

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

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 15th day of November, 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 Tom Anderson
Councilmember Mike Jaffe

Councilmember Simeon White
Councilmember Terry Fowler
Councilmember Brian Vinson

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

Citizen Darrell Watson led Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
Evie Anderson, clerk, confirmed quorum. All council members were present.

g. Reports

Financial Report – October 2022

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

h)Consent Agenda

1. Minutes for September 20th, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting and Budget Public Hearing. Acceptance of minutes as written: unanimous. **Passes 5:0**
2. Minutes for the September 27th, 2022, Workshop, & Special Town Council Meeting. Acceptance of minutes as written: unanimous. **Passes 5:0**
3. Minutes for the October 18th, 2022, Regular & Public Hearing. Acceptance moved to regular agenda.

i) Regular Agenda

a) Minutes for the October 18th, 2022, Regular & Public Hearing. Councilmember Vinson recommends an edit moving item 13 to item a. **Passes 5:0 with edit.**

1. Discuss and take action on renewal of the Interlocal Agreement with Hunt County road related work allowing for a two-year agreement. Mayor Tara Senkevech gives overview of Agreement. **Councilmember Vinson** moves to allow for a one-year agreement to be approved if Hunt County does not approve a 2 year. Seconded by **Councilmember Jaffe. Passes 5:0**

2. Discuss and take action on any needed amendments and payment of June 2022 legal invoice.

Mayor Tara Senkevech gives overview of bill. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** asks for clarification on all bills submitted. **Councilmember Fowler** asks why we aren't paying bills as they arrive. **Mayor Tara Senkevech** replies cash flow has been the issue.

Councilmember Vinson says he would prefer to wait until next meeting with the lawyers, to better understand the bills. **Councilmember White** agrees with Councilmember Fowler that all bills should be paid promptly. **Councilmember Vinson** says this bill should be paid, but to wait until next meeting to review the others. **Councilmember Jaffe** makes motion to pay the June bill. Seconded by **Councilmember Vinson**. **Passes 5:0**

Mayor Tara Senkevech calls for five minute recess.

Mayor Reconvenes.

3. Discuss and take action on the amended Ground Lease Agreement with Longhorn Organics, LLC, for Town Hall parking.

Council reviews document and amends as needed. **Citizen Dale Bryant** discusses different types of agreements with the Council, warning against a Ground Agreement. **Citizen Shelley Smith** recommends taking no more action on "Town Storage Unit" so that the building can be moved to create its own parking. **Citizen Patrick Smith** calls entire agreement into question, starting with grammar in several places. **Councilmember White** is concerned about the level of trust implied in the agreement, and asks Council to look at it closely. Council debates Ground Lease vs Ingress/ Egress agreements. **Holly Dempsey of Longhorn Organics** spoke on the reasons for the Ground Lease over the Ingress/ Egress agreement. After much discussion with Mrs. Dempsey it is decided to run changes back through all attorneys involved.

4. Discuss and take action on amended insurance rates as presented by TML Risk Insurance to meet the ground lease agreement standards for the Town Hall's lot.

Council discusses the importance of covering staff, volunteers, and meetings. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** agrees that covering Town is important, but not insuring property we don't have an agreement on. **Citizen Dale Bryant** expresses concern on how the parking is actually laid out, and that the insurance company knows how it should work. **Citizen Patrick Smith** expresses concern over the Agreement insurance needs and the general liability for the town. He also explains Indemnity to Council. Council decides to go back to TML for more clarification.

5. Discuss and take action on quote/s for handicapped ramp required by Federal guidelines for the Town Hall site.

Councilmember Fowler would like to confirm how many feet of ramp before a landing, and how many landings will need to be placed for the ramp to meet ADA requirements. Council also discusses mediums that could be used from ramp to parking area. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** expresses concern over doing more work before agreement with Longhorn Organics is signed. **Citizen Tracie Hibbs** points out that bid doesn't include treated wood or

wood sealant in cost. **Citizen Dale Bryant** recommends an ADA inspector, and an extra clause in contract stating that it is all ADA compliant. Council agrees that a simple contract with changes to supply list, ADA Compliance, and an ADA Inspector is needed.

6. Discuss and take action on septic installation costs for the new Town Hall site \$6400 bid with \$4000 in donations from citizens. (\$2400 total cost to the town) Mayor Tara Senkevech recuses herself from the discussion as she and Citizen Brett Patterson have donated monies toward the septic install. Council discusses water flow across the property vs the spray head for the septic system. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** requests agreement be signed with Longhorn Organics before anything is agreed upon for septic. **Citizen Tracie Hibbs** has concern about the building sinking. **Citizen Shelley Smith** asks about septic and parking feasibility study for actual town property. **Councilmember Fowler** suggests looking into low dosage aerobic system for septic. **Councilmember Fowler** agrees to do some research for next meeting.

7. Discuss and take action on a second year Christmas Lights Contest for Saturday, December 17th, 2022. Volunteers needed. Mayor Tara Senkevech calls for volunteers. Motion made by Councilmember Anderson , seconded by Councilmember Vinson . Passes 5:0

8. Discuss and take action on a Poetry Community wide Cleanup Day for Saturday, Dec. 10th. 7am-7pm. Volunteers needed for 3-hour increments. Council discusses last year and what will happen this year. **Citizen Tracie Hibbs** asks for more clarification. Motion by **Councilmember Vinson** , seconded by **Councilmember Anderson**. Passes 5:0

9. Discuss and take action on purchasing an online messaging board/forum service the town. Councilmember White explains all the research he has done. Council discusses pros and cons. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** approves of the service, and of the benefits for such a system. **Citizen Shelley Smith** clarifies that Council cannot vote on anything on the forum. **Citizen Patrick Smith** feels that the research was admirable, and that the forum will help with trust issues in town. **Councilmember Anderson** makes motion to accept, seconded by **Councilmember Jaffe**. Passes 5:0

10. Discuss ownership, management and administrative authorities of our town website. Mayor Tara Senkevech gives history of website. **Councilmember Fowler** asks about security of websites, emails, and passwords. **Councilmember Vinson** states that email is separate from website. **Citizen Josh Senkevech** clarifies admins and passwords. **Councilmember Fowler** asks about super admin vs minor admins. **Councilmember Vinson** volunteers to help with processes for computer sites. **Councilmember Fowler** asks about ownership of website. Council discusses moving the responsible email to town secretary account. **Citizen Kevin Senkevech** speaks on backups for the sites. **Citizen Tracie Hibbs** asks how information will be transferred to new council. She recommends IT Solutions to monitor sites.

11. Discuss and take action on an ordinance Repealing the local Sales & Use Tax Exemption on Telecommunications Services and providing notice to the Comptroller

of Public Accounts for the State of Texas. Mayor Tara Senkevech gives history of issue. **Councilmember White** and **Councilmember Vinson** discuss landlines and cell phones. **Mayor Tara Senkevech** says that she is looking to replace lost income. **Citizen Tracie Hibbs** reinforces that a lot of Poetry's citizenry is retired and that every penny counts. **Citizen Chad McFarlane** asks about percentages of tax, and reiterates that point of sale issues should be avoided. Council decides more research is needed.

j) General Comments:

Citizen Chad McFarlane passes out profit and loss statements, showing appreciation for increased transparency. He points out a few discrepancies. Encourages Poetry to be more exact, and continue with efforts towards transparency.

Citizen Jack Senkevech expresses gratitude to council, mayor, and volunteers working for Poetry. Praises the meeting for the spirit of cooperation.

Mayor Tara Senkevech adjourns meeting at 9:38 pm. Well done Poetry!