

Candidate Responses to Community Questions – Brian Vinson

Why do you wish to serve in the government of Poetry?

I believe I have skills and experience that will be helpful to create a solid foundation for Poetry. From managing small companies to being a leader in large organizations, I have proven that I have the ability to take in a large amount of information, sort it, communicate it and plan action to solve organizational issues. It is important that we have that solid foundation for the success of the Town, and I want the foundation to support personal freedom and the personal rights of our people. I think I can help accomplish this.

There will be much to do in the first term for the Mayor and Town Council. What three things do you most hope to accomplish, if elected?

Reengage with the counties so that we get a fair return on the taxes we're being charged through road work, law enforcement, and similar services that should not be denied us as long as we are paying for them.

Develop a Town structure which respects individual liberty while preserving the rural community we came together to protect.

Stay out of the way of people who are simply trying to enjoy their lives and their little slice of Poetry.

When you were first considering the possibility of Poetry incorporating, what did you see as the biggest positive from incorporation, and what was your biggest concern?

I was in the proposed ETJ for Terrell, so the biggest positive concerning incorporation was - since I was going to be in one jurisdiction or another - was that I felt that as a citizen of Poetry I would at least have a voice in the local government. I did not feel I would have that same opportunity if Terrell had absorbed my property and especially if they had annexed my property in the future.

The biggest concern was that I would have to give up some of the freedoms I moved to Poetry to enjoy. We cannot have a Town and have no structure that does not somehow infringe on my personal liberties. That is why I am running for office - to try to keep the negative impact of government to a minimum.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

One of the things that makes me stand out may be seen as a negative by some, but I think it is positive. I believe I'm the newest resident of the area running for office. This means I *chose* to come to Poetry because of the lifestyle that has been built by the residents over the last 150 years. I chose to leave the big cities and have a very recent view of what city life is like.

For long-time (and especially life-long) residents, some of the negatives of modern city life may have faded from memory. It is more than grass height and parking in your yard, being able to shoot in your back field or keep a storage container / bees / livestock. It is all of those things, but it is more than that. The city consumes you. It eats away at your freedom; it eats away at your wallet; it eats away at your self-sufficiency and it eats away your bond to the community. I came to Poetry to regain those things and now, I want to help protect us from going down that path.

I've been told that I should share more of my 'qualifications' for office. Personally, I think that my philosophy of liberty and personal freedom is my highest qualification. I wouldn't / won't vote for anyone else regardless of what experience they have if they don't share that philosophy.

As far as work and education experience:

I have worked with government offices at the American Red Cross both as the IT Director for the Fort Worth (Chisholm Trail) chapter as well as the Regional IT Officer for the 5-state area of Texas and the states that touch us.

I have negotiated multi-million dollar contracts, including those to rebuild the Red Cross IT infrastructure of southeast Texas and western Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I've run small companies, leading them profitably, reflecting my managerial skills as well as the ability to understand contracts and the requirements of putting others before yourself.

I have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. My undergraduate minor was in Project Management and my graduate focus was in Organizational Leadership. I have practical experience in these areas as well, which I value much more highly than the degree.

I'm familiar with reading and understanding government regulations and laws based on experience working in the telecom industry as well as in the financial industry, both of which are heavily regulated.

I understand the need to communicate with people to ensure transparency. More importantly, I have the skill to do it - and have already made a start of it.