

Candidate Questions – Chad West

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

This is my families' home and I want to preserve Poetry for my son and future generations of all Poetry Citizens. Also, I feel that my education and work history will be an asset to the Town.

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?

1. Establish the lacking foundational issues of the Town. Our Citizens deserve to see a full Profit & Loss statement that adequately reflects the assets and liabilities of the Town at every meeting. Along with timely responses and calendarized requirements of the Town to eliminate missteps and missed deadlines.
2. A long-range plan to quantify and get our arms around the maintenance of our roads and what we can do to improve/repave them.
3. Truly be transparent and listen to all views and perspectives

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?

At the time, it was the protection from getting consumed by the surrounding towns and the ability to make decisions to protect our rural lifestyle and values. The concerns are the financial obligation and how we sustain the Town with as minimal impact to the citizens.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

I have 26 years of experience in executive management and operate 7 sites in 6 states with annualized operating budget of \$100,000,000 with 726 employees. Over the years I have been able to build a solid business acumen and the ability to work through large issues through collaboration and across different perspectives to find compromise and agreement.

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

As few as possible. We incorporated to become a Town to preserve Poetry's history. That means protection of our memories as opposed to a vision.

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

I have been a member previously on P&Z committee and regularly attend the meetings. Going forward that really would depend on the Council and the level of engagement they will allow

from the Citizens. Recently there has been a push to limit Citizen comments and engagement in the Council Meetings. Hopefully, that doesn't happen.

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

I believe Citizen's involvement is crucial to the success of the Town. The failure of a leader is to believe that they know everything and sometimes you learn the most from those with a difference of opinion.

What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?

My leadership has been in manufacturing for the last 26 years and I believe that the biggest quality is the ability to establish a roadmap and then work collaboratively with my Team to get where we need to go. Many of the Sites that I have responsibility for aren't in the State of Texas. So, it's impossible to lead them directly. Because of this, helping to develop those around you is key to success.

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

I have been active in the Town as previously stated over the last 2 years and intend that wouldn't change. This is our home and will continue to work to preserve Poetry regardless of any title.

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

Continuing to allow Citizens comments to be heard during the Council meetings would be obvious. However, it is much more than that. We have a large group of people with diverse backgrounds living in Poetry. As the Town continues to evolve, we need to be tap into this resource and expertise to drive lasting sustainable change. I will be the first to admit that don't have every answer and through collaboration, compromise and the willingness to listen to others' ideas will be the key to Poetry's success. We are however a Town not a city.

What three things do you hope to accomplish most?

I'm for a building a strong foundation for the Town that starts with financial responsibility. The development of a plan to properly address the improvement and maintenance of our roads, true transparency and listening to our Citizens. This is about serving Poetry and its Citizens.

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?

Most individuals who run for political office do it to drive unwarranted growth and progress. Poetry is a town that was established on rural values, love for agriculture, and ranch living. I'm running to protect and uphold those values. I'm for implementation of as few changes as possible. However, it is not up to just me!!! As an elected official it is about serving all Poetry Citizens and being the conduit for accomplishing what they want and doing so in a financially sound method.