

**MINUTES OF THE  
TOWN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

**ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vardell called the regular session to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2008, in the Vivian Cockburn Municipal Building located at 405 Shaffner Street.

**ITEM 2 ROLL CALL**

Those present were Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson, Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman and Mayor Vardell.

**ITEM 3 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Police Chief Steve Grube led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ITEM 4 MAYOR'S REPORT**

None.

**ITEM 5 CITIZEN INPUT**

No one signed up to speak.

**ITEM 6 CONSENT AGENDA.**

Council Member Ashman moved to approve the September 22, 2008 minutes, the October 13, 2008 minutes and the bill report. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 7 DISCUSSION WITH THE PONDER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE AN EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT.**

Fire Chief Charlie Williams addressed the Council with a thank you from the Ponder Volunteer Fire Department for the increase in monthly funding this fiscal year. Chief Williams reported that he checked into ESD upon request of the previous Council and was interested to know if the current Council was still interested. Chief Williams also informed the Council that ESD's were set up through Texas Legislature to put Fire and EMS as a taxing authority with a maximum 10¢ increase in taxes. The ESD would be governed by a 7 member board that would contract services. Chief Williams stated that volunteers have dropped off tremendously and that he hopes that he could cover at least 8am to 5pm daily and that he is prepared to begin with the 100 person petition and have the board appointed by the Commissioner's Court. Chief Williams stated that one of the benefits to an ESD is the ISO rating and that this would lower citizen insurance rates and offset the possible 10¢ increase and could happen within 1 ½ to 2 years into the process.

Council Member Wilkinson asked Chief Williams if the Fire Department was interested in an ESD. Chief Williams replied that it could possibly end the Ponder Volunteer Fire Department, but that they want what is best for the community and does not think that it is fair for all of the other mutual aid Towns to support Ponder's district.

Chief Williams restated that he would like to see 2 persons working from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and that he estimates that it would cost \$50,000 per person, per year.

**ITEM 8 DISCUSSION WITH PONDER RESIDENT BILLY REEVES REFERENCE FLOODING ON HIS PROPERTY.**

Mr. Billy Reeves addressed the Council regarding flooding on his property located on King George Way. Mr. Reeves reported to the Council that when it rains, water pools in his back yard and has washed away much of the dirt and landscape. He stated that he feels that this water is coming from Steamboat Estates. Mr. Reeves is asking that the Council allow him to replace the dirt and landscape that has washed away to prevent the pooling.

Gary Morris explained to Mr. Reeves that he could not divert water on anyone else in the process of eliminating it from his own property.

Mr. Reeves stated that he is worried about more flooding if the school builds on the land that they own behind him in the future. Gary Morris assured Mr. Reeves that drainage would be addressed during the permitting process and that TXDot will be doing some drainage improvements in the near future.

Town Engineer George Belcheff suggested that Mr. Reeves and Gary Morris speak to the owner of the detention pond regarding any possible maintenance necessary.

**ITEM 9 CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF A REVISED INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN DENTON COUNTY AND THE BETTY FOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to approve the revised Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Denton County and the Betty Foster Public Library. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 10 CONSIDER AND ACT REGARDING EMPLOYEE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE PAYMENTS.**

Council Member Gorman moved to provide employees a stipend of 75% of the TML insurance rates to those full time employees who opt out of TML coverage and provide proof of healthcare coverage through an alternate provider during TML open enrollment period. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman, Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider. Nays: Council Member Wilkinson. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 3 ayes, 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman suggested an annual stipend agreement that each employee signs.

**ITEM 11 CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REPLACE FLOOR COVERING IN TOWN HALL.**

Council Member Wilkinson moved to approve a budget amendment of \$6000 to 001-01-5301 to replace the floor covering in Town Hall. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 12 CONSIDER AND ACT ON SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF A NEW HIRE FOR PUBLIC WORKS. (EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to adjourn into executive session at 8:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Regular Session continued at 8:35 p.m.

**ITEM 13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKSHOP.**

Codi Delcambre, Martha Neilson and Gary Morris, all members of the EDC were present for the workshop. Ms. Delcambre began the workshop asking what the Council's goals were for Ponder. Council Member Wilkinson replied that he would like to see an historical district or a main street district. Ms. Delcambre asked where the Council saw Ponder in 10 years. Council Member Ashman replied that he would like to see a fairground area. Ms. Delcambre mentioned Mass Transit, and reported that the Amtrac had been in contact with Krump regarding putting a station there. Ms. Delcambre stated that she believes that Ponder is a prime location for a station since we have double tracks and land adjacent to the tracks.

Mayor Vardell asked that the EDC consider helping the Town of Ponder purchase land for the elevated storage tank. The land and project were discussed. Possible finance options were briefly discussed.

**ITEM 14 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

**ITEM 15 ADJOURN.**

Council Member Ashman moved to adjourn at 8:40. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Wilkinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**APPROVED:**

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**Jeff Vardell, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sheri N. Clearman, City Secretary**