

**Minutes**  
**Town of Poetry**  
**Special Town Council Meeting**

Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

6:30 pm

At Faith Temple Baptist Church 11214 FM 1565 Poetry, 75160

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Tara Senkevech. All councilmembers were present, and quorum confirmed. Tom Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Senkevech announced gifts to the new Town *including **Judy Graham**— American Flag, **Lance Gooden** - American flag flown from US Capitol, Staff of Tack & Ag - Gold-trimmed Bible for swearing in staff, **Brett Patterson** [Ace Décor & Finishes, Inc.] \$3800 worth of texture, paint & labor to the Town Hall refurbishment (leasehold improvements) to the Campground Cemetery Inc. Church annex building.*

Mayor Senkevech also announced that the mailbox is official now. The Town of Poetry can receive mail at 20425 FM 986 Poetry, Texas via the 911 addressing office.

Council Member Fowler asked for the **INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEADERS. They each stood up and introduced themselves and provided the following contact information.**

*\*Richard Hill—Hunt County Homeland Security, Hunt County health department) [homelandsecurity@huntcounty.net](mailto:homelandsecurity@huntcounty.net) Office Phone Number (903) 408-4246*

*\*Steve Howie—Kaufman County EMS Kaufman Co. Office of Emergency Management # 469-376-4190*

*\*Terry Van Sickle—Poetry EMC Coordinator for Poetry, TVFD Chief # 241-212-0999*

*\*Annette Moiorano—Poetry EMC Assistant Coordinator for Poetry, (Medic) (214) 809-2228*

a) **Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of minutes from the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Town Hall meeting.  
Approved 5 Opposed 0
- 2) Approval of Ordinance for Part time Secretary office position as amended.  
Approved 5 Opposed 0

## b) Regular Agenda

- 1) Discussion was made regarding an Environment Health Service agreement with Hunt County as requested by attorney Daniel Ray, to allow Hunt County to do all the inspection work and for septic systems and Environmental Health Services. We had a citizen awaiting action on this measure.

Jack Mullins Hunt County 1.5 Acre /Special provisions of 1 Acre

Most counties will allow for the uptake from the town to make the decision.

The motion was made to allow the Agreement between Hunt County and Poetry by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member White. The vote was Approved 5 Opposed 0. Hunt County Health Department - Hunt County will continue doing the inspections for Hunt County residence.

- 2) Discussion regarding an execution of a **non-Disclosure “firewall” agreement with Patricia Adams of the Messer-Fort-McDonald Law Firm.** Council Member Anderson expressed concerns that the agreement was lacking specific language about the “firewall”. Mayor read out loud the Non-Disclosure Agreement to the audience. Council Member Vinson made a motion to accept the NDA with provision attached specific language regarding “firewall”. Council Member Anderson seconded. Approved 5 Opposed 0

- 3) Mayor Senkevech presented the names of the four volunteers who had come forward on the Poetry Next Door Solicitation to be on the Citizens Committee for Solid Waste Vendors.

**Herbert Fletcher** (citizen) spoke in support of choosing one vendor to provide money to our town and to reduce truck traffic on our roads.

**Lon Akin** (citizen) spoke about the concern that choosing one vendor would be putting other small businesses out of business, specifically his concern of one veteran who had just spent money on a new truck.

The Motion was made by Council Member Vinson to change the name of the committee from Solid Waste “Vendors” to Solid Waste “Solutions” and was seconded by Council Member Fowler.

Discussion was made consider volunteers who want to be on the Citizens Committee for Solid Waste ~~Vendors~~ Solutions namely; **Cindy Sykora, Katy Kassel, Kim Staman, Ivy Campbell** to research, meet and make recommendations to the Council at the next Regular Town

Meeting. The motion was made by Council Member Jaffe and seconded by Council Member White. The vote was Approved 5 Opposed 0

- 4) Council Member Fowler reported findings with Kaufman County as reported from Sheriff Beaver. He reported that Sheriff Beavers (Kaufman) said that the Town couldn't keep him out and will keep coming. He said he has no agreement with local agreements with any other town/city.

Mayor Senkevech reported that Sheriff Jones (Hunt County) said the Town couldn't keep him out and will keep coming - as it would be irresponsible otherwise.

Council Member White requested more information, traffic, traffic fines, speeders, and collecting monies for fines. There was no action on this item.

- 5) Mayor Senkevech provided a preliminary Proposed budget which by state ordinance must be presented in the newspaper by July 16.<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Senkevech proposed several options for a type of fee for the Solid Waste Trash Companies using the minimum amounts available.

