

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

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 21st of March 2023 at 6:30 pm, the Town Council of Poetry, Texas, held a Regular Council Meeting 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

a) **Call Town Council to order**

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

b) **Roll call to confirm quorum. –Jana Shelton, Town Secretary**

Jana Shelton, confirmed all Councilmembers were present.

c) **Pledge of allegiance**

d) **Invocation**

Pastor Kevin Kelly led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

e) **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

f) **Items of Community Interest**

Mayor Senkevech stated that "Meet the Candidates night" is set for Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at PCCS. From 6 p.m. to 9 pm. **Mayor Senkevech** also stated the town is taking candidates for those who might want to voluntarily Annex into the Town is until March 31, 2023. Email contact@poetrytexas.org for more information.

Mayor Senkevech thanked **Councilmember Anderson** for building and installing stairs for Town Hall. **Mayor Senkevech** donated paid labor and materials for front roof repair. **Mayor Senkevech** stated Michael

Whitfield donated time to weld the fence at Town Hall. She stated **Longhorn Organics** donated labor to mow the leased parking lot and the front of town hall lawn.

g) Reports

1. Financial Reports—February end 2023; Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual.

Mayor Senkevech reviewed the February end 2023 and Profit & Loss budget vs. Actual.

2. Secretary's report.

Town Secretary, Jana Shelton, stated the need for a bulletin board is important as official Town documents are not secure when posting outside.

The new Town Hall is important to be independent and be separated from **Mayor Senkevech's** business. The new Town Hall would allow for Town meetings and privacy to conduct Town business.

Ms. Shelton explained In the past two months working for the Town, she observed the Council is getting updated Financial information and has strong oversight on spending.

3. Upcoming Election Report--City Secretary, Jana Shelton

Ms. Shelton reported the following important dates and information:

April 6th is the last Day to File First Report of Campaign Expenditures & Contributions for the Election.

April 6th Last day to submit your Registration to vote.

If you had trouble voting in the last election, please contact your voter registrar for Kaufman County (469) 376-4595 and Hunt County (903) 454-5467 by this date to verify voter registration.

Meet the Candidate night is April 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Poetry Community Christian School (PCCS) in Poetry.

Early Voting begins April 24, 2023 and ends on May 2, 2023.

Election Day is May 6, 2023.

h) Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from February 13th, 2023 Special Meeting

The Minutes were passed unanimously with the correction of typos.

2. Minutes from February 21st, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Minutes were passed unanimously with the correction of typos.

i) Regular Agenda:

1. Consider and take action on Saturday, April 15th, as a Spring Clean-up Day.

Councilmember Jaffe made a motion to approve Saturday, April 15th as a Spring Clean Up Day. Seconded by **Councilmember Brian Vinson**. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

2. Consider and take action on paying invoice from Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith L.L.P. \$830.74 for the month of February.

Councilmember Fowler made a motion to approve the Invoice from Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith for \$830.74. Seconded by **Councilmember White**. The Council voted unanimously on the motion.

3. Discuss and review legal performance to our town for the first 90 days as voted upon.

The Council discussed the performance of the new attorney. **Councilmember Vinson** was pleased with the performance of the new attorney. **Mayor Senkevech** stated that she was also pleased with him and the cost is reasonable. The Council agreed they were happy with the new attorney.

4. **Discuss and take action on potentially changing the April 18th meeting date.**

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson made a motion to move the Regular Council Meeting from April 18th to April 27th with the stipulation that the packets be received on Thursday the 13th of April. **Councilmember Jaffe** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

5. **Discuss and take action with Kaufman County Resolution Opposing Special Districts.**

Mayor Senkevech explained Kaufman County is seeking support against the Special Districts such as MUDS that are overtaxing the citizens in Kaufman Cities with large developments.

Citizen Glenn Strauss spoke to the Council stating he has experience as a property tax consultant and knows that the Special Districts are difficult for cities.

Councilmember White would like to contact Hunt County for a similar Resolution and made a motion to approve the Kaufman County Resolution opposing Special Districts. **Mayor Pro Tem Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

6. **Discuss and take action on the closet (where tarp has been for 7 months) \$3797.00 +10% [in case of material items changes] for prevention of potential damage to Town Hall building.**

The Council discussed what is needed to occupy the new Town Hall building and the cost.

Citizen Shelly Smith explained to the Council the items for repair she observed when touring the building.

Councilmember Fowler would like to see a detailed quote to attach the two buildings and roof repairs to see what is covered in the quote.

Councilmember Vinson made a motion to table the item until the next meeting for a more detailed and all-inclusive quote. **Councilmember**

Jaffe seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote of the Council.

7. **Consider and take action on purchasing a Town locked bulletin board from [5100] "Office Supplies".**

Mayor Senkevech presented options for a bulletin board for the Town.

