

Candidate Questions – Mayor Tara Senkevech

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

Response: Because I love to serve and after prayer, I believe I am supposed to.

There will be much to do in the second term for the Mayor and Town Council. What three things do you most hope to accomplish, if elected?

Response: 1) Create simple guidelines to prevent high density development; setbacks, 2-acre minimums, and a subdivision ordinance. 2) Finish the Town Hall—I have been working hard with mostly volunteer labor to complete this DEBT FREE! It is almost there! The Town must have by law an exclusive use building and we can have most of our meetings there. The church has been very gracious, but we need to get our own space. 3) Once our Sales & Use Tax revenues come in, we can save for refurbishment of the worst roads. Streamline pothole repair for quicker service.

When you were first considering the possibility of Poetry incorporating, what did you see as the biggest positive from incorporation, and what was your biggest concern?

Response: WE, the Town of Poetry, GET to make decisions for our town instead of other entities making decisions for us! [I love hearing from citizens—which I do each week!] My biggest concern was how to keep high density housing out of Poetry and secondly, keeping expenses low so that we don't need much revenue and therefore would have no need for property taxes.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

Response: In the last two years, I have easily put over 1800 unpaid hours into this town.

If elected, you will serve a two-year term. What changes to Poetry do you envision over the next two years?

Response: Kaufman County is the fastest growing county in the NATION! But I am hoping for as LITTLE change as possible. I want the anti-growth plan! A few small businesses make a town cohesive, and would help pay for roads, but I really want to keep it the way it is if at all possible.

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

Response: I will work to keep up with the issues for our town, and help the town move forward.

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

Response: I set up the Agendas to allow for maximum possible engagement with the citizens.

The ones who have taken advantage of this process have been “yellow signers”. While I don’t mind opposition, it has not been as productive as I had hoped. The mayor’s job is to Chair the Council and keep the meeting orderly. I wish our citizenry who shows up at meetings were more amicable. I do talk with citizens ALL the time in my store, on the phone and in person and via email. I do love hearing their issues, whether it be potholes, culverts, drainage or other issues. I am their advocate! Mr. Yarborough is case in point. He complained on a Monday about his culvert and by the following Monday, Tom and I had a meeting and were able to get the county to replace it. I am right here in town and AVAILABLE to come out and personally look at the issues. I am happy to do so!

What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?

Response: Pro-Poetry, Multi-tasking. Organized, Hard-working. Trustworthy and ethical.

Business, financial and administrative career experiences which all are needed for this job.

What changes to Poetry do you envision?

Response: As little as possible.

Poetry is currently a very rural area with a “country” lifestyle. How much do you think that lifestyle should be allowed to change, and how would you ensure the town stay within the bounds you would set?

Response: When I did the survey about “what is country”, the two top-rated answers were 1) Peace and quiet and 2) few rules . When folks are not considerate of their neighbors those two items can collide quickly! An example is that when the Event Center was creating a ruckus for the neighbors late at night, we put a little pressure on the manager by having him come to our Town meeting with citizens present to share their concerns. Instead of a noise “ordinance”, we were able to have them work it out amongst themselves. That is success to me. It takes all of us working together though. Being thoughtful of neighbors is still good old-fashioned hospitality!