



Town Council Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bassler called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Council Member Ginger Deussen
Council Member Nick McGregor
Council Member Lael McWilliams
Mayor John Bassler

Those absent were:

Mayor Pro-Tem John Estes
Council Member Alan Gorman

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 signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of the July 8, 2024, July 11, 2024 and the July 22, 2024 Town Council minutes.**
- 2. Approval of the July 2024 Financial Statement**
- 3. Approval of Ordinance 24-17, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corporation.**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda including the July 8, July 11 and July 22, 2024 minutes, July 2024 Financial Statement and Ordinance 24-17, approving a settlement for

Atormos Cities Steering Committee was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams

Motion passed with 3 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

ORAL STAFF REPORTS

Gary Morris reported that the wells are doing what they are supposed to do during these hot dry days. He also reported that the North/south connector road surveys have been done and now they are potholing to check utilities and pipelines that are in the ground. Denton County and Ponder staff members will be working to get easements from property owners in the upcoming weeks.

Scott Caster reported that things have slowed for the Police Department.

Kelly Goudeau reported that things are hopping in the Library and they had a record number of visitors in July.

The PVFD reported that they went on 68 calls and 15 of those were inside the Town limits of Ponder.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4. Consider and act on approval of a preliminary plat for Kali Meadow Addition.

Motion to approve the preliminary plat contingent upon the Engineers recommendations in his letter dated July 16, 2024 was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

Voting Yea: Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams

Voting Nay: Council Member Deussen

Motion passed with 2 yeas, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

5. Discussion regarding the Ponder Volunteer Fire Department in relation to the Town's plan to create a Municipal Fire Department. (Chief James Longbrake to give presentation)

Chief James Longbrake reported that he would like to see a public commitment from the Town to create a Municipal Fire Department. He said that he is aware that the Town is in agreement. He would also like to see a committee formed to work through the process of starting the department. Maria Duran of 12261 Hill Country in unincorporated Ponder asked if there was a timeline for this and asked if we would be consulting with other Towns or Cities who have done the same thing. Chief Longbrake stated that the unincorporated areas of Ponder will still receive the same service they have been receiving, but that at this time there is not a timeline.

Assistant Chief Economedes reported that we do have examples of others who have created a department but would most likely be different than those due to the influx in growth in Ponder.

6. Discussion regarding the 2024-25 Fiscal Year budget and tax rate.

The proposed budget and tax rate were delivered to the Council. Those had not changed from the agreed proposed in previous budget workshop. As agreed upon by all members present, these FY2024-25 Proposed Budget and Tax Rates will be presented for approval to the Council at the next meeting.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Budget, Tax Rate, PVFD

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm was made by Council Member McGregor, Seconded by Council Member McWilliams.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams

Motion passed with 3 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

APPROVED:

DATE:

John Bassler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary