

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 Called City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM, **November 2, 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).*

Regular Agenda

4. **Discuss/Consider** Appointment/Reappointment of EDC Board Members.
5. **Executive Session** (Unless otherwise properly requested) Under Texas Gov't Code Section, 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) Open Meeting Training.

ADJOURNMENT

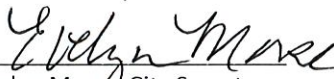
All items on the agenda are for discussion and possible action.

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 26th 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.

Derrell Riggan Resume

Born a Merkel Hospital 1957

Lived in Malberry Canyon most of my life.

Went to Trent & Merkel Schools

Graduate Merkel 1957

McMurry College & Ranger JC 2 years

Worked Merkel Locker 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 wells 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 EDC 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 ~~be~~ 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 ~~an~~ 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

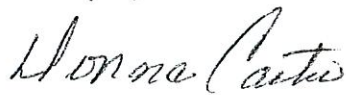
To The Merkel City Council

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

325-928-5348 • FAX 325-928-1228

1012 NORTH 3RD STREET • P.O. BOX 362 • MERKEL, TEXAS 79536

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

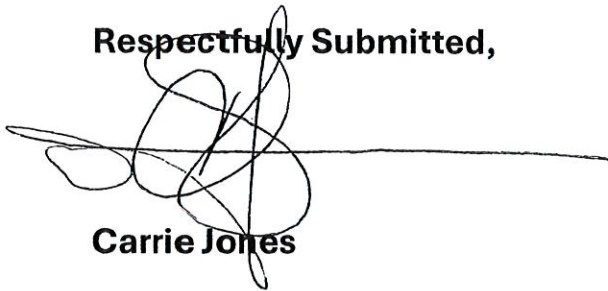
Candidate for the EDC Board

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 black ink, consisting of a series of 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.