

*Town of Bethlehem
Council meeting
Aug. 1, 2022 @ 7 p.m.*

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

Visitors: Susan and Olivia Morgan; Mason Orr

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Sandy McNab.

Tommy Buchanan made a motion to amend the agenda and add an executive session to discuss potential litigation. Dan Wages seconded the motion and the vote passed 4-1 with Bryan Bell and Doug Koestel voting for and Scott Morgan abstaining from voting.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the June minutes. Dan Wages made the motion to approve, Doug Koestel seconded, and Tommy Buchanan voted for. Bryan Bell and Scott Morgan abstained from voting since they were not present at the June meeting. The motion passed by 3 votes.

The Mayor said the first item on the agenda was the 2022 budget amendment. Dan Wages made the motion to approve the budget amendment resolution and with a second by Scott Morgan the vote was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was the code violations at 151 Star St. West owned by Sanni Sulemana. The fence needed to be moved because the right of way was 80 feet, not 60. He said there were bushes planted outside of the fence in the right of way. The plans show the bushes inside of the fence, he said. There is a dumpster in the right of way as well.

Sulemana also seems to be living in the trailer with his children. He sold his Tanner's Bridge property and has the kids with him when he works at night. He said he has a place in College Park but his kids are enrolled in Barrow County the Mayor said. He does not have a business license either and he has been informed several times that outside storage is not allowed.

Doug Koestel made the motion to send a violation letter from the attorney concerning the right-of-way issues and operating without a business license. Dan Wages seconded and the vote was unanimous. Attorney Bennett said he would give a 14-day deadline to comply.

The Mayor explained that he had been attending meetings concerning the LOST agreement (Local Option Sales Tax) which must be updated every 10 years. He said the last LOST went by population and Bethlehem got .89%. The negotiations are ongoing, and nothing has been decided.

At 7:35 Tommy Buchanan made the motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and with a second by Dan Wages the motion passed with Doug Koestel and Bryan Bell voting for and Scott Morgan abstaining from voting.

At 7:40 Tommy Buchanan made the motion to come out of executive session and go back to regular session and the motion carried by 4 votes with Morgan abstaining.

The Mayor asked if the council wanted him to continue working for the city doing things chores such as cutting trees and cutting grass and doing things Jerome was not comfortable with. Doug Koestel, Scott Morgan and Bryan Bell said they didn't have a problem with him working. Tommy Buchanan disagreed saying the Mayor could not work for the city according to GMA (Georgia Municipal Association). Dan Wages said he was done with talking and the council would receive his letter of resignation before he left the meeting.

At 7:50 Scott Morgan made the motion to adjourn. Bryan Bell seconded and the meeting ended. Dan Wages tendered his written resignation.