

*Town of Bethlehem*

*Council meeting*

*Aug. 2, 2021 @ 7 p.m.*

Present: Mayor Sandy McNab; Councilmen, Tommy Buchanan, Bryan Bell, Scott Morgan, and Doug Koestel; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Ron Bennett

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer by Mayor Sandy McNab.

Tommy Buchanan made the motion to approve the July minutes and with a second by Bryan Bell, the vote was unanimous.

The council discussed the business owner at 52 Star St. West who was storing several pieces of equipment illegally and agreed the owner needed to be sited. The Mayor said he would attempt to make an appointment with him and have Attorney Bennett present to discuss the issues.

The council discussed the American rescue funds which could be spent on stormwater improvements. The Mayor said three places-King Ave. Joseph Street and Manger Ave. behind the fire station needed work.

The Mayor told the council that David Bleth of Harrison Poultry had asked him about the possibility of installing handicap swings at the playground. The clerk had provided some pricing on the equipment. The council agreed to do more research before deciding.

The Mayor had priced new tractors with front buckets. He said most of the stormwater roadwork could be done with a front bucket. He showed a Kubota MX 6000 4WD with a bucket and back hydraulics at \$33,000. The dealer had a tractor on site with a cab and a bucket for \$44,000. He said the dealer said it could be up to a year to get a bucket if one had to be ordered. The Mayor also priced a similar John Deere at \$33,500. He said he was told a trade in on the John Deere the town owned might get \$10,000.

Doug Koestel made the motion to purchase the \$44,000 Kubota, Scott Morgan seconded, and Bryan Bell voted for the motion. Tommy Buchanan voted against.

The council discussed the Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the 2023 SPLOST. They had several questions before bringing it up for a vote including: what is the population of 725 based on-the 2020 census? What is the total estimated revenue-\$120 million? and what would Bethlehem's portion be-\$708,000? The clerk was to pose these questions to the county manager, Kevin Little.

At 8:30 the meeting adjourned.

