



Town Council Meeting

Monday, April 08, 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

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Council Member Brandy Couch

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.)

No one present to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of the March 11, 2024 Town Council Minutes.**
2. **Acceptance of the March 2024 Financial Statement.**

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Council Member Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS

Written Staff Reports included in packet.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4. Reading of Proclamation, declaring May 2024 Mental Health Month and May 10, 2024 Mental Health Awareness Day in the Town of Ponder.

Mayor Bassler read the following proclamation aloud.

- WHEREAS,** *addressing the complex mental health needs of children, youth, and families today is fundamental to the future of the Town of Ponder; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the citizens of the Town of Ponder value their overall health and that of their families and fellow citizens and are proud to support observances such as Mental Health Month and Children's Mental Health Awareness Day; and*
- WHEREAS,** *one in five adults has a diagnosable mental health condition; and*
- WHEREAS,** *only half of Denton County parents are not familiar with mental health services in their community; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental health services for individuals and families places upon our community is a critical responsibility; and*
- WHEREAS,** *there is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use, to better handle challenges, and protect their overall health and well-being; and*
- WHEREAS,** *each citizen, local business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, and faith-based organization shares the burden of mental health concerns and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness, recovery, and support prevention efforts; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team, Denton County MHMR Center, United Way of Denton County and the Wellness Alliance for Total Children's Health of Denton County led by Cook Children's, through their unique partnership and prevention-based approaches to serving children and adolescents, are effectively addressing the mental health needs of children, youth, and families in our community; and*
- WHEREAS,** *it is appropriate that a month should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward mental health education and the support of treatment and recovery; and*
- WHEREAS,** *it is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward our children's mental health and well-being; and*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that, I, John Bassler, Mayor for the Town of Ponder, do hereby proclaim: May 2024 as Mental Health Month and May 10th, 2024 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and I call upon our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in meeting every person's mental health needs to unite this month in the observance of such exercises as will commit the people of Ponder to*

increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people mental health conditions.

5. Consider and act on approval of an agreement between the Ponder ISD and the Town of Ponder relative to the construction of a north/south connector road, west of the new high school.

Motion to approve an agreement between the Ponder ISD and the Town of Ponder relative to the construction of a north/south connector road, west of the new high school was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

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

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

6. Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Financial Audit.

Carl Deaton went over the audited statements for 2023.

General Fund Fund balance increased \$300,000. Almost \$600,000 of that are CLRF funds. Unrestricted part of that is over \$750,000.

Debt Service Fund stayed steady, that is an in and out to pay bond payments.

Capital Projects Fund that are not water and sewer related. There are still some prior year CO sales. (for drainage)

Water Sewer Fund fund balance Increase of \$532,000. This is an enterprise fund. Unrestricted net position is \$1.6 million.

EDC Fund spent very little last year except for the note plan. \$104K increase in their fund balance.

PID Fund is old enough now that it has settled into it's routine. This fund balance \$435K.

Balances on Water Sewer long term debt - \$7.7 million and General Fund long term debt is \$5.6 million.

TMRS is the retirement system for the Town. Each town has it's own funding status. The Town is 90% funded at the end of the year. Market didn't do that well in 2022 so the numbers went down.

7. Consider and act on an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation, Series 2024; and enacting other provisions relating to the subject.

John Martin and Michael Martin from Hilltop Securities. Total bond \$4,950,000. \$750,000 is general fund project and rest is for water sewer projects. No petition for election for this process. SamCo was the underwriter and S&P gave us a AA- rating and that is an outstanding rating for a small Town. With so much of this bond being on the utility side, we are only paying interest for the first two years in order to ease into the higher utility supported side. Does not expect any change in the tax rate due to these bond funds.

Motion to approve Ordinance 24-12 was made by Council Member Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

8. Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 24-11, amending the Water Conservation plan for the Town of Ponder.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem to discuss. Council Member Estes 2nd .

Gary went over the ordinance and stated that stage one used to be voluntary and not stage one will now be mandatory.

Council Member McWilliams is concerned about the fines. Gary stated that this ordinance is not only to make sure we have water to drink and bathe, but for fire protection in the tanks in case of an emergency. Council Member McWilliams asked about who would be issuing citations. Gary said that in the day time he would but at night Police Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor asked if the Scada shows where most of the usage is? Gary stated no but the newer smart meters show where water usage is. McGregor also said that the main thing is pushing out information about this because it is going to be a hot topic.

Motion to approve Ordinance 24-11 was made by Council Member Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

9. Consider and act on establishing a process for hiring a Town Administrator.

Council Member Estes moved for discussion and Council Member Deussen 2nd.

Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor spoke with Strategic Government Resources. He would like to empower the Mayor to move forward with this contract.

Council Member Estes said that he does his own recruitment and he thinks we might be better suited to try and find someone themselves before they jump into contracting. Mayor Bassler wanted to schedule a workshop. Council Member Deussen said that she agreed. Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor stated that he doesn't understand why we aren't voting on this contract when the position was approved in October.

April 22, 2024, Monday. 6:pm for workshop.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

PISD Final Plat

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Deussen, Seconded by Council Member Estes.

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

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

APPROVED:

John Bassler, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary