

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE** 21st of June, 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 Simeon White |
| Councilmember Tom Anderson                         | Councilmember Terry Fowler |
| Councilmember Mike Jaffe                           |                            |
| Councilmember Brian Vinson (by speaker phone only) |                            |

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

**Evie Anderson, Volunteer Clerk**, confirmed quorum. All council members were present except Councilmember Vinson, who was on phone and therefore unable to vote.

**Councilmember White** led the pledge, **Citizen Glenn Strauss** led invocation.

**f) Workshop Meeting**

**1. Discuss the definition of “resident” for the Town of Poetry as it relates to voting, solid waste franchise fees, and sales and use tax.**

**Councilmember Jaffe and Councilmember White** present the following definition:

The definition of “**Resident**” in this document only applies to a person’s ability to vote in Town of Poetry elections.

A person shall be considered a “Resident” of the Town of Poetry for voting purposes if their domicile is situated on a piece of property that touches the Town of Poetry town limits or on an adjacent tract of land that is managed as a single, contiguous tract of land.

All State and Federal election rules and laws apply and may affect a Poetry “**Resident’s**” actual ability to vote.

**Councilmember Anderson and Councilmember Vinson** ask for wording changes.

**Councilmember Fowler** is concerned about precedent set in 2022. Discussion moved to executive session.

**2. Discuss changes to Solid Waste Ordinance No. 2021-10-01 to more clearly define which "residents" of Poetry are subject to the ordinance by adding an applicability section.**

**Councilmember Jaffe** explains new section of Waste Management Ordinance.

After discussion, the new section read as follows:

**SECTION 4. APPLICABILITY.** This Ordinance shall apply to any property or easement that abuts any roadway, including but not limited to private roads, county roads, state roads, and town roads within the Town's incorporated boundaries where solid waste might be collected.

**3. Discuss changes to the standard form non-exclusive solid waste franchise agreement to more clearly define which "residents" of Poetry are subject to the ordinance and the associated franchise fee.**

**Councilmember Jaffe** states that this wording should be mirrored in franchise agreements.

**4. Discuss ways to reduce Town of Poetry legal fees.**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** explains the travel and cost of Poetry Lawyers attending meetings, and why this will create more Executive Sessions.

**Councilmember Fowler** asks for copy of Decorum and Procedures, wondering if the Council can vote for a continuation of Resident definition. **Mayor Tara Senkevech** says workshops don't have opportunity for voting.

**g) Workshop is adjourned.**

**h) Regular Session is convened.**

**j) Items of Community Interest**

**Letter from Deputy Secretary Liz Patterson** resigning her position.

**k) Receive Reports**

**1) Financial Report**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** gave a recap of donations, deposits, and credits.

**2) Planning & Zoning Report—Katherine Hardwicke**

Packets were given to Council for perusal and feedback. Katherine asks for a workshop to discuss with them, and then present to Town.

Special thanks to all of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

**l) Regular Agenda**

**1) Consent Agenda**

**Minutes for May 10th, Special Town Council Meeting**

**Councilmember** Anderson votes to accept, seconded by **Councilmember White**.

Passes 4:0

## **2) Executive Session begins at 7:40pm**

### **3) Regular Session Reconvened**

**Mayor Tara Senkevech** recused herself due to conflict of interest. Kevin and Tara Senkevech have donated an acre of land for the Town Hall on CR 323. Legal will have to approve.

#### **4. Discuss and take action on the creation of a list of "residents" of the Town of Poetry who are subject to the Town's solid waste regulations and distribution to the Town's approved solid waste vendors.**

**Councilmember Jaffe** gave history of work with solid waste companies. **Councilmember Vinson** expressed concern with sharing personal information, and the legal guidelines with such. A preliminary list will be provided by **Mayor Tara Senkevech** to **Councilmember Jaffe and Councilmember Fowler** to research and verify. Motion made by **Councilmember Fowler** and seconded by **Councilmember White** to move this item to #15. Passes 4:0

#### **5. Discuss Kaufman County Thoroughfare Committee findings and take possible action, if necessary.**

**Councilmember Anderson** explains that the deadline in June is simply a place holder for work that probably won't happen for years. A review will happen three years.