Council Member Fowler asked if they wanting to save the roads or install franchise fee? He doesn't want trash trucks to be exclusive or an only source of income and doesn't want to put a small business owner out of business because of exclusive rights. He wants all companies that do business in to register with the Town Council Member White agreed with Fowler and continued with stating the Town should allow freedom of choice with their trash trucks and create a type of default trash service. He also suggested making exception for the customers that needed to get rid of hard to get rid of items.

Council Member Jaffe wanted clarification of adding sales tax to the November election ballot that it wouldn't go through until January. Then he wanted to know if it would affect every type of business in the town.

Council Member White wants to avoid at all cost a property tax. Upon research, he said that the average small town gathers 23% of its revenue from Sales & Use Tax and 36% from property tax.

Mayor Senkevech stated that Hunt & Rockwall Counties were officially requested months ago for appraisals on properties in the town proper.

They have until July 25<sup>th</sup>. Without houses Hunt Co said approximately \$30 Million, but this also includes agriculture lands.

Council Member Fowler would like to know what the property values are for the houses in the parts of the property that is in the town proper.

Council Member Jaffe agreed having the information is something the town needs. Who lives in the limits, what the property value & structure value, and ag exemption?

Council Member White is expecting a franchise fee associated with utilities (electric, phone)

Budget notification has to be posted in the newspaper by July 16, 2021 and online.

Council Member Vincent was asked if there was an ability to modify after it was posted on July 16, 2021. He then responded that it should be minimal.

The Mayor then read the expenses list. The itemized list was listed on the second page.

Mayor Senkevech called on **Kevin Senkevech, Volunteer Roads Team leader**, for his research on roads to speak to the cost of maintenance of road repair. He said the budget line item was based on filling pot holes three times per year with paid labor.

Mayor Senkevech then called on **Josh Senkevech, EE/Comp. Sci/IT expert** to speak about of the breakdown of the cost of IT and emails services.

Mayor Senkevech wanted the input from the Council to assist with finalizing the budget.

Council Member Jaffe wanted to know if the Mayor wanted to make the budget set during this meeting. The Mayor suggested yes or come back before the 9<sup>th</sup> of the following month. He agreed to finish this evening.

Council Member Anderson suggested raising the income to meet the expenses to zero the bottom line raise the electric franchise fee and the trash franchise fee. On expenditures he didn't see anything that could be changed. He thought some may actually be low.

The motion to RECESS was made by Fowler and seconded by White. Unanimously passed. A seven-minute recess occurred.

The Mayor called the meeting to resume. She then raised the franchise fees by \$3,183.84, as suggested by Council member Jaffe. Council Member Anderson agreed. She also suggested adding in another \$1,000.00 to the sales tax revenue if it passes.

Council Member Vincent asked if they could lower the Survey & Engineering expenses. Council Member White suggested leaving it alone due to the fact it might be needed for telecommunications franchise fees. Council Member Vincent wanted to know if the Survey was needed to resurvey the whole town and stated that if someone wanted to self-annex into Poetry that the resident would pay for the survey. The Mayor stated that a new survey for the *Town* would be needed as a whole once the map changed to include those who asked for voluntary annex were approved.

Council Member Fowler suggested taking out \$6,366.68 from office supplies and suggested with it being 2021 and documents could be emailed. He then wanted to run the office off of \$169.00 a month, but it was stated the Post requires \$182/month alone for print/paper alone. They finally agreed to subtract \$200 a month from office supplies and adjusted expenses by \$2,400.00.

Council Member Anderson suggested rewording “Attorney fees” to “Legal Fees”.

It was stated that the Town of Poetry would probably be an Accrual System of Accounting.

Council Member Anderson suggested taking the excess election cost out of miscellaneous expenses if needed.

Mayor Senkevech recalculated the budget to find that they were shy of \$466.68. Council Member Fowler said to take it out of roads.

This in turn balanced the budget:

Revenue of \$106,500.00

Expense of \$106,500.00

- c) **General Public Comments**  
**Katherine Hardwick** (citizen) – asked if the sand pits could be taxed. Councilmember Fowler stated that it is not in the town proper and thus could not be taxed.  
She then asked if it was possible to charge delivery trucks. Mayor Senkevech stated that that was probably not possible.  
**Tim Smith** (citizen) signed up to speak but left early.
- d) The motion to **adjourn** was made by Council member Anderson and seconded by Council Member White. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.