

Candidate Questions – Jonathan Blake

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

I believe I will move Poetry forward while holding fast to the values that we all hold dear as a small rural community. I Believe My Lord has just now prepared me for service. I wasn't ready two-years ago.

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?

Bring us together as a community.

Work on a road improvement plan.

Keep our government small.

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?

Keep Terrell from annexing us allowing us to govern ourselves.

The division in the community.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

My perspective of Poetry having lived here for a short 39 years. I haven't run a large business. I have learned to be frugal with a small budget while providing outstanding service.

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

Making our government run smoother with the communities' help.

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

I already consider my campaign a success. The welcoming and helping response I have received is humbling. It is such a privilege to witness the genuine concern the community has for Poetry. I would help continue the conversation.

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

By just listening. I know it sounds simple but it is the first step to successful engagement.

What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?

The ability to build a consensus.

What changes to Poetry do you envision?

Once we have real sales tax revenue numbers, develop a realistic budget.

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

Support the Mayor and Council fully. Offer considerate, respectful, & constructive comments.

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

If you could get 100% participation, using Survey Monkey for polling.

What three things do you hope to accomplish most?

Improve the communication between citizens and Mayor/Council.

Having a realistic budget will allow development of a road maintenance and improvement plan.

Preserving property owners' rights while limiting unwanted growth.

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?

I believe change is inevitable, from my perspective Poetry is not as rural an area as it was when I moved out here. What makes Poetry attractive has caused it to change. I believe the families that have been out here for generations will attest to this change. In a free society you can only hope to maintain the status quo during your own generation. Those that come and those that follow will change it despite our best intentions. I take exception to the wording of this question when it says "bounds you would set". My job is to set aside my views and set the bounds the community demands.