Citizen Shelly Smith proposed putting the notices on the inside of the window.

Councilmember Jaffe made a motion to approve the bulletin board for a cost of \$456.00. **Councilmember White** seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

8. **Discuss and take action on amending budget to take funds from [3000] "Use of Prior Year Excess" into the [6100] "Road Repair" and [6300] "Election Expense" accounts.**

Mayor Senkevech reviewed road expenses and election expenses with the Council. **Mayor Senkevech** informed that Council that revenue from sales and use tax use should come in June. **Mayor Senkevech** made a motion to amend the budget by moving money from [3000] "Prior Year Excess" \$10,000 to [6100] "Road Repair" and \$2400 to [6300] "Election Expense". **Mayor Por Tem Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote of the Council.

9. **Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Secretary Jana Shelton would like to work more from home to have more flexibility to assist her daughter. Discuss and take action on amending official office hours from Wednesday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. to Thursday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. when Deputy Secretary Theresa Scholander will be working in the office.**

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to amend official office hours from Wednesday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. to Thursday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. when Deputy Theresa Scholander is in the office. Seconded by **Councilmember Vinson**. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote of the Council.

Mayor Senkevech called for a break at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Senkevech reconvenes at 8:19 p.m.

10. **Consider and take action on proposed Town Scholarship for student/s interested in studying an Agricultural, Horticultural, Animal Science, or Veterinarian related fields.**

Mayor Senkevech explains the scholarship application and qualifications. **Councilmember Fowler** would like to see the academic merit lowered from 3.0 to 2.0 with trade schools accepted. Also, the age requirement would be 17 and up. The Council would like to use donated funds for the scholarship. **Citizen Chad West** donated \$1,000 to the first awarded scholarship. **Mayor Senkevech** stated since they are donated funds to include the ETJ as available to receive applicants.

Councilmember Mike Jaffe made a motion to allow **Mayor Senkevech** to make changes to the scholarship as discussed and appoint a review committee that includes **Mayor Senkevech**, **Councilmember Jaffe** and **Councilmember Fowler**. **Councilmember Fowler** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

11. **Discuss and take action on Town Council Rules of Decorum and Procedural Policy; a) Limit experts to 15 minutes each and b) Cut off time.**

Councilmember Jaffe referred to the rules of quorum and stated that amendments needed to be made not only to cut off times and limits for experts.

The Council discussed limiting expert witnesses to 15 minutes. They also discussed a cut-off time for the meetings.

Citizen Mike Griffin spoke to the Council explaining he would like to see prioritization of the agenda if the Council is considering a cutoff time for the meetings.

Councilmember Vinson stated he felt that the Council should finish business on the agenda. The Council discussed putting the rules on the Public Forum. **Councilmember Jaffe** stated he could make changes to the document and add it to the Public Forum for discussion. No action was taken on this item.

12. **Discuss and take action on addressing citizens' request to have TXDOT consider installing a flashing light for safety at two intersections': FM 986 and FM 3486 and FM 986 and FM 1565.**

Mayor Senkevech discussed having TXDOT conduct a study for flashing lights at the intersections of FM 986 and FM 3486 also at FM 986 and FM

1565. **Mayor Senkevech** stated that she has had five requests and there was actually a wreck the night of the Council meeting.

Councilmember Fowler expressed concerns of a flashing light in residents windows.

Citizen Roger Frankum spoke in favor of the flashing light and the dangers in the intersections.

Citizen Chad West spoke to the Council stating that it was all about public safety and expressed that rumble strips may slow down traffic.

Councilmember Vinson made a motion to allow **Mayor Senkevech** to contact TXDOT about a study to consider installing a flashing light for safety at two intersections: FM 986 and FM3486 and FM986 and FM 1565. **Councilmember White** seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

13. Discuss and take action on Continuity Planning for the Town Election transition.

Councilmember Mike Jaffe expressed his concerns about transition if there is a change in Council or Mayor's position. **City Secretary Jana Shelton** addressed his concerns in a memo to the Council stating that all Town documents are secure in the temporary Town Hall and if there is a change the staff would continue to have access to the temporary Town Hall. Council discussed the options of change and the importance of having an operational Town Hall in the future. No action was taken on this item.

j) General Public Comments:

Citizen Chuck Gilley, a deacon at Faith Temple Baptist Church, spoke to Council and stated that he objected to a video recently posted, but now taken down by the mayor recently. He stated that in any recent conversations, he did not question her faith.

Citizen Chad McFarlane talked about updating the Town Map with Hunt County for sales tax purposes.

Citizen Shelley Smith spoke to the Council sharing her concerns about the integrity of past Poetry elections and asking what the council was doing to ensure the upcoming election was conducted fairly.

k) Adjournment

Mayor Senkevech adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Mayor, Tara Senkevech

Attest:

Jana Shelton, Town Secretary