

*Town of Bethlehem
Council meeting
March 6, 2023*

Present: Mayor Sandy McNab; Councilmen, Tommy Buchanan, Ashlie Franklin, Eric Dailey, Doug Koestel and Scott Morgan; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Brian Dempsey

Visitors: Jerry and Sharon Johnson; Rebecca Whiddon, Barrow County Planning director; Chris Yancey, Barrow County Public Works director; Billy Pittard, Operations Manager for the county manager; and Mason Orr, President of the Barrow Chamber of Commerce

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Rebecca Whiddon spoke to the council about the townhouse developments on Carl-Bethlehem Road. Chris Yancey spoke about the McCarty Pump Station plans which would service the area.

Eric Dailey made the motion to approve the February minutes and with a second by Scott Morgan the vote passed 4-0 with Doug Koestel abstaining since he was not present at the meeting.

Mason Orr spoke next about the rebranding project that the Chamber and Barrow County have committed to. 365° Total Marketing will head the project. Orr said Braselton and Auburn have committed to the project and a commitment was needed from Bethlehem. The cost would be \$3,000.

Doug Koestel made a motion to allocate the money to the project and with a second by Tommy Buchanan, the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor informed of the Republic garbage rate increase of \$2.05 per customer.

The council viewed the computer store bids which included John Whittington for \$11,525; Robert Stinson for \$7,086; and McElhannon Construction for \$50,624. The Mayor explained that the bids were not for the same work. McElhannon would replace all of the siding, replace the deck and ramp, pressure wash, seal cracks, screw down the roof and paint it with 2 coats, replace the attic door and haul away the trash.

Scott Morgan made the motion to use McElhannon Construction, Ashlie Franklin seconded and the motion passed. Koestel, Daily and Buchanan abstained from voting.

The council discussed the annual spring clean-up when residents are allowed to put junk curbside for pick-up. Doug Koestel made the motion to schedule the clean-up for April 24, Eric Dailey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A business license was next on the agenda for Liberty Electric and Lighting LLC. David Duke, the electrician would work from home, and he had no other employees. His address is 65 Angel Street.

Eric Daily made motion the issue the license, Ashlie Franklin seconded, Morgan and Koestel voted yes, and Buchanan voted against.

Doug Koestel asked if any decision had been made about the Christmas lights. The council had taken no action on the estimate by Great Escapes Landscaping which was presented at the February meeting. The Mayor said he would investigate adding electric hook-ups to the telephone poles to add more pole decorations.

At 8:45 Scott Morgan made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and with a second by Eric Daily the motion passed unanimously. The council came out of executive session at 8:55. At 9:05 the meeting adjourned with a motion by Buchanan.