



Town Council Meeting

Monday, September 14, 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

Mayor Nick McGregor

Council Member Jason Adams

Mayor Pro-Tem John Estes

Council Member Mark Culpepper

Council Member Marc Shingelo

Absent: Council Member Lael McWilliams

Staff Present: Fred Tillman, Rebecca Zielinski, Alexis Norberg, Chief Nordhoff, Lane Cheek, Rick Wilson, Sgt. Sissney

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE

Mayor McGregor led the prayer 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.)*

Council discussed agenda items.

STAFF REPORTS

Cheif Nordhoff: Mark Stanwyck is leaving department for chief position in Kemp, Oramas received citizen accommodation for pursuit, reviewed call numbers

Lane Cheek: repaired 6 main breaks, TCEQ accepted compliance agreement for WWTP, Copper/Lead sampling begins this week

Library: attendance numbers up compared to last year, story time with PISD daycare, wise and wonderful program going well

Rebecca Zielinski: permits issued in the month of august, over 20 records request completed

Fred Tillman: after incident report completed for water main break, homecoming parade success, financial policies currently being reviewed by staff, looking into engaging Dunaway to help manage larger projects, EDC meeting 9/21 6pm, Church of Christ repainted park, repairs to water well 5 that electronics are failing (booster pumps)

Fire Department: 20 calls for service in TOP, average response time 6:21, water usage up to 71,000 gals, 2500 gal training, Chief Hester obtained FSCEO cert, 444 training hours completed

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

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.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor's Presentation

United Way Proclamation

United Way Representative was in attendance and thanked the Town of Ponder for joining in United Way's efforts in Denton County.

Recognition of Sergeant Sissney's 10 years of service to the Town of Ponder.

Mayor read recognition for Sergeant Jeff Sissney's 10 years of service to the Town and presented him with a gift.

Recognition of Public Works team members for their dedication to the Town.

Mayor recognized public works employees for their efforts during August and presented them with a gift.

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.)*

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

1. Approval of minutes from August 10, 2026, August 13, 2026 and August 24, 2026 meeting.
2. Approval of July 2026 Financial Statement.
3. Approval of Leslie Thompson to EDC Board of Directors, Place 7.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Hold public hearing regarding the proposed 2026-2027 general fund and water/sewer fund budget.

Motion to open public hearing 6:31pm made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Council Member Shingelo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

Citizen asked if budget was available for viewing. Mayor informed citizen that the budget was posted online and a copy is available if they contact the Town Secretary.

Motion to close public hearing at 6:32pm made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Council Member Shingelo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

5. Discuss, consider and adopt Ordinance 26-10, appropriations for the support of the Town of Ponder and adopting the FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget.

Motion to approve budget and Ordinance 26-10 made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Council Member Adams.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

6. Discuss, consider and act on Ordinance 26-11, setting the 2027 Tax Rate

Motion to table items 6, 10 and 11 made by Council Member Shingelo, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

7. Discuss, consider and act on Atlas Utility Supply Company proposal for water meter change out.

Hayden and Hudson with Atlas Utility Supply made a brief presentation on the water meter replacement. Roughly 400 meters that need to be replaced/upgraded. Total cost \$263,840. 3 month timeline including upgrading software, training staff. 20 year warranty, 10 year full, 10 year prorated. Warranty based on activation date, not manufacture date. Council would like to see a meter change out program. There is a concern about data but it is not on a public network.

Motion to approve proposal made by Council Member Shingelo, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

8. Discuss, consider and act on JR Bassinger Addition Replat. A 5 acre lot generally located in Ponder's town limits, 102 E James St.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo

9. Discuss, consider and act on Ordinance 26-12 amending section 53.05, Customer Service Inspections in the ordinances.

Motion to approve ordinance 26-12 made by Council Member Culpepper, Seconded by Council Member Shingelo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion passes 4-0-0.

10. Discuss, consider and act on budget amendments for FY 2025-2026.

Motion to table items 6, 10 and 11 made by Council Member Shingelo, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

11. Discuss, consider and act on Development Agreement between the Town of Ponder and Bloomfield Homes LLC, related to Circle M Development.

Motion to table items 6, 10 and 11 made by Council Member Shingelo, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion carries 4-0-0.

12. Discuss, consider and act on Resolution 26-13 adopting updated EDC Bylaws.

EDC Director Michelle French stated EDC has not approved bylaws but this is a result of their feedback. Council took no action.

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

Motion to enter executive session 6:56 pm made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Shingelo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion passes 4-0-0.

Motion to return from executive session 8:16 pm made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Adams.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion passes 4-0-0.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Tax Rate vote 9/23

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.

Mayor McGregor adjourned meeting at 8:26pm.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Seconded by Council Member Shingelo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Estes, Council Member Culpepper, Council Member Shingelo. Motion passes 4-0-0.

Approved:

Date:

Nick McGregor, Mayor

Attest:

Rebecca Zielinski, Town Secretary