

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

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 19th of April 2022 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

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

Evie Anderson, substitute secretary, confirmed quorum. All council members were present.

Pastor Michael Moonoo led the pledge and invocation.

1. Reports

Financial Report – March 2022

Mayor gave a recap of donations, deposits, and credits.

Map Clarifications --Dorothy Dillon, GIS

A mistake was made with Holly Creek. Dorothy Dillon has appointment with Grady Ewing, Hunt County GIS on April 21, 2022 to make necessary changes.

Planning and Zoning Committee Chair Katherine Hardwicke

Due to internet outage and definitions explorations, the draft has not been sent to council. Hunt and Kaufman Counties both seem to want to work with us. The differences between Zoning and Planning vs town proper and ETJ was discussed. Katherine commends committee members for devotion to Poetry.

Emergency Management Training Report—Tom Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem

Assurance to Poetry citizens that this training and research is for possible future needs. All Council Members have completed four FEMA training courses. Mayor Tara Senkevech and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Anderson have attended multiple Training and Simulation courses and workshops, and have plans for more in August 2022.

Solid Vendors Report--Mayor Tara Senkevech

Reed Sanitation and Titan have provided lists of customers. Have not received lists or revenues from CRS or AWT for April 10th payment. Lawyers will handle breach of contract.

h)Consent Agenda

1. Minutes for March 15th, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to accept. **Councilmember Vinson** seconded.
Passed 5:0.

c) Regular Agenda

1. Discuss the complaints from citizens regarding the speed on Hwy. 986 and possible solutions.

Mayor Senkevech communicated with Lane Selman, TXDOT contact for 986, about options. He said a study could be done. Results would be available 4 weeks after study is performed.

Councilmember Jaffe asked for clarification. Is also concerned on enforcement of speed limit change.

Councilmember White asks TXDOT Representative, James Atkins, about consequences of a lower speed limit, i.e. less through traffic, less growth or more accidents. James replied that a study would help with safety, but other questions have little to no research to support an answer.

Councilmember Fowler asks what study would consist of. James Atkins stated that number of vehicles, vehicle type and speed were available through the study. James said Lane Selman could work on a new 'Level of Service' study to compare to 20 years ago.

Councilmember Jaffe asks Mayor Tara about requesting the study without consent of the council. Encourages council to have approval vote before representing town in any way. Mayor responded that an email inquiry was made. Mr. Selman stated there is no cost involved to the town.

Councilmember Jaffe makes motion to have TXDOT study done. **Councilmember Anderson** seconded. **Councilmember White** and **Councilmember Vinson** for, **Councilmember Fowler** votes no. Passed 4:1

2. Discuss and consider action on installing Town limit signs to points of entry for the Town of Poetry. Guest expert: James Atkins, TXDOT

TXDOT Rep James Atkins explains the Hunt County sign process, and sign design. He also explains new sign procedure.

Councilmember Vinson asks about standards for the signs, and James says there are a list of standards.

Mayor Tara asks about the mockup that was sent to Hunt County. James says it is in the approval process.

Councilmember Jaffe asks about sign placement, mock up, and population number. **Mayor Tara** responds that the placement will depend on map, and the population number came from the TCEQ population numbers.

Councilmember White feels signs would promote town pride and civics.

Councilmember Vinson suggests revisiting this at a later time.

3. Discuss and consider possible solutions to the noise complaints at the Springs Event Center located in the Town of Poetry.

Councilmember Jaffe explains what and where the Springs Event Center is located. Introduces Matthew McNaughton, President of Operations Springs Event Center.

Councilmember Anderson feels research into other small towns should be explored.

Citizen Sherry Bridges speaks about history of the noise. She talks about her research of Texas law, and history with Law Enforcement. **Councilman Fowler** asks if she has contacted Sheriff Terry Jones. The phone number was offered.

Matthew McNaughton, President of Operations Springs Event Center gives a quick history of the Springs. He says he wishes to continue building a good relationship with the neighbors. Matthew has created a DJ package for events, has Off Duty Police officers as security guards who can help monitor nuisance levels, and has meeting set with neighbors for April 20th, 2022.

