

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

MINUTES 02/21/2023

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 21st of February 2023 at 6:30 pm, the Town Council of Poetry, Texas, held a special town hall meeting 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) **Call Town Council to order**

Mayor Senkevech called the meeting to order at 6:30.

b) **Roll call to confirm quorum. –Jana Shelton, Town Secretary**

Jana Shelton, confirmed all Councilmembers were present.

c) **Pledge of Allegiance**

d) **Invocation**

Mayor Senkevech offered the **Pledge of Allegiance** and invocation.

e) **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

f) **Items of Community Interest**

Mayor Senkevech thanked volunteer Sheri Vinson for typing Minutes of the Council meeting. **Mayor Senkevech** also stated that the town is asking that any citizen that wants to voluntarily annex into the town please contact the Town Hall at contact@poetrytexas.org before March 31st, 2023. Also, **Mayor Senkevech** thanked Mike Tillinghast and Kevin Senkevech for installing “No through Truck” signs.

g) **Reports**

1. **Financial Reports**

Mayor Senkevech explained the end of January 2023 Financial reports to the Council.

2. **Financial Balance Sheet/Profit & Loss**

Mayor Senkevech presented the balance sheet along with a Budget vs. Actual Report.

3. **Secretary's Report**

City Secretary, Jana Shelton, gave a brief report and stated that everything is going well.

4. **Upcoming Election Report**

An Election report was given by Jana Shelton stating that all postings are up to date and the Drawing for Place on Ballot will be held at the Temporary Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. on February 24, 2023.

H) **Consent Agenda**

1. **Amended Minutes for November 15th Regular Meeting 2022**

A motion was made by **Councilmember Fowler** to strike Patrick Smiths' comment from Item #3 warning the council from the minutes of November 15, 2022. **Mayor Pro Tem Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

2. **Minutes from December 13th 2023, Regular Meeting**

3. **Minutes from January 17, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Councilmember Jaffe stated a correction should be reflected on the January 17th minutes correcting the number on Item #9 to reflect the correct total of \$8,615.46 and strike the comment made by citizen Chad McFarlane on Item 10. **Councilmember White** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I) **Regular Agenda**

1. **Discuss and take action on Contract Agreement with Kaufman County Election Division with Addendums.**

Councilmember Fowler made a motion to approve the Kaufman County Election Contract for the 2023 General Election and the payment of election for \$550.00 **Councilmember Vinson** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

2. **Discuss and take action on the Right of Way Fee schedule.**

Discussion was held regarding several different ways that Cities are handling the fee schedule.

The Council agreed that covering the cost of Town office personnel and the inspection of the work site should be covered by the fee.

Councilmember Terry Fowler made a motion to approve a fee of \$100.00 along with the publication of the ordinance caption in the newspaper. **Mayor Pro Tem Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

3. **Discuss and take action to establish a Financial Oversight Team consisting of two council members.**

Mayor Senkevech reminded the Council not to break the Open Meetings Act by having three or more Council members to review and discuss financial reports. Councilmember Jaffe would like to see someone on hand to communicate to the Council for oversight of the financials.

Councilmember Jaffe made a motion to have Councilmember Tom Anderson and Councilmember Simeon White to review finances before they are presented to Council. **Councilmember Vinson** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

4. **Discuss and take action on paying August \$5,132.42, September 5,376.28 and October \$4,446.34 and November Invoice for \$3,000 for Messer-Fort McDonald totaling \$17,955.40 but discounting to pay a total of 3,000 owing to direct and indirect costs of second election. See proposed letter which was vetted by our current legal counsel.**

Discussion was held to offer \$3,000.00 for the total to Messer-Fort McDonald for invoices owed. Fowler goes on record to say he does not feel it is right not to pay the total \$17,955.40. **Mayor Senkevech** stated there were errors in the election which cost the town money.

Councilmember White feels we should make the offer and wait for a response from the attorney.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson made a motion to change the letter to state “potential” sales revenue. **Councilmember White** seconded the motion the motion carried with a 4-1 vote; Councilmember Fowler opposed the motion.

