



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

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 29th of July 2025 at 6:30 pm, the Town Council of Poetry, Texas, held a Special Town Council Meeting at Poetry Town Hall, 5671 CR 323 Poetry, Texas 75160 with the following present:

A. Mayor Jaffe called the public meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by Mayor Jaffe. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Terry Fowler, Councilmembers Tom Anderson, Doug Kendrick, Tracie Hibbs and Dale Bryant.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation: Councilmember Doug Kendrick pledge. Councilmember Tracie Hibbs invocation.

B. Items of Community Interests:

Pursuant to Section 551.0415 of the Texas Government Code, the Town Council may report on the following items: 1) expression of thanks, congratulations, or condolences; 2) information about holiday schedules; 3) recognition of individuals; 4) reminders of upcoming Town Council events; 5) about community events, and 6) announcements involving an imminent threat to public health and safety.

C. Regular Agenda (item sponsor)

1. Consider approval of a resolution suspending Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's application to change rates within the Town of Poetry. (Mayor)

On June 26, 2025, Oncor released a Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates. The deadline for affected Towns like us to respond is July 31, 2025.

- Vote needed by July 31st to address Oncor Delivery's proposed rate increase, which would automatically take effect without action. A formal response by the council is needed. The proposed increase could raise local electricity bills by \$8-\$10 per month or more, depending on usage. Farmers Electric Co-op does purchase power from Oncor so Hunt County residents would still be affected. Mayor Jaffe's recommended approach is to suspend the rate increase to allow time for negotiation through a coalition known as the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor, which represents 170 Texas cities and works to challenge or reduce utility rate increases on behalf of member cities. Poetry legal counsel, David Berman, advised that suspending the increase preserves the city's jurisdiction and allows for negotiations, while denying the increase outright, would trigger an automatic appeal.

A motion to approve the resolution to suspend the rate increase was made by Councilmember Hibbs, seconded by Councilmember Anderson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consider approval of a resolution approving cooperation with the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor to negotiate with Oncor on the City's behalf and take any action necessary. (Mayor)

This group is known also known as OCSC and according to their website, have 170 Texas cities as members. This resolution would add the Town of Poetry to that list and provide greater representation in this discussion with Oncor.

- Consideration of a resolution to join the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor (OCSC) to allow the group to represent the Town of Poetry in negotiations over Oncore Electric Delivery's proposed rate increase. The membership cost, prorated for the remainder of the calendar year, is \$94.80, based on 11 cents per resident as estimated by TML (2,069 residents). OCSC works on behalf of member cities to review, and challenge proposed increases, including questionable charges such as fees for LED lighting not yet installed. It was noted that some of Oncor's requested increases relate to infrastructure upgrades and storm recovery but emphasized the importance of oversight and accountability. Poetry legal counsel, David Berman, recommended participation as the most effective and cost-efficient strategy.
- The proposed resolution authorizes OCSC to act on behalf of Poetry in related matters at a prorated price of \$94.80, 11 cents per citizen, for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year. If Poetry continues the membership, the cost for 2026 is expected to be a little more than \$200. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Hibbs. **The motion passed unanimously.**

D. General Public Comments

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. If a translator is needed, the speaker may be given up to four (4) minutes. Sign up is required in advance either in-person prior to the start of the meeting or by emailing your comments to speak@poetrytexas.org at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. The Texas Open Meetings Act restricts council members from discussing items not posted on the agenda. Action or responses to your remarks by council members (if not a posted agenda item) are limited to either a statement of fact or recitation of an existing policy or a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting.

- There were no public comments at this time.

E. Adjournment

Note: The Town Council reserves the right to meet in Executive Session closed to the public at any time in the course of this meeting to discuss matters listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, including Sec. 551.071 (private consultation with the attorney for the Town); Sec. 551.072 (purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property); Sec. 551.074 (personnel or to hear complaints against personnel); Sec. 551.076 (deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices); and Sec. 551.087 (economic development negotiations). Any decision held on such matters will be taken or conducted in Open Session following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

The Town Council meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm


Mike Jaffe, Mayor


Anne E. Hamilton, Town Secretary