Mayor Tara calls for five minute recess.

Mayor Reconvenes.

4. Discuss and consider having Mr. Gus Timmons, Poetry citizen, continue to provide lawn service approximately every other week this mowing season at a rate of \$60. [Last year was 11 mows.]

Councilmember Anderson makes a motion to continue paying Gus Timmons. No second, so motion dies.

Councilmember Vinson volunteers to pay Mr. Timmons for 2 mows, until the lawyer can be present for clarifying questions.

5. Consider and take action to authorize the mayor to sign a county approved plat for Stephen L. Hilborn and wife Property on FM 1565 and CR 253, 29-acre plat in the E. Turner Survey , abstract 529 of Kaufman County, subdivided into 5 lots: 5.22 acres, 16.3 acres, 2.26 acres, 2.027 acres, and 2.057 acres primarily for family units. Lot 1 (5.22 acres) to be sold to non-family member.

Councilmember Anderson requests confirmation from county for need to sign off on plans from surveyor.

Councilmember White asks for Special Meeting, once confirmation has been received, to approve plans.

Councilmember Jaffe asks for Councilman Anderson to make some calls for confirmation from Kaufman County Attorneys.

6. Discuss and consider permitting requirement for working in Town's right-of-way with example provided by Bruce Seat.

Mayor discussed example, thanking Bruce Seat.

Councilmember Jaffe asks about standards across state. Also asks if work is eminent. Reply is yes for Monster Broadband.

Councilmember Fowler asks if hiring someone to stay current on permits and mapping should be done now.

Councilmember Jaffe feels the Ordinance for this should provide for permits, and town should also get "as-built" so a master map can be created when needed.

Councilmember Vinson would like paper and digital copies of all maps for Right of Way.

Citizen Bruce Seat speaks to importance for permitting specifically for Point-of-Contact numbers.

Councilmember Jaffe makes a motion for Councilman Vinson to work with attorney on Permitting Ordinance Draft for Right-of-Way. **Councilmember Vinson** seconds. Passes 4:0, **Councilmember Fowler** abstains.

7. Discuss and Consider renewing annual membership to Texas Municipal League (TML) invoiced at \$737.00 for year June 1st, 2022 to May 31, 2023 to come from Professional fees in current budget.

Councilmember Jaffe makes motion to renew annual membership to TML for 6/1/2022 - 5/31/2023. **Councilmember Anderson** seconds. Passes 5:0.

8. Discuss and consider the definition of “resident” for the Town of Poetry going forward.

Councilmember Jaffe spoke with Hunt County and City of Greenville attorney Daniel Ray. Definitions for resident change whether for voting, taxes, or ordinances.

Mayor Tara communicated with Mina Cook of the Hunt County Elections Division, who said the rule of thumb is that citizens who wish to vote must choose one home to vote from.

Councilmember White feels strongly that anyone having property in the town proper, who is subject to ordinances, laws, or taxation should have the right to vote.

Councilmember Vinson, after speaking with Attorney Emily decided to remove this definition of resident due to Emily stating that a 'Resident' must have their home in the town proper. **Mayor Tara** replies that Attorney Patricia had said something very different.

Mayor Tara points out that most residents of Poetry know they are in Poetry. The need for a definition is needed for about 4%.

Councilmember Vinson suggests tabling the discussion until vetting is done by attorneys.

Councilmember Fowler suggests a list of options should be presented to the citizens via the Post and/or the website.

9. Discuss the Emergency Management Protocols for Hunt and Kaufman county and the benefits of each county’s program.

Councilmember Anderson recommends adopting Hunt County's plan.

Councilmember Fowler prefers Hunt County as well but says both are essentially the same and both will work together.

Mayor Tara points out that other cities with multiple counties divide down county lines.

Council decides to call other towns to research pros and cons of each choice.

General Comments:

Citizen Dale Bennett of the Campground Cemetery declines a lease for the Town of Poetry. The Campground Board has agreed to give the Annex building to the town, to be moved within 120 days.

Mayor adjourned at 10:33 pm.