



Town Council Meeting

Monday, December 09, 2024 at 6:00 PM
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bassler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Council Member Nick McGregor
Council Member Lael McWilliams
Mayor John Bassler
Mayor Pro-Tem John Estes
Council Member Mark Culpepper

Council Member Deussen was absent.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bassler led both.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT (Please limit to 5 minutes per person and if you wish to speak on a particular agenda item, please list the agenda item next to your name.)

Jay South spoke against the flock system. Mr. South wants to know if the master plan is finished yet and wants an update on building across the street, walking trails, and making the windows more festive. He said there was no employee handbook or hiring process. Mr. South also stated that he heard that to open a business in Ponder you must live in Ponder. He said that recently flock has received a cease and desist order because they are selling the information to HOAs and other companies and that they admit that they are storing information and that in Florida and North Carolina they have been sued. In another state they are being sued because it is an unlawful search. Representative Brisco that says state lawmakers need to take action to protect the freedom of Texas.

Emily Geise reported that she came to talk about the library. She stated that they want to see more activity at the library. Ms. Geise stated that it being closed these past two weeks has been huge and that they use it for daycare, and after school and don't want to see it go to waste and they have a petition that says they would like to see the library improved or rebuilt.

Steven McGill stated that he is here for the library and that they have made a home of the Ponder library and use it to socialize. Their children have reading challenges and the library has helped. He

stated that the summer learning events are amazing and the kids love it. it has been a blessing but library improvements need to happen. The library needs funding to make sure that it is safe for all the kids there.

Rebecca Parra stated that she comes to library twice per week and that the last two weeks has been hard. They love it and she gets to spend time with friends there as she homeschools and they really need the library. She stated that moms are here but they all have other things they could be doing but came to support the ponder library.

Sara Dobbs stated that she has four kids 5 and under. In January 2023 they moved here and found a home at the library in one week. She said that the library is somethin they do every week and has allowed her friendships and opportunities for her children to be around other children. She said that Kelly and Amy work hard to create opportunities and want this to be a place where people can come together. She is respectfully asking the council to allocate funds to reopen the library. It is a haven for them and it would be so great if the town could funnel more funds in that direction.

Rebecca Stubbs stated that she prayed about this and the first thing they found when they moved here was the library. The library holds the culture of their family. She is always looking for a safe place for her children to come and read.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of November 18, 2024 Town Council Minutes.
2. Approval of the November 2024 Financial Statement.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

ORAL STAFF REPORTS

Kelly Goudeau - she said that she has a lot of love for the library and that this crowd is just a small portion. 301 visitors from november 1. Christmas market on Saturday and over 300 people came. She is still having people come in and say that they didn't know ponder had a library. The library had crochet and knitting, story talks and christmas market. She recited Luke 11:33.

James Longbrake went over the PVFD calls for service. He reported that in October they received their new ambulance. They have also adopted a strategic plan.

Scott Caster reported no new calls for service and that there was an uptick in traffic tickets and crashes. They will be interviewing a candidate for one of their officer positions soon.

Gary Morris reported that the Remington Park slide ahs been ordered. Water system lead and copper system letters went out. All that it is is an inventory of the service line from the meter to the home (copper or non) ones not identified will have to be dug up and checked. Update on the new road for HS: Design is 30% complete. awaiting ROW from adjacent owners. Floodplain study is underway and 50% complete row land appraisal has been order and we have not received it completed at this time. Jay Harris, Ponder ISD and Craig Anderson are the owners of the necessary ROW. Target date to begin construction is fall of 2025. New well pre con is this week.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3. Consider and act on approval of a Final Plat of Lots 1 and 2, Block A of Gustafson Acres

Motion to approve the Gustafson Final Plat was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

4. Consider and act on approval of Resolution 27-24, authorizing the Secretary or Mayor to enter into an agreement with TxDOT to install and operate automated license plate recognition cameras.

Motion to approve Resolution 27-24 was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

5. Discussion and possible action relative to necessary repairs to the Library caused by water damage.

Motion to look into cost of a POD, remove books, check on costs of portable temporary building to house Library made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding an estimate of costs to renovate areas of the Library and ideas for funding the same.

Motion to table was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

7. Update from the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

Scott Casted reported that the Emergency Services Advisory Committee met and that since it was the first meeting, they went over the Denton County Plan and the costs associated with that, which will be a baseline for planning.

8. Discussion regarding an Ordinance creating a Municipal Fire Department. (*requested by Council Member McGregor*)

Motion to move this item to the February 2025 meeting was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Placeholder for grants
Library

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

APPROVE:

DATE:

John Bassler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary