Minutes of October 20, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM.

The Merkel City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on October 20, 2026, at Heritage Hall, 6:00 PM. Mayor Cobb 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.

Collin Jacobs asked to pull the staff reports from the Consent agenda to review. City Manager Hitt gave the September Water report, Fire Department report and the Municipal Court report. Chief Conklin gave the Police report for September, explaining the speed data from the sign, and stating that there is police presence in school zones from 7:00 am -8:00 am and 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm. Chief Conklin also stated that the department has a new hire. Councilman Jacobs asked about current Code Enforcement and liens on properties and if it effects new owners. Collin Jacobs motioned to enter into Executive Session at the end of the meeting and was seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 4-1 with Elaine Chaney opposed raising objection to calling executive session not posted and not noticed on current agenda 72 hours. Matthew Riggan motioned to approve Consent Agenda and was seconded by Elaine Chaney. Approved 5-0.

The council discussed the Resolution 10202026-1 for a water project. Motion to approve 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 was made by Elaine Chaney and seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 5-0.

Kaleb Wilson from Retail Coach gave a presentation explaining the recruiting partnership, city limit demographics and summarized the data on trade areas, incentives for potential buyers, and potential jobs to Merkel.

City Manager Hitt explained the taps outside city limits on Parks Ranch Road that still need meters. Tyler Newberry motioned to approve exception to the Water Meter Policy for pre-existing taps on Parks Ranch Road installed by the city. Collin Jacobs seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

The Council discussed the Economic Development Budget for FY2027. Motion to approve the Economic Development Budget for FY2027 was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

Discussion of the Economic Development Board appointments and how many Councilmembers can be on the Board. Board member Mike Sloan spoke regarding the positions on the board. Councilmember Riggan stated needs 2 councilmembers on the EDC board. Elaine Chaney motioned to appoint the 3 applicants to

the Economic Development Board with no one seconding. Motion to table Item 10 for a special meeting was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Matthew Riggan. Approved 5-0.

City Manager Hitt gave an update on the EDC project of the Food Truck Park that will be finished this week. Hitt also stated that the EDC closed on property 1412 N. 1st.

The council discussed the transfer of the 2015 Tahoe from the Police Department to Merkel ISD. Hitt stated he would have resolution on next regular city council meeting declaring the vehicle surplus. Matthew Riggan's motion to approve the transfer was seconded by Collin Jacobs. Approved 5-0.

City Manager Hitt explained the need for the City to go to Cloud Conversion.

City Manager Hitt gave an update on the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone stating that the County tabled the participation agreement and it would be back on their agenda for consideration on November 3rd.

Motion to approve the County Waste Service contract extension was made by Collin Jacobs and seconded by Tyler Newberry. Approved 5-0.

Chief Conklin gave an update on the hiring status of the Police Department. Conklin stated the academy starts November 20th and will likely graduate sometime in May, then candidates go through 12 weeks of MPD training.

The Council entered executive session at 8:33 pm under Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters). Executive session ended at 9:28 pm.

The Council reconvened to open meeting at 9:28 pm.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Evelyn Morse, City Secretary

Ray Cobb, Mayor