



Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 09, 2026 at 6:00 PM
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

NOTICE

THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF PONDER, TEXAS, WILL CONVENE IN PRE-COUNCIL AT 6:00 P.M. AND REGULAR SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN PONDER TOWN HALL, AT 102 W. BAILEY STREET, PONDER.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

*Council Member Ginger Deussen
Mayor Nick McGregor
Council Member Lael McWilliams
Mayor Pro-Tem John Estes
Council Member Mark Culpepper*

ABSENT

Council Member Marc Shingelo

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE

Mayor McGregor led the invocation and pledges.

PRE-COUNCIL MEETING - 6:00PM *(In addition to the items listed below, Council members may have preliminary discussions about agenda items, allowing them to come to the regular meeting with a better understating of the item.)*

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The council members requested a monthly court report be provided in the staff reports going forward. They also wanted clarification on Ordinance 26-03 regarding Judge Garcia. The term should match the

Mayor's term instead of two years starting from the date of the contract. Item 7 regarding the Regional Animal Control Facility study was discussed. The council asked staff if this would cover the removal of dead animals from the streets. Public Works is in charge of that on Town streets currently. TxDot is responsible for FM 2449 and FM 156 but their response time is slow.

STAFF REPORTS

Library: Kelly reviewed the attendance report for the month of February. Pokémon trading day was a big success and they had great turnout. On March 17th the library will hand out chocolate gold coins to all patrons who are wearing green. The library will be closed on the 12th for staff planning day. A local sourdough company will be hosting a pop up on the 20th. They will have a "Book Worm" special with proceeds donated back to the library.

Code Enforcement: Council reviewed SafeBuilt report for monthly code enforcement stops and citizen's interactions.

Fire Department: Assistant Chief Hester reviewed calls for the month of February. Wild land training took place at training center in Town. They are planning monthly trainings with other local municipalities. The fire department will post on Facebook when training activity takes place. On March 29th the fire department will hold an Easter egg hunt and Easter activities. They are scheduling 2 volunteer academies for the year. Tentatively one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Police Department: Police Chief Caster reviewed call report. Racial profiling report was completed for the prior year, and report was filed with the state. Sergeant Sissney created a new reporting tool to better track for future use. The department worked with the Ponder Methodist Church to review security measures. The officers are continuing community engagement by visiting the parks around Town and stopping to talk with the kids, even playing a game of basketball with them. The PD is still collecting food at their office to fill the community food pantry.

Public Works: 28 service orders were completed and closed out. Well 4 project punch list has been completed and project is nearing completion. Anderson Farms Parkway project has started. Lane Cheek met with Badger and replacement of old meters is underway with existing inventory. A traffic control trailer was purchased and will be picked up on March 10th. Uniforms for the Public Works department will be delivered the week of March 16th.

Planning and Zoning: Council reviewed permits issued. A preconstruction meeting was held with Sinacola and the Town's engineers regarding the Anderson Farms Parkway Project. Ranchman's by Marty B's has submitted for their second permit for the outdoor bar kiosk. Los Compadres announced on social media that they will be opening in town but no permits have been applied for at this time.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

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.)

This is a time for the public to address the Town Council on any subject. However, the Texas Open

Meetings Act prohibits the Town Council from discussing issues which the public has not been given three (3) business days' notice. Issues raised may be referred to Town Staff for research and possible future action.

See attached list.

Payne Randall that lives in Clairmont Estates addressed the council and asked for a review of the Town's fowl ordinance. He referenced the new Texas House Bill 2013 regarding Texas property owner's rights to keep poultry on their property. HOA's can't regulate. PISD offers vocational programs at the school and allowing town property owners to house poultry on their properties would align with these programs. Hens only and a small number was suggested. Mr. Randall respectfully asks the council to review this ordinance on a future agenda keeping with the agricultural heritage of this Town while respecting the Town's ordinances

CONSENT AGENDA *(All matters listed as Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.)*

1. Discuss, consider and act on approval of minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting.

Motion to approve the February 9, 2026, minutes made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

2. Discuss, consider and act on approval of special election ordinance 26-02 revising ordinance 26-01

Motion to approve ordinance 26-02 replacing ordinance 26-01 made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

3. Discuss, consider and act on approval of a resolution cancelling the general election.

Motion to approve resolution 26-01 made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

4. Discuss, consider and act on Municipal Court contracts for Judge Garcia and Prosecutor Biggs.

Motion to approve the contracts with an ending term to mimic the Mayor's term made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

5. Discuss, consider and act on Ordinance 26-03 regarding Judge Garcia.

Motion to approve ordinance 26-03 with an ending term to mimic the Mayor's term made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

6. Discuss, consider and act on awarding bid to GRod Construction for Old Town Parking Improvements Project.

Motion to approve bid and award the job to GRod construction with preauthorization amount of \$586,580 made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

7. Discuss, consider and act on approval of regional animal control feasibility study not to exceed \$4,000.

Motion to approve feasibility study with a \$4,000 cap made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

8. Discuss, consider and act on approval of ordinance defining powers of the Town Administrator, amending previous ordinance.

Motion to enter into executive session at 6:42pm made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Motion to return from Executive Session at 7:09pm made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Motion to approve Ordinance 26-03 made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

9. Discuss, consider and act on the approval of a recording policy.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-03 was made by Council Member Deussen, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action to plan and schedule a Town Hall meeting open to the public.

The council discussed meeting on a Saturday so people could attend without work conflicts. Saturday April 11th was discussed as a good date, after the ribbon cutting for Anderson Farms Parkway. A location and time were not decided. The Council would like to create some pamphlets with information regarding the upcoming election as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the Town Council will recess into Executive Session in accordance with the authority contained therein to discuss the following:

§551.074: Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, dismissal of, or to hear a complaint against the public officer or employee:

A. Town Administrator

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The Council would like some feedback from SafeBuilt about keeping poultry on residential properties. Town staff will look at other Town's ordinances as well and will report back to the Council.

ADJOURN

BUDGET STATEMENT Pursuant to Section 551.043, Government Code, the following taxpayer impact statement must be included with the Town Council meeting notice at which the Town Council will discuss or adopt a budget for the Town of Ponder: For an average-valued homestead property (\$300,000.00), the Town's portion of the property tax bill in dollars for the current fiscal year (FY2025) is \$2,139.73, the Town's portion of the property tax bill for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2026) for the same property if the proposed budget is adopted is estimated to be \$2,083.14, and the Town's portion of the property tax bill in dollars for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2026) for the same property if a budget funded at the no-new-revenue rate under Chapter 26, Tax Code, is adopted is estimated to be \$2,083.14.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm by a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Culpepper.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Approve:

Date:

Nick McGregor, Mayor

Attest:

Rebecca Zielinski, Town Secretary