



Town Council

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

DeRoyce Bolton, a water customer asked what happened to the water well and why did it happen.

Sue Partridge, a resident of Ponder stated that she expected more from the Town employees and more communication. She feels like the citizens were blamed for the water situation. She did not understand the whole thing. She stated that CodeRed is not good. She thanked Nick McGregor and John Bassler. She stated that Ponder is not such a great place to live if you like communication. She stated that she read about TCEQ requirements and that the Ponder website is not always updated and that Ponder did not use the mandatory language in notifications. She restated that the Town failed its people.

Mark Webb, a resident of Ponder stated that patching the pump didn't work.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of the July 10, 2023 minutes.**
2. **Approval of the July 2023 Financial Statement.**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor. Motion seconded by Council Member Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Council Member McWilliams and Council Member Estes

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

ORAL STAFF REPORTS

Gary Morris reported that there are signs all over Town showing what stage of water conservation we are in. He also stated that TCEQ regulations were followed and that we posted on the Town website, water bills and on CodeRed. Gary answered some questions of the observers in the Council Chambers and explained the process of having the pump built and replaced.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 3. Consider and act on approval of Resolution 23-12, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corp.**

Motion to approve Resolution 23-12 was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor. Motion seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

- 4. Consider and act on approval of Resolution 23-11, concerning the CoServ Gas LTD rate change.**

Motion to approve Resolution 23-11 made by Council Member McWilliams. Motion seconded by Council Member Estes.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

- 5. Consider and act on sale of property located at the corner of E Bailey Street and Fredrick Street.**

Motion to table until the next meeting made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Motion seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

6. Consider and act on renewal of a contract with Safebuilt Texas, LLC to provide planning services.

Motion to renew the Safebuilt Texas LLC contract made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor,
Motion seconded by Council Member Couch.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor,
Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

7. Consider and act on appointment of Jeremy Gifford to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Motion to appoint Jeremy Gifford to the P&Z Board made by Council Member Deussen,
Motion seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor,
Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

8. Consider and act on appointing Larry Deussen to the Ponder Economic Development Corporation Board.

Motion to appoint Larry Deussen to the EDC Board made by Council Member
Estes. Motion seconded by Council Member Couch.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor,
Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

9. Presentation of annual Racial Profiling report from the Ponder Police Department.

10. Review budget and set dates for FY2023-24 Budget hearing and adoption.

The Council reviewed the proposed budget and agreed to hold a budget hearing on
September 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

11. Consider and act on a proposed tax rate for 2023.

Motion to hold a public hearing regarding the budget and tax rate made by Mayor Pro-Tem
McGregor. Motion seconded by Council Member Couch.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor,
Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Estes

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

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Budget
Tax Rate

ADJOURN

The Town Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.087 (Economic Development)

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm made by Council Member Estes. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor.

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

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

APPROVED:

DATE:

John Bassler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary