



## Town Council

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
102 W. Bailey Street, Ponder, TX 76259

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### MINUTES

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bassler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Those present were:

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

#### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bassler led both.

#### **OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT**

John Lake with Global Methodist Church spoke regarding item 4. He lives in Ponder and is a volunteer of the Methodist Church in Ponder. He is asking for a variance to construction on the new entrance and expansion of the church parking lot. Truck delivers food to hand out to needy people in the area. They get there early morning on Saturday and portion it out to needy families who drive by to pick up. Church is located at 104 Remington Park Lane. They do this on the 2nd Saturday of the month. They served 600 people this weekend. People begin lining up around 4:00 am and the line reaches all the way back to Robinson Rd. This ends at 9:00 am. They only have one entrance so with all the cars, and 40-50 volunteers, it has been discovered that there is too much congestion. The parking lot extension will help with safety. A new entrance will help the truck in and out of the facility. It will also help with the other food bank that they have at the church. Will also help with the fire and rescue situation. Requesting a 30' entrance and want to add 11 parking spaces and are requesting variances for requirements that now exist for new construction. Looking at the engineering specs, they number all the way to #26. These are to control a new development, but in this case the church is existing and the parking lot is existing, being expanded in 2015. They just want to add a driveway and another extension. He said that engineers are proud of their work and are very expensive. They are not making any money on this. Dentist office is right across the street and it will be a mirror image of his driveway. Same distance from FM2449 and they will just be adding 10-11

parking spaces. He is also asking for a waiver for the variance fees. He provided an estimate on the work provided.

John Hester of 270 Meadowlands who is a member of the PVFD spoke that the PVFD was one of the most positive things in this Town and they are under-funded by the Town. Volunteers take time away from their families to volunteer and as a resident he thinks the funding needs to be looked at.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of the May 13, 2024 Town Council minutes.**
- 2. Approval of the May 2024 financial statement.**

Motion made by Council Member Gorman, Seconded by Council Member Deussen.

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

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

## **ORAL STAFF REPORTS**

**3.**

Mayor Bassler stated that from this point forward, we will abide by Robert's Rules of Order for all of our meetings.

McGregor asked for clarification on discussions. They Mayor stated that yes we would have discussions after a motion and a second are made.

Gorman stated that after the Mayor reads the agenda item, the Council person shall be recognized to make a motion. We don't just blurt out a motion, get the Mayor's attentions and he will call on you. They main point is that the Mayor runs the meeting.

Estes reported to Gary Morris that Remington Park had a backup in the neighborhood and could not get to after-hours employee. This was on Sunday morning. Gary asked that they find out what number they called.

McGregor asked for an update on the sewer and the PISD. Gary Morris reported: mtg last Friday, contractors were there and material contractors were there. Contractor stepped up and said that they would fix it. He met again today and it looks as if they have one more issue to repair and they should be up and running.

Mayor spoke with Dr. Hill who said that the rain caused a burden on our sewer. Gary Morris said that it boiled down to the 2 contractors pointing fingers at each other. These are pre-cast manholes, so they were trying to figure out who is responsible. He will not accept it because the flows will be too high and we will be fined at the end of the year. McGregor asked if this was holding up the PISD CO? Gary stated that it is not as far as he is concerned. He stated that the school is having to pay to pump and this may be

causing them some grief. Estes does not think that the school is asking us to sign off on anything and can they go ahead and get a CO.

Becca Zielinski stated that the CO comes from P&Z and it gets issued after the inspections are all passed. They have completed them at the end of last week and they dropped off their final plat last week also. She is only waiting on the Public Works final inspection. PISD has not requested a CO from her or an exception to the sewer inspection in order to get a CO.

PVFD - additon was that there were some members that went to volunteer with the PISD athletes at the marina.

Kelly Goudeau - one change to hers. She has 81 sign ups since June. Have people coming from other Towns who like our library better than hers. In packet she put pictures of the need of our library. She spoke with Sheri and would like to have a workshop about the future of a new library. She stated that the library is a gathering place in Ponder and would like to see a larger library and a community room.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**4. Consider and act on issuing a variance to the Ponder Global Methodist Church concerning and addition to their parking lot.**

Motion made by Council Member McGregor, to approve the request from the Methodist Church as listed on the agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

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

**5. Consider and act on approval of a Final Re-Plat of Lot 15R, Block 15, Original Town of Ponder Addition.**

Motion made by Council Member McGregor, to approve based on engineer's recommendations. Seconded by Council Member Gorman.

Secondary motion made by Council Member Gorman to approve a flex base. This motion seconded by Council Member McGregor.

Voting Yea: Council Member Deussen, Council Member McGregor, Council Member McWilliams, Mayor Bassler, Council Member Gorman

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

**6. Discussion and review of the 2024-25 Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Ponder and the Ponder Volunteer Fire Department.**

Andrew Economedes here to answer any questions. Would like to recommend that we set up a workshop so that we can sit down and answer questions, and talk about short- and long-range planning. Other than that, he can answer some basic questions. He stated that he could give financials for the last two years, but an audit would require more funding. They are expensive.

Gorman stated that he was glad that we were given this early. He would like to see call volumes in a spread sheet for the last 5 years. Would like to see the Town's contribution for the last 5 years.

Workshop to be scheduled.

McGregor would like to see a breakdown of the funding, showing EMS, personnel, etc.

**7. Consider and act on giving Staff direction relative to the Ponder ISD Traffic Impact Analysis and Bailey Street.**

No action taken

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Deussen, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

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

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

**APPROVE:**

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John Bassler, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTEST:**

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Sheri Clearman, Town Secretary