

**MINUTES OF THE  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

**ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vardell called the regular session to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 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, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman.

**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. Mayor Vardell was absent.

**ITEM 5 CITIZEN INPUT**

No one signed up to speak.

**ITEM 6 CONSENT AGENDA.**

Council Member Ashman moved to approve the August 25, 2008 minutes. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 7 CONSIDER AND ACT ON ALLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY OF DENTON IN REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE TRADE FOR LAND CURRENTLY IN THE DENTON ETJ.**

Council Member Crider moved to open for discussion. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Council Member Wilkinson suggested that the Council direct Ms. Hamm to make contact with the City of Denton in reference to releasing the property.

Council Member Wilkinson made a secondary motion to direct Ms. Hamm to make contact with the City of Denton in reference to releasing the property and to strike any discussion of a possible trade. Secondary motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 8 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN OF PONDER FOR THE 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR.**

Council Member Wilkinson moved to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion to open passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman asked for anyone to speak for or against this item. No response.

Council Member Wilkinson moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion to close passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 9 DISCUSSION, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ADOPTING ORDINANCE 08-19, LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN OF PONDER FOR THE 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.33000 per \$100 valuation of property. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 10 PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION OF THE FY 2008-09 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.**

Council Member Ashman moved to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Council Member Rouse. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion to open passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. *Council Member Wilkinson stepped out of the council chambers.*

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman asked for anyone to speak for or against this item. No response.

Council Member Ashman moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion to close passed with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 11 DISCUSSION, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ADOPTING ORDINANCE 08-20, APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF PONDER FOR THE 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.**

Council Member Wilkinson asked for clarity regarding the term of the Administrative Compensatory Time in lieu of a raise that is to be given to Chief Grube in this budget. Several Council Members replied that it was for a term of one year.

Council Member Ashman moved to approve Ordinance 08-20, appropriations for the support of the Town of Ponder for the 2008-09 Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2008 and ending September 30, 2009. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: Council Member Wilkinson. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

**ITEM 12 CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH BRIAN HALL FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to approve the contract with Brian Hall for Animal Control Services. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 13 CONSIDER AND ACT ON A NOMINATION TO THE DENTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to nominate William Walker to the Denton County Transportation Authority Board of Directors. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 14 CONSIDER AND ACT ON TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES BALLOT SELECTION.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to vote for Michael S. Nyren. Motion seconded by Council Member Crider. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 15 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE VISION FOR THE TOWN OF PONDER'S FUTURE. *(Requested by Council Member Wilkinson)***

Council Member Wilkinson discussed the Town of Ponder and the EDC working together to decide on a vision for the town. He noted that we should plan ahead according to our master plan. Council Member Wilkinson suggested that if we have surplus funds at the end of a budget year, we could put some into the Fund Balance and part into a capital improvements account to help with the appearance of downtown for example. He also suggested that Town Hall is on its last leg and falling apart and that we need to look to the future with short term and long term goals.

Georgia Linam reported to the Council that taxes will have to be raised more to get these things done. Ms. Linam said that some on the EDC are talking about spending \$20,000 for a consultant to help with the concept of our direction and that we should be able to do that ourselves. She reported that Salado has signs at every street that say Salado and that they have a big sign at the city limit boundary. Ms. Linam also stated that there is not a lot of citizen input and that EDC needs the Council's input. Ms. Linam ended by saying that the Town of Ponder needs to raise taxes and consciousness and that the EDC would love to meet with the Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman replied that he believed it was a good idea for the EDC and Council to meet but suggested that the EDC solicit citizen input and bring those ideas to the Council for approval. He also said that the Council does not want to second guess the EDC.

**ITEM 16 CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF HIRING JEFF EASLEY AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER.**

Council Member Crider moved to approve. Motion seconded by Council Member Ashman. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 17 CONSIDER AND ACT REGARDING THE PONDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING PROJECT.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman moved to accept the terms of the Ponder ISD Superintendent letter dated September 5, 2008 and issue conditional building permits to allow construction to proceed per the more detailed measurements provided to the ISD in the letter from Mayor Vardell dated August 26, 2008 specifically on items 10b and 11b and to direct staff to ensure that existing and future construction of community facilities are in accordance with town construction standards and specifications. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**ITEM 18 ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

Water Sewer Budget

**ITEM 19 ADJOURN.**

Council Member Ashman moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Wilkinson. Ayes: Council Member Ashman, Council Member Wilkinson, Council Member Crider, Council Member Rouse and Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Vardell, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTEST:**

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Sheri N. Clearman, City Secretary