



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

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS DAY OF THE 15th of February 2024** at 6:00 pm, the Town Council of Poetry, Texas, held a Regular Town Council Meeting at Poetry Town Hall, 5671 CR 323 Poetry, Texas 75160 with the following present:

Mayor Tara Senkevech  
Councilmember Tom Anderson  
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Jaffe

Councilmember Simeon White  
Councilmember Terry Fowler  
Councilmember Jonathan Blake

- A. Mayor Senkevech** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. At this time the Mayor reminded the public that disruption of the meeting may be considered a criminal offense under Texas Penal Code §3813 and may be escorted out by a peace officer and issued a citation.

Section 38.13 - Hindering Proceedings By Disorderly Conduct

*(a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally hinders an official proceeding by noise or violent or tumultuous behavior or disturbance*

*(b) A person commits an offense if he recklessly hinders an official proceeding by noise or violent or tumultuous behavior or disturbance and continues after explicit official request to desist.*

*(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.*

*Tex. Pen. Code § 38.13*

- B. Robin Boles, volunteer clerk,** took roll call. All council members were present. Mayor Senkevech announced the presence of a quorum.

- C.-D. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Councilmember White led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

**E. Recess City Council Meeting 6:04 PM**

**F. Executive Session**

*Recess into Closed Session in compliance with Section §551.001 etseq. Texas Government Code, to wit:*

Section §551.074 - Personnel Matters: Discussion regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Town Secretary.

Section §551.071 – Consultation with Attorney: Discussion with the Town Attorney to receive legal advice and consultation regarding the roles and responsibilities of members of the Town Council.

**G. Close Executive Session at 6:50 PM**

- H. Reconvene City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM –** Mayor Pro Tem Jaffe summarizes the Executive Session discussion.

- Candidates for the position of Town Secretary
- Discussion with the Town Attorney with regards to the decorum policy of the Town Council and working together more unified going forward.

- I. Community Interest:** Mayor Senkevech gives items of community interest:

- Expressing thanks to Brian Vinson and Herbert Fletcher for assisting with locks.
- Special thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Jaffe for cutting up a boat left on public property so it could be disposed of properly.
- Thanks to the citizens for their generosity with donations to the Towns Giving Box.
- A request to encourage others not to litter in Poetry. An accumulation has been noticed.

## J. Reports

### 1. Financial:

#### a. January End:

- Beginning balance of \$83,910.91. Ending balance of \$89,803.05
- This included a charge of \$495 for banners and 4x4's signs for notices on trash.
- Withdrawals of \$41.65, checks paid \$8639.72

#### b. Sales and Use Tax Receipts Report:

- Revenue of \$11,177.13 of which 100% goes toward maintaining the roads.
- Bank account is currently \$89,803

#### c. Q1 +1 month Report Budget vs. Actual Oct 2023-Jan 2024.

- Q1 franchise electric fees are trending at 20-25%
- Franchise fees for solid waste are 31%
- Mapping fees are 15.9%
- Legal fees 29.9%
- \$90,161 Capital Expenditure for roads is still available in the budget.
- Electricity usage has gone over budget, since no longer paying for trash service, that budgeted amount can go towards the electricity budget.
- Overall budget is doing great, income is higher and expenditures are coming in less.

**2. Secretary's Report:** Read by prospective Town Secretary Anne Hamilton in the absence of Deputy Secretary Theresa Scholander.

- Giving Box and Lending Library reminder.
- All Hunt and Kauffman County property owners within the Town of Poetry, watch for a mailing regarding the upcoming zoning meeting.

## H. Consent Agenda:

### 1. Approve minutes from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Council meeting:

- Councilmember Fowler made a motion to move to the regular agenda as item A. **Passes 5:0**
- **Pay November legal bill** of \$292. Councilmember Fowler made a motion to move to the regular agenda as item A. **Passes 5:0**

## I. Regular Agenda:

**A. Approve minutes from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023:** Councilmember Fowler pointed out that a presentation from Birkhoff, Hendricks, and Carter, L.L.P. was left off of the minutes, and pointed out some spelling errors of names. A motion to approve contingent of the requested corrections was made by Councilmember Fowler and a second was made by Councilmember Blake. **Passes 5:0**

**B. Pay November legal bill:** Mayor Pro Tem Jaffe requested clarification on a discrepancy regarding a carryover amount and a prior balance not lining up. **Passes 5:0**

### 1. Discuss and take action on Executive Session Items:

- Citizen Darrell Watson of Green Meadow Lane spoke on his distress of conduct during meetings by all and reminded all they are in a position to serve.

### 2. Discuss and take action on Resolution 2024-02-01R regarding rock-crushing plant application on Hwy 276:

- Presentation by Citizen Mark Clark who has experience in the rock-crushing business. He highlighted concerns regarding the proposed plant application. He emphasized potential health risks associated with the operation, including silica dust exposure, citing examples of health issues and environmental hazards. Despite acknowledging the necessity of concrete, he advocated for locating such operations away from populated areas and suggested stricter regulations similar to those governing concrete batch plants.
- The Town Council discussed Resolution 2024-0201 opposing Dry Creek Materials' application for an air quality permit for permanent Rock and concrete Crushers near Union Valley. The

resolution, initiated by concerns from Union Valley residents, will be sent to them for approval before the deadline. Additionally, Hunt County Commissioners expressed unified opposition to the proposal, highlighting concerns about the potential expansion of the sand pit into a rock-crushing plant.

