this Extension, the Agreement remains unchanged and in full force and effect and is hereby ratified and confirmed by the Parties. If any provision of this Extension conflicts with the Agreement, this Extension controls. Nothing in this Extension shall be construed as an amendment or waiver of any provision of the Agreement other than as expressly provided herein or as a waiver of or consent to any future action requiring the consent or waiver of either Party. On and after the Effective Date, each reference in the Agreement to “this Agreement,” “the Agreement,” “hereunder,” “hereof,” “herein,” or words of similar import shall mean and refer to the Agreement as amended by this Extension.

4. Representations and Warranties. Each Party represents and warrants to the other that: (i) it has the full right, power, and authority to enter into this Extension and to perform its obligations under the Agreement as amended hereby; and (ii) the execution and delivery of this Extension by the individual signing on behalf of such Party have been duly authorized by all necessary action of that Party.

5. Miscellaneous. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Extension shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Agreement. This Extension may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Electronic signatures and electronically transmitted counterparts shall have the same force and effect as originals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Extension as of the dates set forth below.

CONTRACTOR –
Taylor County Waste Service, LLC
(d/b/a County Waste Service)

By: _____

Name: Ethan Kunkel

Title: President

Date: _____

CITY –
City of Merkel, Texas

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: Mayor

Date: _____



MERKEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PHILLIP CONKLIN | CHIEF OF POLICE

www.merkeltx.gov/police • phillip.conklin@merkeltx.gov • 325.928.4766 ext. 110

To: Mayor and City Council

Subject: Recommendation to Transfer the Retired 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV to Merkel Independent School District

Mayor and Council Members:

I respectfully recommend that the City Council approve the transfer of the decommissioned 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) to the Merkel Independent School District for use in its school marshal program. This transfer would continue our partnership with the school district, support school safety, and avoid additional vehicle decommissioning expenses.

The Police Department has already spent approximately \$1,000 to partially decommissioning the vehicle, including removing radios, camera systems, and computer technologies. Preparing the vehicle for sale to the general public would require further removal of emergency lights, audible warning devices, and other equipment or identifying features covered by Texas Transportation Code § 728.022. That statute specifically addresses transfers to the public. The proposed governmental transfer should therefore be documented, with the City Attorney confirming the requirements for retaining equipment for the district's intended use. This approach is expected to avoid approximately \$1,500 in additional decommissioning fees.

Although selling the vehicle could generate revenue, any financial return must be weighed against the additional expense of preparing it for public sale. A sale may recover only a portion of the vehicle's historical cost, and its net proceeds would be reduced by the remaining decommissioning expenses. Police vehicles are operational assets that depreciate through age and service. Their value should also be measured by the public purpose they can continue to serve.

In my judgment, transferring this vehicle to the school district offers a greater community benefit than pursuing a limited financial recovery. It represents a practical extension of goodwill and cooperation between the City and the district while providing a resource intended to strengthen the safety of our students, educators, and school community. Even a contribution as straightforward as transferring a retired vehicle can meaningfully support that shared responsibility.

This Tahoe has served the Merkel Police Department and our community well for the past 11 years. Although its service in our patrol fleet has concluded, it has an opportunity to continue serving a valuable public purpose.

I recommend that the City Council approve the transfer to the Merkel Independent School District and authorize staff to complete the necessary agreement, title transfer, and related documentation, with appropriate provisions identifying its intended school safety use.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Conklin", is written over a circular official seal.

Phillip Conklin
Chief of Police