

# Poetry Post NEWSLETTER

June 2025 | ISSUE 54



## MEET THE COUNCIL

### *A Fresh Chapter Begins at Town Hall*

Poetry held its town election on May 3rd, with neighbors casting their votes for local leadership. Mike Jaffe was elected as our new Mayor and officially sworn in on May 13th. He joins Councilmembers Tom Anderson, Terry Fowler, Dale Bryant, Doug Kendrick, and Tracie Hibbs. The Council is ready to continue working together for the good of the community. We're grateful for their service and look forward to the months ahead. Thanks to all who participated and helped shape Poetry's future.



From left to right: Dale Bryant, Tom Anderson, Terry Fowler, Mayor Mike Jaffe, Doug Kendrick, Tracie Hibbs (council shown with 2025 Scholarship winner Shaylee Reed)

## A LOOK BACK TO LOOK AHEAD

In the November 2020 General Election a majority of the voters in the proposed Town of Poetry footprint voted to Incorporate and the town was born. With a very untraditional looking town map, spanning 3 counties, and with no sitting town government, the process had begun. In May 2021 Poetry elected its first mayor and council whose first meeting took place at Faith Temple Baptist Church on June 6, 2021. One of the first priorities of the new Council was to find sources of revenue to support the town. First up, a trash franchise fee for everyone whose driveway touched the Town boundaries. Second, a 1.5% Sales Tax was placed on the November 2022 ballot and passed. Third was a franchise fee agreement with Oncor and Farmer's electric for those residents whose electric meters lie within the Town boundaries. The town now had income which allowed for the establishment of a permanent Town Hall and the start of very basic road repairs to roughly 30 miles of roads. In May 2023 the town elected its second Town Council, with the mayor and 4 of the 5 incumbent council members winning a second term. The Council handled a lot of business over the next two years, the biggest of which was the start of a Planning and Zoning strategy. In the recent May 2025 election the town elected its third Council, bringing in a new mayor and 3 new council members. Their focus is on the future of Poetry and ensuring that our way of life as we know it remains as unchanged as possible. Key areas of responsibility are being distributed to the individual council members who will report back to the council for input, deliberation and voting. Also at the top of their list is maintaining our roads, not an easy task since the town does not receive any of the property tax dollars paid to the counties. First up, the Council is focused on building good relationships with our County Commissioners who are able to help us with road maintenance at very competitive rates as their workloads allow. We are excited about the future of our incredible town. – Mayor Mike



**Did you miss the most recent Council meeting? Just head to the Poetry town website! Every meeting is live streamed and available for your viewing anytime.**

# ROUGH ROADS, REAL PROGRESS

If you've bumped, bounced, or braked your way through town lately, you're not alone. Road conditions across Poetry have become a frequent frustration for residents and visitors alike. Potholes, worn-out surfaces, and patchwork fixes are taking a toll—not just on tires, but on patience.

The good news? Help is on the way.

The Town Council is actively working on long-term solutions to improve and maintain Poetry's roads. It's not an overnight fix, but progress is in motion. Funding, planning, and prioritizing are all part of a complex process—and your town leaders are fully engaged in making lasting improvements.



Curious about how it all works and what's coming next? Head over to the Town Meetings section of the Poetry website and watch Mayor Jaffe's clear and informative explanation during the June 19th livestream of the Town Council meeting. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at the road repair strategy and what residents can expect in the near future.

Better roads are coming—thank you for staying the course with us.



## HAVE YOU SEEN?

There's something new catching the breeze at Poetry Town Hall! A brand new Texas flag now flies proudly beneath the U.S. flag on the main flagpole.

For the first time ever, our official Town of Poetry flag is on display too—look for it hanging with pride on the side of Town Hall. Both flags are a cheerful nod to our roots and growing sense of hometown pride. Stop by and take a look—Poetry's looking extra proud these days!

## MEET THE NEW MAYOR PRO TEM: TERRY FOWLER

The Town of Poetry is proud to announce that Council Member Terry Fowler has been selected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the 2025–2026 term. Mr. Fowler is no stranger to public service. A dedicated resident of Poetry for the past 18 years, he is currently serving his third term on the Town Council. Over the years, his steady leadership, thoughtful insight, and commitment to the community have earned him the respect of his fellow council members and neighbors alike. In his new role, Mayor Pro Tem Fowler will work closely with Mayor Jaffe, helping to guide council operations and stepping in when the mayor is unavailable. His deep understanding of local issues and long-standing ties to the town make him a valuable partner as Poetry continues to grow and face new challenges. Please join us in congratulating Mayor Pro Tem Terry Fowler—we look forward to a strong and successful year ahead with his leadership.

## KEEPING YOU POSTED

From the desk of Mayor Jaffe and all of us at Town Hall



we've got our sights set on better ways to keep you in the loop! We're working to make both the *Poetry Post* and the town website even more informative (and maybe even a little fun).

One big goal? A more useful community calendar! We're aiming to include not just Town Hall meetings, but also local events like school programs at Poetry Community Christian School, happenings at area churches and businesses, and even the occasional community garage sale. If it's happening in Poetry, we want you to know about it. After all, staying connected is what makes a small town feel like home.

## TOWN HALL RETURNS TO WEEKLY SCHEDULE

With election season behind us, the Town Hall office has resumed its regular hours. We're now open every Thursday from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

As always, we're here to serve you. If you have business to take care of outside these hours, just give us a call, or drop us an email—we'll be happy to work with you to find a time that fits your schedule.