- Citizen Traci Hibbs of 9441 County Road 2432 inquired as to the difference between the dust produced by the plant and the dust on the rock roads around town.
- The Mayor announced that there is an upcoming hearing on this matter on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, at Ford High School in Quinlan.
- A motion to approve resolution 2024-0201 was made by Councilmember Fowler and a second was made by Councilmember Blake. **Passes 5:0**

**3. Discuss and take action on city secretarial candidate: Anne Hamilton**

- Mayor Senkevech discussed the job posting for the Town Secretary, the process, and the responding applicants.
- Applicant Anne Hamilton discussed her background and took Q&A from the Council.
- Citizen Shelley Smith questioned the availability of the prospective candidate as far as future meeting attendance.
- Councilmember White made a motion to accept candidate Anne Hamilton for the position of Town Secretary. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. **Passes 5:0**

**4. Discuss and take action for Spring Clean-up Day to be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**

- Blackjack has committed to providing dumpsters.
- Citizen Traci Hibbs suggested an area that needed flyers posted.
- Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Jaffe to hold a Spring Cleanup Day on both Friday and Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember White seconded the motion. **Passes 5:0**

**Recess Council meeting at 8:13 PM – resumed at 8:20 PM**

**5. Discuss and take action on a Street Dynamics Solar-powered Speed and Communication device for roads to collect data needed for grant applications for roadwork according to the price sheets provided.**

- Two price quotes were received from Street Dynamics in the amounts of \$3884.50 for a sign with a flood sensor, and \$5057.00 for a sign without the flood sensor.
- Mayor Pro Tem asked why this is necessary for the town right now, Mayor Senkevech explained to gather data for state road grants.
- Citizen Alan Donnan, grant writer, returned to speak to the council. Explained that there are 44,000 applicants currently for the requested grant, and explained how data is an advantage for grant approval. He plans to ask for enough grant money to replace all county roads in Poetry. This grant is only offered every other year.
- Citizen Glenn Straus of 11072 County Road 2454, spoke on the state of County Road 2454 where his house is located.
- Citizen Shelley Smith spoke about not wanting a sign placed by her yard and concerns about being recorded.
- Citizen Patrick Smith, a resident of Kaufman County, is concerned that money spent on signs does not guarantee a return of a grant. He expressed concern about the contract that he read on the Dynamic Signs website.
- Citizen Dale Bryant likes the idea but would also like more of a guarantee from the grant writer that the Town meets the grant criteria.
- Mayor Senkevech explained that only if the data subscription was purchased would there be the possibility of data being uploaded to the Street Dynamic server. Without that option, the sign price drops to \$3200.

- The council requested more information from Street Dynamics such as references, a sample contract with the terms and to research other options from other vendors.
- This motion was tabled until a later date.

**6. Discuss and take action on Hunt County Project Sheet H-11 for pot-hole repairs on CR 2458, CR 2426, CR 2326, CR 2440, CR 2460, and CR 2451.:**

- A quote for \$6000 to repair the referenced county roads was received.
- A motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jaffe and a second was made by Councilmember White. **Passes 5:0**

**7. Discuss and take action on the Hibbs updated petition for release from the ETJ.**

- A motion to approve was made by Councilmember White and a second was made by Councilmember Blake. **Passes 5:0**

**8. Discuss and take action on the updated zoning map of the town.:**

- Discussion regarding the map suggested it should be called the Comprehensive Zoning Map. The map and proposed zoning will be voted on in the public forum on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Letters will be sent to Poetry Citizens regarding the zoning meeting in March. Meeting information will also be listed in the newspaper and posted on the Town website. The most recent proposal will be uploaded to the Town website tomorrow by Councilmember White, as well as any necessary edits as they occur.
- Citizen Dale Bryant who was a member of the original Zoning Committee made some suggestions on how to present the map to the citizens at the zoning meeting so they have a better understanding of how their property was zoned.
- No action needs to be taken on this item.

**j. General Public Comments:**

1. Citizen Mandi West brought to the attention that her address was incorrect on her notification of release from the ETJ.
2. Citizen Shelley Smith inquired as to why the council isn't allowed to review the tax collection information given to the mayor. Mayor Senkevech explained that it is a criminal offense for a mayor to release that data. Councilmember Fowler suggested that Mrs. Smith could find the answer to her question under Texas Tax Code §321.3022.
3. Citizen Patrick Smith also had some issues with a letter sent to him and was assured that if he emailed his concerns they would be addressed.

**Adjourned Regular Meeting @ 9:32 PM**

**Minutes by Town Secretary Anne E. Hamilton**