



## Town Council

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

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### MINUTES

#### REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

##### CALL TO ORDER

##### ROLL CALL

##### PRESENT

Council Member Ginger Deussen  
Council Member Brandy Couch  
Mayor Pro-Tem Nick McGregor  
Mayor John Bassler  
Council Member John Estes

##### ABSENT

Council Member Lael McWilliams

##### 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.)

*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.*

##### CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of appointing Brittany Louderback and Brandy Johnson to the Ponder Economic Development Board.**
2. **Approval of the August 14, 2023 Minutes.**

**3. Consider and act on approval of an interlocal agreement between the Town of Ponder and the Denton County District Attorney's Office concerning seizures and forfeitures.**

Motion to approve the consent agenda 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 Estes

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

**ORAL STAFF REPORTS**

Scott Caster reported that the PD is getting ready for the first home game and homecoming parade and that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the forfeiture contract.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**4. Approval of a Proclamation for the United Way of Denton County**

Motion to approve the United Way Proclamation was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Couch.

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

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

Mayor Bassler read the following proclamation aloud.

**WHEREAS**, United Way of Denton County celebrates 70 years of impact across Denton County in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, by working together with supporters and collaborators across Denton County, United Way of Denton County improves access to education, economic mobility, and health & mental health for over 42,000 residents annually.

**WHEREAS**, United Way of Denton County leads the effort to close gaps and open opportunities for every person in Denton County and works with a network of nonprofits, governments, businesses, and donors to respond to our neighbor's immediate needs and seek out better solutions for larger community-wide issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we declare **September 2023 LIVE UNITED Month** and proudly join United Way of Denton County in calling on all residents of the Town of Ponder to Give, Advocate, and Volunteer as we LIVE UNITED to build a better Denton County for all of us.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town to be affixed this 11th day of September in the year 2023.

**5. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the sale of a lot owned by the Town of Ponder.**

Motion made by Council Member Deussen to keep the property and not to sell in hope to construct a public park there in the future. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member Couch, Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Council Member Estes  
Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

6. **Discussion regarding a request from Mr. Tim Sommers regarding a variance to the Zoning Ordinance on property that he owns.**

Motion to discuss made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Estes.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor stated that he is not interested in the subdivision of lots in Old Town at this time and that the Town has an Ordinance and zoning regulations that prohibit building on new lots smaller than one half acre. Council Member Couch agreed.

No action taken.

7. **Discussion, consideration and action regarding an interlocal agreement between the Town of Ponder and Denton County to construct a north south connector road between January Lane and FM 2449.**

Motion to discuss made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

There was brief discussion regarding funding options for the Town's portion of the road. After discussion, Sheri Clearman stated that she would meet with the financial advisor regarding borrowing the funds.

Motion to approve the ILA made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Estes.

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

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

8. **Consider and act on approval of the FY2023-24 Budget for the Betty Foster Public Library.**

Motion to approve the Betty Foster Public Library budget made by Council Member Deussen, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor.

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

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

9. **Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 23-13, adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-24, General Fund Budget.**

Motion to approve the FY2023-24 General Fund budget made by Council Member Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

10. **Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 23-15, adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-24, Water & Sewer Budget.**

Motion to approve the FY2023-24 Water Sewer Budget made by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Couch.

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

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

11. **Consider and act on approval of Ordinance 23-14, adopting an annual Tax Rate for the Town of Ponder.**

Motion to approve Ordinance 23-14, setting the tax rate made by Council Member Estes, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm made by Council Member Couch, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McGregor.

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

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

**APPROVE:**

**DATE:**

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John Bassler, Mayor

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**ATTEST:**

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Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary