

Hello Poetry!

I am Terry Fowler. I have lived in Poetry for 16 years and moved here when I married my wife, Amy Bennett Fowler, who is the eighth generation of her family to live in Poetry. We have one daughter who attends Poetry Community Christian School. We love everything about Poetry, Texas! Our family raises commercial cattle and quarter horses and values the agricultural and ranch land as well as the family, friends, and neighbors that we have here from all walks of life.

There are several reasons I chose to run for a Town of Poetry Councilman. One, is my commitment and love for our community. When the incorporation of the Poetry was proposed, I was, like more than 70% of you, interested in keeping what we have here in Poetry--the land, history, people, and the sense of community. We are not Terrell or Royse City and don't want to be. Becoming a Town protected us from restrictions, ordinances, and taxes those cities would have been able to assess against our properties. As you can imagine, being in a family that has been in this very area since before Texas was a state, means that I am committed to Poetry and to our community! During my first term as councilman, I served on the Planning and Zoning Subcommittee with some really dedicated citizens. Like many of you who want little change, I can tell you that was a resounding theme during our P & Z meetings. The things each and every citizen loves about this great town is what I'm here to protect. For some it is the peace and quiet away from the city limits of most towns, I am for that. For some, it is the slower pace away from the hustle and bustle of city limits, I am for that. For some, it is the tranquility of the nature and wide-open spaces, I am for that. For some, it is the real relationships built between neighbors in an informal meeting over a barbed wire fence, I am for that. The relationships my family has forged before me and the ones to yet be forged by my generation are the ones that make this community so great.

The other reason I chose to run relates to what I think I can offer in the way of skills and experience to benefit all of us. As many of you know, I have been a fireman for my entire career. But what you may not know is how much administrative responsibility is involved in the various positions I have held with the University Park Fire Department for the last 22 years. Currently, I am Battalion Chief and in the last several years, it has been my responsibility to facilitate cooperation, training, budgeting, managing employees, and forging relationships with City officials to benefit my department. In addition, I served two terms on the TLFRA Pension Board managing millions of dollars in pension funds. Some of my responsibilities were hiring actuaries, meeting with State Legislators and commissioners, collaborating with other board members, developing Requests for Proposal, and approving services. As most fireman do, I have a second full time job. I operate my own business, Fowler Welding, LLC., which has been incorporated for 14 years. This business hones other skills that I believe are assets to my ability to continue to serve this town. My business requires budgeting, purchasing, meeting deadlines, negotiating with vendors, and serving the customer's needs. I have worked side by side sweating with my teams—I have learned that effective supervision requires understanding the actual work being accomplished, building rapport with those you work with is of utmost importance and how to facilitate their best work product as a team. All these skills are what I can offer to be an effective Councilman while representing the interests of Poetry residents.

As a Councilman for the Town of Poetry, I will continue to serve YOU. I will listen to you and continue to preserve what we value and enjoy as Poetry residents. At one of the P & Z meetings, a discussion ensued about visions for our town. I explained to the P and Z committee that "I don't have a vision for this town, I have a memory." A memory just like each and every citizen of this town has. We may not share the same memories, but each of our memories are important to us. We incorporated to keep other cities out and I plan to continue to fight to for OUR memories. Change is inevitable and some rules and regulations will be needed, but back to those relationship built over barbed wire fences, that's where we make those decisions.

Just to be abundantly clear I WILL LISTEN TO OUR CITIZENS DESIRES! During my first term I have been able to forge lifelong relationships on council as well as in the public. I pride myself on listening to others and being available for the citizens. I have heard many comments and can honestly say that I have responded to each and every one of them in a timely manner. Our town is new and I believe in listening to all. Only five councilmen and one mayor were elected with one of the most difficult tasks, writing the ordinances and developing the structure to propel our town in to a lifetime of success. I am not naïve enough to think I have all the answers. I want to hear from everyone, and as I have done time and time again, I will continue to fight for CITIZENS RIIGHTS to be heard on every single issue. I have been extremely fiscally responsible with the allocation of our limited town funds. I understand our limited town resources and have tried to be bipartisan in the allocation of town funds.

I believe the second term of our town will be equally as important as the first two years. I think we have grown a lot as a town, but we still have many growing pains to come. I am asking for your vote to continue this journey as your representative.

Councilman Terry Fowler