

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

I'd like to introduce myself as a servant to Poetry. I have transitioned from objection to incorporation to one who wishes to offer my education, experience and leadership skills to the continued growth and peace of Poetry as it remains incorporated. My primary goal is to seek a peaceful bridge, between our division, to higher level of thinking and problem solving. Together, we are Poetry and together we must contribute toward its success.

## **There will be much to do in the first term for the Mayor and Town Council. What three things do you most hope to accomplish, if elected? (Though it's not the first term)**

As a member of a team, if elected, to represent Poetry, I believe every citizen counts and must be heard. The items I am most passionate for include:

- creating a procedure for property owners to annex the portion of land separate from city limits, to regain tax benefits of homestead, senior citizens and other applicable tax advantages. I believe we owe it to our neighbors to reach out and assist those who do not have the means to use computers, to assist with completing this task,
- establishing opportunities for our small businesses to be seen, offering a location to sell their products including, but not limited to fresh eggs, produce, bales of hay, meat products, soaps, lotions and so on, provided items are offered meeting state regulations for the purpose of health and safety,
- as a growing community, I see it as a responsibility to reach out to all persons within Poetry, in a variety of ways. We need to encourage involvement in the community, sharing skills and abilities in all ways. I believe we all have something to offer and we owe it to our neighbors to give them an opportunity to help and be heard.
- The current form of social networking fails our town. Both Facebook and Next Door have become breeding grounds for keyboard warriors. If we are unable to identify a solution, Poetry stops in its tracks. There are no winners, nor losers. We must do better.

## **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?**

I own my early position of concern and opposition. A movement which I was unaware of created the town of Poetry. I felt deprived of the opportunity to be part of its development. I was concerned that a town was born prematurely, unaware of all that would require of all folks. At this date, I find myself supportive of the need to be incorporated protecting those who face annexation. I breathe relief my friends are not facing the current annexation by Terrell. Provided we can each overcome our knee jerk reactions to ugliness toward opposition, I believe we can become a wonderful community. No doubt, we have some big issues to address in our town, which not everyone will like. However, if we can build a bridge toward greater listening, planning and involvement, I believe we will be successful in our endeavors.

## **What makes you stand out from other candidates?**

No doubt, I have a voice. I have strength and perseverance. As a leader, I take a no-fail attitude. I have grown students who weren't expected to ever read on grade level into successful college students with scholarships. I have managed employees to their greater skill and confidence, building a strong work ethic. I have instructed adults through continuing education and university level instruction to follow their dreams and become successful in their fields. In the course of these successful goals, I believe relationships are important. Like the flamingo, I stand tall, I stand confident and I stand out.

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

**What three things do you hope to accomplish most? (these were a bit redundant so I merged them)**

As to goals, accomplishments and what I expect to complete on the council, I cannot answer, as I would be a part of a team. A team of volunteers working to hear the concerns of citizens and making the best decisions we can. A team not yet established. My primary areas of concern include:

- Creating a procedure for annexing portions of property divided to city and county,
- Solidifying one map, with the applicable counties, clearly representing boundaries and what it means to the definition of the town,
- Bringing creativity and professional business planning to our budget so we may, cooperatively, address income and expenses. Poetry has great value, but we must find dependable dividends to accurately plan for the expenses of growth,
- Develop a schedule of local events to support small businesses awareness where they can sell their products at no vendor cost. Food trucks, hay bales, students singing, school fundraisers – these are the dreams I see for Poetry.
- Streamline communication processes for effective response and feedback from those elected by the town. Transparency and respect are key requirements, to be effective.

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

Regardless of election results, my primary goal and hope for this community is peace. We all love Poetry and we must work toward a peaceful community. Toward that goal, I will show respect to opposition, listen and commit to not responding in an unkind manner. I will strive to be the example, as I know I can. I accept some will disagree, but I'm, really, quite pleasant to be around.

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

All citizens deserve the right to be involved, be heard and believe they matter, within Poetry. We have a wide variety of ages, physical abilities, limitations, economic variations, interests and talents. We must find the gift of each person and encourage its use in our town. We should not underestimate the gifts, we each have, in building our community. This is how we will build the bridge toward peace. Each person matters. Each person has something to offer.

**What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?**

As a leader, I summarize my leadership as being:

- Goal-focused
- Detail-oriented
- Confident, with a strong voice
- Able to relate to and speak at all levels, to communicate, effectively

**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?**

Being “country” means something different for each of us. These differences should be celebrated, shared and used to build a bridge of cooperation. At the end of the day, we all face the same struggles of how our world challenges us. I believe we all share the common core of loving the rural life, affording us of beautiful sunrises and sunsets, fields of hay bales, cattle roaming and tractors on our roads.