

**STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF KAUFMAN AND HUNT  
TOWN OF POETRY, TEXAS**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE** 17th day of January, 2023 at 6:30 pm, the Town Council of Poetry, Texas, held a regular town council meeting and workshop at 11214 FM 1565 Poetry, Texas, 75160 with the following present:

Mayor Tara Senkevech  
Councilmember Tom Anderson  
Councilmember Mike Jaffe

Councilmember Simeon White  
Councilmember Terry Fowler  
Councilmember Brian Vinson

- a) **Mayor** called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- b) Sheri Vinson, clerk, confirmed quorum. All council members were present.
- c) **Councilmember Jaffe** led Pledge of Allegiance
- d) **Councilmember Jaffe** gave the Invocation.
- e) Citizens Comments
- f) Items of Community Interest.

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** gave a recap of donations, deposits, and credits.

**g) Reports**

- 1. **Mayor Senkevech** stated the Interlocal Agreement for two years with Hunt County has been signed and filed.
- 2. **Financial Report – Mayor Senkevech** reviewed the December end 2022 with the Council.

**h) Consent Agenda:**

- 1. **Minutes for November 15th Regular Council Meeting 2023.**  
Moved to regular agenda.
- 2. **Minutes for November 22nd Special Council Meeting 2023.**

**Councilmember Anderson** makes motion, seconded by **Councilmember White**. Passes 5:0

## i) Regular Agenda

### Moved From consent Agenda

**h-1. Minutes for November 15th Regular Council Meeting 2023.** Postponed for research.

**1. Discuss and take action on Candidate, Amanda Bunch, for City Secretary vacancy.**

Council questions Mrs. Bunch about various things. **Citizen Shelley Smith** asks various questions about the secretary position. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** says she feels Mrs. Bunch will do well if she can handle the demands of the town. **Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to accept Amanda Bunch as Town Secretary, seconded by **Councilmember White**. **Passes 5:0**

**2. Discuss Oncor regarding revenues for the Town of Poetry.**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** reads letter from Oncor. Council discusses the issue. Poetry may owe monies from overpayment by Oncor, but citizens will not receive a refund. **Citizen Patrick Smith** asks for copy of the letter from Oncor.

**3. Discuss and take action on the TXDOT report for FM 986.**

TXDOT recommends dropping speed limit by 5 miles. Council discusses pros and cons of raising/lowering speed limit. **Mayor Tara Senkevech** says state will pay for signs. **Citizen Shelley Smith** refers to previous poll taken about speed limit and recommends a new poll. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** suggests a stop light at 986 and 3486. **Councilmember Fowler** requests more specific data, and **Councilmember Vinson** concurred. **Councilmember White** asks for more time on this issue for research and clarification of facts. **Mayor Tara Senkevech** feels very strongly that 55 mph in the heart of the town is too fast. No action taken.

**4. Discuss and take action on the Right of Way Ordinance presented.**

Council discusses the changes made to the original. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** offers her expertise in looking over the document for the town. **Citizen Bruce Seat** suggests a quick decision on this.

Mayor Tara Senkevech calls for 5 minute recess.

**5. Discuss and take action on the proposed Town of Poetry Voluntary Fund.**

**Councilmember Vinson** explains proposal, reasons for putting it forward. Council discusses pros and cons. **Citizen Chad West** expresses concerns over a third party

taking this for the town, and feels the proposal needs to be written in such a way as this is a promise of no property taxes. **Citizen Patrick Smith** praises Councilmember Vinson for the work done but is concerned about the use of a non-profit organization. **Citizen Mike Griffin** warns against donations having designations.

**6. Discuss and take action on ordinance regarding Electioneering in the Town of Poetry.{Taken directly from Lakewood Village then edited}.**

**Councilmember Vinson** suggests an edit. **Councilmember White** wants to know why the document is needed. **Council** decides to research further. **Citizen Shelley Smith** asks if candidates can campaign at Town Hall. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** recommends more thought be put into the moderator. **Citizen Patrick Smith** is concerned about discrepancies between original and what was presented.

**7. Discuss and take action on approving Town of Poetry Oaths of Office for all elected officials.**

Council decides to ask legal about this item.

**8. Discuss and take action on paying Hunt County Election invoice for \$5763.58 Councilmember Vinson makes motion to pay, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Passes 5:0**

**9. Discuss and take action on paying August \$5132.42, September \$5376.28 and October \$4446.34 invoices for Messer-Fort McDonald totaling \$14955.04 but discounting the \$5764.58 from the Hunt election and \$575 from the Kaufman Election that had to be revisited for a revised total of \$8615.46**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** gives reason for numbers. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** expresses concerns over when payments are made vs when item was in the budget. **Citizen Kevin Senkevech** agrees with Mayor about the numbers suggested. **Councilmember Anderson** requests an invoice showing the difference. Council discusses pros and cons, and decides to save this discussion for the next Executive Session

**10. Discuss and take action on construction items regarding the new Town Hall site.**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** gives numbers on parking, ramp, and railings. Council discusses finances, and expresses concerns over all bottom lines. **Citizen Chad West** asks for clarification on the projected future costs. **Citizen Dale Bryant** asks for honest conversation concerning the Town Hall. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** asks about handicapped parking spaces, and expresses concerns about a wooden ramp vs cement. **Councilmember Vinson** asks if a small committee could help with the presentation of the rest of the budget. No action was taken on this item.

**11. Discuss and take action on the Comprehensive Plan and Future Use Map.**

**Citizen Chad McFarlane** states he is against the Comprehensive Plan because it includes ETJ. **Citizen Katherine Hardwicke** thanks everyone for the hard work that has been put into the plan, and explains the current map. **Citizen Dale Bryant** further explains the map. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** explains why we need this plan. **Citizen Patrick Smith** asks for clarification of map. **Citizen Mike Griffin** says that the Comprehensive Plan is much needed for the future of Poetry. **Councilmember Vinson** asks what authority town would have in the ETJ. **Councilmember White** gives details on the plan, the map, and the future possibilities for Poetry. **Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to accept the Comprehensive Plan and Future Use Map, seconded by **Councilmember White**.  
**Passes 3:2**

**12. Discuss and consider items to promote Agriculture in our area.**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** gives different ideas for how to encourage new generations towards Agriculture.

**j) General Comments:**

**Citizen Dale Bryant** expresses concerns about full use of 3 minutes. **Citizen Robbyn Followill** asks again about a poll on the website concerning speed limits, and asks about the memo concerning findings on incorporation.

***Mayor Tara Senkevech adjourns meeting at 10:23 pm.***