



# Town Council Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

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## MINUTES

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Those present were:

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

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bassler led both.

### **OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT**

*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 seventy-two (72) hours' notice. Issues raised may be referred to Town Staff for research and possible future action.*

Codi Delcambre signed up to speak. She spoke about her frustration with the County and that they hit Ponder with a mandate that Ponder can not afford. She did not intend to sound like she spoke down to the council at the October meeting. She stated that if it was misconstrued, then she would apologize. She stated that with her years of experience, the Town Staff should not be on an advisory board. Mrs. Delcambre also stated that the Council emails at TML are not being updated and that she has taken care of that and they will be receiving the email from now on. She has asked her Mayor to reach out to Mayor Bassler about Denton County Days.

James Longbrake spoke on Items 4 & 5. He stated that in July, the council committed to taking on the fire department under the town and he did not want the city to be on the hook for of the expenses. He stated that a committee he recommended should have been to help with the merger. He has some recommendations for the committee. He recommends Cort Higgins and Charlie Williams to be on the committee. Charlie has the experience and knowledge of where the funds from purchase of the equipment will go because the fire department can't hand over all of the equipment to the Town. The

last council meeting, he recommended that an ordinance be placed on the next agenda to create a fire department.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to pull the financial statement from the consent agenda for discussion was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

Council Member McGregor asked if it were a mistake that there is no funding in the Library budget for a new building or building renovation. Sheri Clearman replied that there was no available funding for that.

- 1. Approval of the October 21, 2024 Town Council Minutes.**
- 2. Approval of the October 2024 Financial Statement.**

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- 3. Consider and act on approval of a minor replat for Lot 1, Block A Taylor Addition on Seaborn Road.**

Motion to approve the minor plat for Lot 1, Block A Taylor Addition was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

- 4. Consider and act on approval of Resolution 24-24, Creating the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.**

Motion to approve Resolution 24-24 with the addition under "ESTABLISHED" to add "pertaining to the development and creation of a Municipal Fire Department" and to limit the committee members to a one-year term, was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**5. Consider and act on appointing the following individuals to the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.**

Scott Caster, Sheri Clearman, Nick McGregor, James Longbrake, Tara Allred, Brian Anderson & Jeff Vardell

Motion to appoint Scott Caster Tara Alred, Nick McGregor, Bryan Anderson, Sheri Clearman, John Hester, James Longbake, Cort Higgins and Charlie Williams to the Emergency Services Advisory Board was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams & Mark Culpepper. Voting Nay: Mayor Pro-Tem Estes

Motion passed with 4 yeas, 1 nays and 0 abstentions.

**6. Consider and act on approval of awarding a contract for the Robinson Rd Pump Station/Well #4 Replacement project.**

Motion to award the contract for the Robinson Rd Pump Station/Well #4 to Central Texas Water Well for an amount not to exceed \$1,254,000.00 and that an additional \$62,700.00 be pre-authorized for use by Gary Morris for potential change orders, testing and inspections was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member McGregor.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**7. Presentation by Director of Public Works, Gary Morris and Town Engineer, Roman Boitsov, and discussion regarding wastewater rates.**

Gary Morris presented to the Council reference wastewater costs. Gary referenced the water & wastewater study that was completed by the Town Engineer. He said that the bond payment for water/sewer went up partially due to the Water well #4 & and the James Street project. Gary reported on Justin, Krum, Argyle and the City of Denton wastewater rates and that our wastewater rates sit near the median of these. Gary stated that Ponder has a 15,000 gallon cap on wastewater charges which is lower than the City of Denton by 3000 gallons. He also stated that it is very expensive to run wastewater treatment.

Council Member Estes asked Gary if he was comparing apples to apples. Gary replied that some of these cities were larger than Ponder. Council Member Culpepper asked if we go to averaging, what would the revenue loss be. Gary does not have those numbers on hand.

**8. Discuss, consider and act on Resolution 24-26, regarding a Petition for Removal from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction filed by TCCI.**

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

Regular Session reconvened at 7:16 pm.

Motion made to approve Resolution 24-26, denying the removal from the Ponder ETJ by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member McGregor.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**9. Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 24-23, amending Chapter 153 of the Code of Ordinances.**

Motion to approve Ordinance 24-23, amending Chapter 153 of the Code of Ordinance was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**10. Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 24-25, contracting to purchase and outfit two Police Vehicles.**

Motion to approve Ordinance 24-25 was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**11. Consider and act on appointment of Jason Adams to the Planning & Zoning Board.**

Motion to appoint Jason Adams to the Planning & Zoning Board was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Library renovation update  
Discussion regarding FD Ordinance

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm was made by Council Member Deussen, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

Motion passed with 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**APPROVE:**

**DATE:**

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John Bassler, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary