

*Town of Bethlehem*  
*Council meeting*  
*June 6, 2022 @ 7 p.m.*

Present: Mayor Sandy McNab; Councilmen, Tommy Buchanan, Doug Koestel, and Dan Wages; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Brian Dempsey

Visitors: Mr. Jerry Johnson; Morgan Ervin with the Barrow Journal newspaper; and Ken Lewis

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer by Mayor Sandy McNab.

In old business the camper on the Morgan property was discussed. Dan Wages made the motion to allow Morgan's in-laws to live in the camper until the house they (the in-laws) own at 896 Harrison Mill Road is vacated. At that time, they would need to vacate the camper and move into the house and the camper would never be a live-in residence again. Doug Koestel seconded, and Tommy Buchanan voted for the motion which passed unanimously.

Approval of the April minutes was also in old business. Tommy Buchanan had requested changes in the minutes. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the April minutes with the amendments and amended the motion to include approving the April executive session minutes. Dan Wages seconded the motion reiterating that the changes be made. Tommy Buchanan voted against the motion. The motion passed with the 2-1 vote.

Doug Koestel made a motion to approve the May minutes, Tommy Buchanan seconded the motion and Dan Wages voted for the motion which passed unanimously with the 3 votes.

The council moved to the Budget Amendment for the 2021 budget. Wayne Tuck, the town's new auditor, explained that two of the town's departments went overbudget and an amendment was needed to balance the budget and to include the ARPA fund budget in the amendment since the funds were received in 2021. Dan Wages made the motion to amend the 2021 budget recommended by the auditor and pass the resolution. Doug Koestel seconded, and Tommy Buchanan voted for the motion which passed unanimously with 3 votes.

Mason Orr of Digital Creations for U spoke next to the council about recording equipment. He records the meetings for the county, school system and city of Winder. Lawyer Brian Dempsey said the recordings were a record which could be submitted to the public or posted on the website. Dan Wages asked Orr his consulting cost. Orr replied \$60 an hour. Doug Koestel made the motion to go with Orr's equipment recommendations with a budget of \$3,000. Dan Wages seconded the motion and Tommy Buchanan voted for the motion which passed unanimously with the 3 votes.

Auditor Wayne Tuck then presented his presentation of the 2020 and 2021 audits of the town which his firm had completed in less than 6 months. He thanked the council for the business and stated he found nothing wrong in the audits-nor unethical. He said he would submit the 2021 audit to the state immediately and the town would be in compliance with the state.

The council discussed repairing the bucket truck. The clerk had contacted Altec Industries and gotten a quote on a technician checking out the truck onsite. Dan Wages asked how often the truck was used and the Mayor replied it was used to put up and take down the Christmas lights and the cut tree limbs as needed. Wages proposed tabling the issue.

The Mayor told the council that the company repairing the headwall at the pavilion could also pour concrete for two pads for the park benches at the same time using about 2 yards.

Dan Wages asked if Jerome Morton, the maintenance worker could round-up the weeds in the city hall parking lot. The Mayor pointed out that Jerome was doing a good job and deserved more money. Wages agreed and made a motion to give Jerome a \$2 an hour raise and review the issue in 6 months and one year. The council agreed.

The mayor asked if he should be cutting the grass where Jerome is uncomfortable taking the lawn mower. Dan Wages said he was ok with it but would like to bring the issue up again when the other councilmen are in attendance. Wayne Tuck said it was his understanding that there was nothing illegal about the Mayor getting paid for labor if the rate is reasonable.

At 9:05 Tommy Buchanan made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended.