

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 10th** of August, 2023 at 6:30 pm, the City Council of Poetry, Texas, held a Regular Town Council 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 Jonathan Blake

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

**Evie Anderson, Clerk** confirmed quorum.  
All council members were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**  
**Citizen Louis Cernoch** led the pledge and invocation.

**f: Mayor Tara Senkevech** gives items of community interest;

\* Thanks to Bob Boles for retrofitting audio equipment into a donated cabinet by Acclivus of Addison, TX who is downsizing and has a manager who lives in Poetry.

\* Thanks to Corrinne Hanson and Lisa Rae Hirogoyen for cleaning the Town Hall.

\*Thanks CM Tom Anderson and grand nephew for installing accessories in bathrooms and working several days on various projects for town hall.

\*Thanks to Sheri Vinson for typing the minutes.

\*Thanks to Jacob Ross for price reduction on Town Hall ramp and rails.

\*The Town is soliciting for any grant-writers available to please email to [contact@poetrytexas.org](mailto:contact@poetrytexas.org)

\*The town is looking for volunteers to move furniture to the Town Hall Friday, August 25th. We will begin at 7 am to try to beat the heat. We need those who are strong, but also those who can help clean.

\*If you live in Kaufman County. We want to hear from citizens. Anyone who believes they were adversely affected by the property ID's split out in Kaufman County to please email with factual information regarding such to

[mayor.tara@poetrytexas.org](mailto:mayor.tara@poetrytexas.org). To solve any of the problems, we need factual

information about any hardships this may have caused. Coy Johnson, the Deputy

Appraiser of Kaufman County has said it does not affect your property values as the group them together in what is called "economic unit" when evaluating values. He

says it doesn't affect one's homestead or Agriculture exemptions.

**g) Reports**

**1. Financial—July end 2023**

**Q3 Budget vs. Actual updated**

**Sales & Use Tax report**

- 2. Secretary's Report—** Deputy City Secretary Theresa Scholander-read by Evie Anderson. Councilmember Fowler asks if this report should be reported to the whole town vs just the council. Legal Counsel weighs in. Councilmember Blake asks if there are guidelines the secretaries follow.

**3. Town Hall progress – Mayor Senkevech and Councilmember Anderson**

**h) Consent Agenda:**

- 1. Minutes from July 18th, 2023, Meeting.** Motion made to approve **Councilmember Jaffe**, seconded by **Councilmember Blake. Passes 5:0**
- 2. Pay June legal bill of \$ 1218.75.** Motion to approve made by **Councilmember White**, seconded by **Councilmember Anderson. Passes 5:0**
- 3. Pay the remainder of the Hunt County Final Election bill for May election of \$3167.19-\$500 payment= \$2667.90.** Motion to approve made by **Councilmember Anderson**, seconded by **Councilmember Blake. Passes 5:0**
- 4. Pay Annual License fee from Hunt County for Voting Equipment of \$500. [\$13,500 divided by 27 entities=\$500] Motion made to approve by Councilmember Anderson**, seconded by **Councilmember White. Passes 5:0**

**i) Regular Agenda:**

- 1. Discuss and take action on the Zero Zoning or revised Ordinance proposed.** Council discusses renaming of the ordinance. Council discusses various parts of the Ordinance with Legal. Citizen Patrick Smith asks if Council has established procedures for adopting and enforcing zoning. Citizen Shelley Smith expresses thoughts on tailoring a zoning ordinance to the largest tract of land in city limits. Citizen Brian Vinson questions current verbiage in the proposed Ordinance. Citizen Candy Fletcher asks how grandfathering would work if zoning were passed. Citizen Herbert Fletcher expresses concern over the travel trailers being used as housing. Citizen Louis Cernoch requests more reasonable restrictions and encourages Council to be brave. Citizen Robbyn Followill says that a code Enforcement Officer is the only one who can give citations. Council again asks questions of Legal Counsel..

**Mayor Senkevech** calls for recess.

2. **Discuss and take action on an Interlocal 1445 Agreement. Councilmember Anderson** asks Mr. Berman why this is needed. Council asks multiple questions of Legal Counsel about the Agreement. Citizen Patrick Smith asks for clarification on Agreement. Citizen Shelley Smith expresses concern over county differences on this agreement. Citizen Brian Vinson asks for further consideration on the notifications made by Kaufman to Poetry. **Councilmember Fowler** wants an engineer to make a new map. Citizen Robbyn Followill agrees that an official map created by an engineer. **Councilmember Jaffe** makes a motion to table this item until we confirm a map, and look at to both Rockwall and Hunt Counties agreements. Seconded by **Councilmember Anderson**. Passes 5:0
3. **Discuss and take action on the possibility of town bearing the burden of maintaining private roads. Councilmember White** and **Councilmember Fowler** feel responsible to the citizens on private roads. Legal Counsel clarifies the laws involved. Citizen Shelley Smith encourages Council to put forth a plan and schedule of road repairs. Citizen Candy Fletcher says that as a private road dweller, she does not feel neglected, because the roads she drives ARE being maintained. Citizen Herbert Fletcher prefers not to give up rights to his private road. No action taken.
4. **Discuss, evaluate and take action on approved Solid Waste vendors' accounts.** Citizen Robbyn Followill asks how many Solid Waste Vendors Poetry has, asks that the letter be a draft so it can be re-usable. **Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to have Legal draft a letter for non- compliance, seconded by **Councilmember White**. Passes 5:0
5. **Review of the Poetry Post newsletter and take action if any changes need to occur. Councilmember Fowler** makes motion to table until next meeting, seconded by **Councilmember White**. Passes 5:0
6. **Discuss and take action on proposed Business plan for phone & Internet.** Expert Josh Senkevech gives breakdown of requirements for future needs. Citizen Brian Vinson likes the proposal, but asks about a possible better deal with cell phones vs VOIP. Citizen Robbyn Followill expresses concern over Josh Senkevech being the IT coordinator, saying that her concern is not with the honesty of Josh, himself. **Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to approve Spectrum Business 600/25, plus 2 phone lines PBX, plus two VBS 250 handsets. Seconded by **Councilmember Blake**. Passes 5:0

#### **j) General Public Comments**

Citizen Brian Vinson asks that Council modify rules of decorum to not include statement of citizen addresses when they speak.

Citizen Robbyn Followill says the title of the zoning ordinance should just be Zoning Ordinance.

#### **k) Adjourned Regular Meeting @ 10:19 pm**

**Minutes by volunteer Sheri Vinson**