

Candidate Responses to Community Questions – Ryan Scott

If elected will you serve a 2-4 year term?

Yes I will.

What changes to Poetry do you envision?

Although I don't want it to change too much, I recognize the need to adapt with the changing times. Change is inevitable and, even if we are still unsure exactly what those changes may look like, it is imperative that we handle change well - to me that looks like involvement from the members of the community, intentional listening from the members of city council, leading through humility and integrity, and positive contributions from all parties.

If you are not elected what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?

Regardless of holding any position or office, every citizen can and should contribute to the future of the city. I am no different - if not elected, my duty is to remain involved in the goings on as we move forward to pursue the best for the city of Poetry and its residents. I will continue to do that regardless of the outcomes of this election.

How would you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in the City?

I believe that elected officials are representatives of the people who put them in that position. If elected, my primary goal would be to represent you well - first and foremost, we cannot be a city council concerned with our own interests around a table of five. We must listen to the voice of those who elected us. We must not think that we can adequately serve without first seeking the will of the citizens. Engagement of citizens through town meetings where all are encouraged to voice their concerns and desires transparently without repercussions or judgement will allow personal relationships to be built between those serving on the City Council and our community. I will make myself available for personal, one-on-one conversations as well - I understand that not everyone will feel comfortable speaking out in a meeting, but their voice is equally valuable and I will listen.

What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?

Truly, I believe that the best way to lead is through service. A posture of servitude allows me to be able to truly listen and seek to understand different perspectives and empathize with multiple parties while keeping a focus on the good of the community.

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

This is my home. I would not be the man I am today without the deep roots forged by this community. If we are going to change, I want to be part of a *positive* change - not only for current residents, but for the generations to follow us. When we are all dead and gone, what legacy will we have left behind?

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

First and foremost, it is imperative that we build a solid foundation of principles with which to move forward. These principles will act as our compass through the many decisions that are to be made. This foundation would be established through a partnership between citizens and city council to determine what is MOST important. At each fork in the road, we refer back to this foundation and ask ourselves, "What is MOST important?"

Second, we will certainly need to come up with a long-term plan for infrastructure and maintenance of that infrastructure. An example would be the current state of our Poetry roads - our city will need to serve these roads in order to serve our citizens.

Last but not least, safety of the community needs to be a top priority. I may be biased, but I believe we need to ensure that we have proper protection from fire and rapid response from medical personnel for the good of our city. Will we get help from Terrel? Royse City? The surrounding established systems? These are questions that must be answered so that your family and mine can rest at ease knowing they will be taken care of on their worst day.