#### **6. Discuss and consider a Town response to disbursement of disinformation relating to the Town.**

**Councilmember Fowler** took issue with creation of Town Position Statement. All Council members seem to be against the FACT sheet coming from the Council. **Councilmember Vinson** promotes "nuking" of said document.

#### **7. Discuss and consider the design and appearance of signs for the approved 7 Town entrance signs.**

**Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to "table" item to future meeting, seconded by **Councilmember Jaffe**. Passes 4:0

#### **8. Discuss and consider the design and appearance of signs for the approved "No Thru Trucks over 33,000 lbs." signs including types of poles and brackets needed.**

**Councilmember White** makes motion to accept black and white rectangular signs, **Councilmember Jaffe** seconds, including cheaper poles and brackets. Passes 3:0  
Anderson abstained.

#### **9. Discuss and consider expectations from Campground Community Cemetery, Inc. regarding usage of the Annex as the Town Hall.**

**Councilmember Fowler** makes motion to accept gift of Annex building to use as Town Hall, seconded by **Councilmember Anderson**.

**Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to abandon last vote so citizens can be heard, seconded by **Councilmember Anderson**. Passes 4:0

**Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to accept Annex Building, seconded by **Councilmember Fowler**. Passes 4:0

**10. Discuss and consider the Town Newsletter and its disbursement.**

**Councilmember Jaffe** recommends this be part of the website, allowing local business to carry paper copies for those without internet. **Citizen Shelley Smith** suggests a text message app. She also suggests that the library box be set outside TAG for paper copies. **Councilmember White** mentions reverse 911 messages. **Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to place Poetry Post on website, making sure paper copies are available in various locations. **Councilmember Anderson** seconds. Passes 4:0

**11. Discuss and consider ways to reduce legal fees.**

Discussion and advice from citizens.

**12. Consider approval of payment for TML Risk insurance annual renewal in the amount of \$1445.50 for \$500,000 of coverage or the lesser amount of \$1,123.00 for \$300,000 of coverage.**

Motion made by **Councilmember Jaffe**, seconded by **Councilmember Anderson** to accept lower amount of coverage. Passes 4:0

**13. Discuss and consider an amendment to Ordinance No. 2021-10, the Town's solid waste ordinance, to add an applicability section; and providing an effective date.**

SECTION 4. APPLICABILITY. This Ordinance shall apply to any property or easement that abuts any roadway, including but not limited to private roads, county roads, state roads, and town roads within the Town's incorporated boundaries where solid waste might be collected.

**Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to accept changes, seconded by **Councilmember White**. Passes 4:0

**14. Discuss and consider an amendment to the standard form non-exclusive solid waste franchise agreement to more clearly define the agreement's application.**

SECTION 4. APPLICABILITY. This Ordinance shall apply to any property or easement that abuts any roadway, including but not limited to private roads, county roads, state roads, and town roads within the Town's incorporated boundaries where solid waste might be collected.

**Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to accept wording, seconded by **Councilmember Anderson**. Passes 4:0

**15. Discuss and take action on the creation of a list of "residents" of the Town of Poetry who are subject to the Town's solid waste regulations and distribution to the Town's approved solid waste vendors.**

**Councilmember Jaffe** and **Councilmember Fowler** will vet the list, and approval will be requested from legal. **Councilmember Vinson** asks how often list should be updated and recommends quarterly.

**Councilmember Fowler** makes motion to accept creation and vetting of list, seconded by **Councilmember Jaffe**. Passes 4:0

**j) General Comments:**

**Citizen Shelley Smith** requests Ordinances be put on website. She also asks about sending all Councilmembers an email and why replies to such would break Open Meeting Laws.

***Mayor Tara Senkevech adjourned meeting at 10:32 pm.***

**Minutes typed by Sheri Vinson**