5. **Discuss and take action for December \$0 and January \$1,365.00 Invoices to Nichols, Jackson, Dillard & Smith Law Firm for a total of \$1,365.00.**

Councilmember Fowler made a motion to pay the January invoice of \$1,365.00. **Councilmember Jaffe** seconded the motion, The motion carried with a full vote of the Council.

6. **Discuss and take action on Paying Hunt County Roads Project Sheet H-05 \$2,900.00 covering roads CR 2434, CR 2432, CR 2430, and CR 2464.**

Councilmember Mike Jaffe made a motion to approve the Hunt County Roads Project Sheet H-05. Seconded by Vinson. Passed Unanimously.

7. **Discuss phased budget regarding the new Town Hall site.**

Mayor Senkevech went over the proposed budget cost for the new Town Hall site. **Mayor Senkevech** explained that she was planning to be ADA compliant but explained that inspection is not necessary.

Councilmember Fowler asked questions of the total of the project. Discussion was held about the total cost of the project.

Mayor Senkevech explained that the septic system might vary in cost due to difficulties with the rain.

Councilmember Fowler stated that the budget is exactly what we ask for but had concerns about inspection.

Citizen Chad McFarlane spoke to the Council about the septic installation. He stated that Mr. Victors had problems with installation due to the mud and would not be able to make a donation.

Citizen Shelly Smith inquired about the quote for labor and about the tarp on the end of the building.

Mayor Senkevech states this is discussion only item, but stated that an amendment will be made to change phases to projects.

Mayor Senkevech takes a 5-minute recess.

8:23 p.m. resume.

8. **Discuss and take action on Rules of Procedure.**

Councilmember Jaffe explained that he had looked into the Rules of Procedures and found that they are also referred to as “Rules of Decorum”.

Mayor Senkevech stated that the meetings are long and would like to find a way to create a more cohesive, easy flowing meeting.

Discussion was held about citizen comments and the possibility of moving comments to the front of the meeting.

Citizen Evie Anderson presented information that she has gathered on agendas from different cities and presented a sample agenda from the City of Rockwall.

Citizen Chad McFarlane expressed that he felt citizen input is very important to the Council.

Citizen Glen Straus agrees with trying to shorten meetings, he feels very informed and receives the handouts.

Citizen Shelly Smith stated that several citizens spoke at this meeting and did not take much time.

Citizen Mike Griffin stated that he was not able to find the Rules of Procedure.

Citizen Patrick Smith expressed that he has reviewed some of the Ordinances that pertain to the agenda subject.

Councilmember Jaffe made a motion to table until the next meeting so the documents presented may be reviewed. He also expressed that the Council should discuss on the “Forum” before the next meeting. **Mayor Pro Tem A Anderson** seconded the motion. He felt meetings should have a time limit stating these long meetings are not healthy or fair. The Council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

9. **Discuss and take action on the Exit interview question sheet for Town Secretary.**

Discussion was held by Council on the exit Interview questions for previous Town Secretaries.

Councilmember White reads aloud the questions and makes a motion to approve. **Councilmember Jaffe** seconds the motion. The motion is approved with a 5-0 vote of the Council.

10. **Discuss and take action on proposal to promote Farmer/Rancher of the Year Award in our area.**

Mayor Senkevech introduced an idea to the Council to recognize a special rancher or farmer.

The Council discussed at length what that might look like to even include the youth of the town.

The presentation could be done in May when the new Council is sworn or the Spring Festival

Councilmember Jaffe suggested a scholarship for young people interested in going into farming and ranching.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson felt that Agriculture projects should be referred to for the chosen quarterly highlight story.

The Council decided to move forward with a Quarterly Highlight and discuss a scholarship program for the future.

11. **Discuss and take action on the P&Z Subcommittee.**

Chad McFarlane suggested pushing this Item off until the next Council is elected.

Councilmember Jaffe made a motion to dissolve the P&Z Subcommittee, **Councilmember Vinson** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

J) **General Public Comments:**

Chad McFarlane stated that Jody Vickers has agreed to do septic for \$7500.00 with no donation. He also spoke to the Council about the meeting with Kaufman County and expressed his views.

K) **Adjournment-**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Mayor, Tara Senkevech

Attest:

Jana Shelton, Town Secretary