



Town Council Meeting - Special

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

NOTICE

THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF PONDER, TEXAS, WILL CONVENE IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 6:00 P.M. IN PONDER TOWN HALL, AT 102 W. BAILEY STREET, PONDER.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action on removing previous authorized representatives from all TexPool accounts and appointing Mayor Nick McGregor, Fred Tillman, Alexis Norberg, and Rebecca Zielinski as new authorized representatives, with Alexis Norberg as the primary representative.
2. Consider and take action on adding Alexis Norberg as a primary signer to all listed town accounts at the Bank of the West.
3. Consider and take action on appointment of a Parks Board Member - Elizabeth Taft.
4. Discuss ordinance defining Town Administrator role and vesting certain authorities.

5. Discuss modifying the ordinance for Municipal Officers to only Town Administrator.
6. Discuss and take action - Vote on Denton CAD Candidates
7. Discuss and take action to approve contingent fee contracts (and appropriate ordinance) with Perdue Brandon Law Firm pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Property Tax Code, 103.0031 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 552.001(b) of the Government Code, and to provide notice to current firm(s) (if any) of their termination. Said contracts being for the collection of delinquent government receivables (property taxes, court fine and fee and utility accounts) owed to City of Ponder and notice of said contract is posted with the agenda in accordance with Section 2254 of the Government Code.

Executive Session Agenda

Discuss employment contract for Town Administrator.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Ponder Town Hall at 102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, Texas on the 10th day of November 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Alexis Norberg, Town Secretary

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact our office at 940-479-2396. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SEC. 2254.1036

WHEREAS, the Town of Ponder will consider approving the contingent fee contracts (listed below) with the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P. ("Firm") and hereby posts this notice pursuant to Sec. 2254.1036 of the Government Code.

WHEREAS, this notice shall be posted before or at the time of giving the written notice required by Government Code Sec. 551.041 for a meeting described by Sec. 2254.1036(2) of the Government Code and shall announce the following:

A. The Town of Ponder is pursuing contracts with the Firm for the collection of delinquent ad valorem property tax accounts, delinquent municipal court fines and fees, and delinquent utility accounts owed to the Town of Ponder. Through these contracts the Town of Ponder seeks to increase recovery of its delinquent debts in as expeditious a manner as possible. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(A).

B. The Town of Ponder believes the Firm has the competency, qualifications, and experience necessary to fulfill these contracts. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(B). The Firm has collected delinquent government receivables for over 50 years, including the collection of delinquent property tax and delinquent municipal court fines and fee accounts. The Firm currently has 14 primary offices and multiple satellite offices throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Florida. It employs more than 400 individuals, including 59 attorneys. It uses a multi-office, fully integrated team approach allowing the Town of Ponder access to all its offices and resources. Its collection team consists of long-term Firm employees, including attorneys, call center associates, paralegals, law clerks, legal secretaries, collection support personnel and information technology experts. The Firm utilizes a proprietary collection software that can be tailored to meet any special need the Town of Ponder may have. This proprietary software also automates many aspects of the collection process, such as: account/debtor research, mailings and phone calls, return mail and address updates, payment notification and processing and workflow.

C. The nature of any relationship between Town of Ponder and the Firm is as follows. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(C). The Firm currently does not represent the Town of Ponder in either the collection of delinquent ad valorem property taxes, delinquent municipal court fees and fines, or delinquent utility accounts.

D. The Town of Ponder is unable to collect these accounts on their own. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(D). The Town of Ponder currently does not have adequate support staff, computer software/programming, or experience to internally conduct these collection services and acquiring these will result in substantial expense to the Town of Ponder.

E. These collection services cannot be provided for an hourly fee. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(E). Texas law allows these accounts to be charged a percentage add-on fee that doesn't charge the Town. This percentage-based fee is assessed only against the debtor and not the Town of Ponder or those who pay their obligations timely. The collection of delinquent accounts is a high-volume practice, requiring a significant amount of research, mailing, and handling of outbound/inbound calls. An hourly fee for such work will likely exceed amount of the delinquent accounts due. Moreover, the Town of Ponder will bear the cost of these hourly fees and not the debtor, because Texas law does not expressly authorize the Town of Ponder to pay for collection services based on an hourly fee.

F. The Town of Ponder believes these contingent fee contracts are in its best interest. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(1)(F). Under the contingent fee contracts, the Firm will be paid the amount of the percentage-based collection fee, regardless the number of hours the Firm spends researching, contacting and mailing to collect the delinquent account. Additionally, the percentage-based collection penalty is a pass-through expense to the debtor and not an expense to the Town of Ponder or its taxpayers.