

*Town of Bethlehem  
Council meeting  
Jan. 9, 2023*

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

Visitors: Jerry and Sharon Johnson; Ashlie Franklin; Cub Scout Troop 721 from Bethlehem 1<sup>st</sup> UMC led by Tracy Reed

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. and the mayor asked for approval of the December minutes. Tommy Buchanan asked to include the statement made by the mayor (Dec. 19 minutes) about OZ Bank and Renasant Bank pledging collateral for monies over \$250,000. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve all the December minutes, Tommy Buchanan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Barrow Adult Literacy had asked for a \$1,000 donation which the town had made every year. Tommy Buchanan made the motion to approve the request, Eric Dailey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Bethlehem Friends of the Library had received a grant from Republic for a book drop for the library, but needed an extra \$550 to pay for it. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the \$550 funds to purchase the book drop, Scott Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Bennett explained the election ordinances which calls for the general election for the Mayor, Post 4 (currently held by Scott Morgan), Post 2 (held by Doug Koestel). The election will be held Nov. 7 with qualifying in August. Scott Morgan made the motion to approve the ordinance, Eric Dailey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bennett said the special election was called to fill the seat of Bryan Bell (Post 1) who died recently. The election would be March 21 and the dates for qualifying will start tomorrow (Jan. 10) and run through Thursday, Jan. 12. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the special election ordinance, Scott Morgan seconded and it passed unanimously.

The council discussed the bid on the Home Computer building (owned by the town). McElhannon Construction bid \$25,049 for the repair work or \$33,717 for replacing all the siding with hardy plank. The man who built on the nativity also made a bid of \$11,525 for repair. The Mayor was to check with McElhannon for a price for replacing the siding with 1x6 boards.

Doug Koestel made a motion to dedicate a tree during the Arbor Day activities in Bryan Bell's name and get a granite plaque made like his father's (Tom Bell). Eric Dailey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Doug Koestel made a motion to move \$300,000 out of general funds account into CDs. Tommy Buchanan made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The attorney gave an update on the 151 Star Street code issue. He said the owner was given the criteria for putting another trailer/house on the property for a residence. He said C-2 zoning allowed for a residence. He said he would give him time to come into compliance before moving to the next step (taking him to court).

At 7:40 Tommy Buchanan made the motion to adjourn.