

Minutes
Town of Poetry
Special Town
Council Meeting
Thursday, August 5th, 2021
6:00 pm

At Faith Temple Baptist Church 11214 FM 1565 Poetry, 75160

- a) The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- b) Roll was called to confirm a quorum, Council Member White was present by video, due to illness.
- c) Council Member Vinson led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- d) The invocation was given by Council Member Vinson.

e) **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

f) **Items of Community Interest**

*The mayor thanked Josh Senkevech for setting up and video-recording in place of Kevin Senkevech due to his work schedule.

*August 6th – 8th is a State Tax Free Weekend for back-to-school shopping, up to \$100.00 per clothing item.

*Monster Broadband is going live on August 8th in Grande Verde more details are on Next Door App.

*The Governor sent out Governors Order Number G8-38 related to Mask Mandates and Vaccine Passports. July 29th, the Governor issued Executive Order G8-38a which basically restates previously ordered limitations on local government and certain business owners' ability to require proof of covid vaccines as well as previously requested face coverings. Under this order no government entity or government official may require any person to wear a face covering. No local government entity or official may limit business activities or legal proceeds due to covid. The limitations imposed by any local government entity may be fined up to \$1,000.00. Exempt from this state are state living centers, government owned hospitals, Department of Justice facilities, Texas Department of Criminal facilities, Texas Department of Juvenal facilities, county and local jails. No individual will be required to show proof of vaccines. Any person public or private receiving state funds shall not require face coverings for condition for receiving any

services. Exempt from this is state run nursing homes, assisted living, and long term care facilities.

g) **Reports**

- 1) *Present and discuss Road Report — Kaufman Inter-local Agreement is in the works. (ILA)*

Council Member Anderson & the Mayor visited with DA Deborah Bonner and Aaron Conway the supervisor to Terry Barber. Not formalized it County to provide labor and equipment if the Town of Poetry can provide the material cost. We are continuing to work out the details on the inter-local agreement.

Hunt County meeting is scheduled for Monday August 5, 2021

h) **Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of minutes from the July 20th, 2021 Regular Town Hall Meeting. Minutes were moved to regular agenda. Motion by Council Member Jaffe and seconded by Council Member Vinson.

The minutes were then moved to the Regular Agenda.

Council Member Jaffe stated that as he read it he was overwhelmed by the detail of the meeting. He then suggested condensing the notes to be less than 22 pages and spending the time to do that.

Council Member Vinson agreed and brought in a couple of samples to use, Combine and Terrell. Not to copy Terrell, but Combine's is basically a restatement of the agenda item and who made motions and who voted for and who was against. It was very condensed then the recordings are the back up. So, instead of the Mayor and volunteer secretary spending hours to create a 21 or 22 page document, if we did something like that you'd get your lives back.

Mayor Senkevech said that a 22 page document for a four (4) hour meeting was a lot. There has been feedback as to some people don't have the capability to watch on line, by handing them the minutes, it makes them feel like they were there. She has looked at other town council meetings minutes and they vary as to amount of information that is included. And an agenda just doesn't tell much. She said having the detail is helpful because she has gone back to read the minutes when needing to find something said as opposed to trying to find it on line in the video. She believes that needs to be some detail and maybe they can find a happy medium.

Council Member Anderson said that he and the Mayor will be going to Bastrop next week for a leaders meeting and maybe they could put that on the agenda to find out what other towns do for minutes. The Mayor said they will be paying for this out of their own pockets.

Motion to approve by Council Member Jaffe seconded by Council Member Fowler and Council Member White voiced he agreed. The vote was unanimous.

i) **Regular Agenda**

Consider and take action on an Ordinance of the Town of Poetry, Texas ordering a special election to be held on November 2, 2021, to determine whether the voters of the Town of Poetry desire to adopt the levy of a sales and use tax for street maintenance in the Town; providing for the incorporation of premises; providing for notice; providing for early voting; providing an engrossment and enrollment clause; and providing an effective date.

Citizen Chad West – For his clarification who is subject to the sales and use tax? If the driveway is in the town proper and the building is not, will they be paying taxes? He asked specifically to Longhorn Industrial (Organics). The owners don't live here, the employees don't live here and there is not tax revenue from them is only their improved property. They should be subject to a tax because they run big trucks up and down 323.

The Mayor said it is only for the ones in the Town Proper all business within the 311 feet. She also said that she would have to consult with the attorney to clarify as to how that works.

Council Member Fowler – wants to know about the trash trucks that actually collect sales and use tax will they increase the tax to the town and charge that to the customer?

The Mayor then stated there are two (2) different issues. Patricia said that if any part of your property was in the town proper that you had to follow the mandate. As a trash truck doing business in our town, that is a very good question. The mayor thought that the sales and use tax would be towards their point of origin. That is something that will need clarification on.

Council Member Vinson – This is something that is not being imposed on anything this is something that you guys get to vote on this is something that is required by the state to put on the ballot. We will need to get the answer to Mr. West question. It's imperative as to what we know and what it entails this election is not until November we had to announce now as to whether we were going to get in on that election. We will get the answers to those questions between now and then. As for as Longhorn Organics he'd like to see them pay sales tax too, he also believes that they are wholesale. The Mayor agreed that she believes that they are primarily wholesale and not subject to the sales and use tax.

The mayor stated that at 4:29 on the 5th of August she received from the elections commission of Kaufman County clarification on the county elections. For the May 1st election the residences of both counties were able to vote at the church. For the November 2nd election that cannot happen. Hunt County residences will and can vote at the church and Kaufman County residences will have to vote in Kaufman County, this is state mandated. The Mayor then read aloud the letter.

Kaufman County representative said that for additional funds they could set up a polling place in the local area. A town with no funds can't really do that. So Kaufman County residences will have to go to Able Springs or into Terrell to vote in the November election. With this new information on the two (2) voting locations it will cost the Town of Poetry more.

This is a three (3) page document that is the Ordinance for the Town of Poetry to hold a joint special election to be held on November 2, 2021 for the Town of Poetry in both counties Hunt and Kaufman. To determine if the voters will adopt a sales and use tax at a rate of two percent (2%), for the maintenance of the current roads. The deadline is Monday, August 16, 2021. The mayor spoke to the mayor of Fate and she was encouraged that the sales and use tax was a tremendous help for their roads. The town of Fate is as small as Poetry is.

Council Member Fowler motion to accept **ORDINANCE 2021-08-01** seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER Anderson passed unanimously.

"The adoption of a local sales and use tax in the Town of Poetry, Texas at the rate of 2 percent (2%) to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of current municipal streets."

j) **General Public Comments**
No general public comments.

k) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Jaffe seconded by Council Member Vinson passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.