



Council meeting Oct. 7, 2024

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Doug Koestel, Tommy Buchanan, Sally Brown and Sharon Johnson; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Karen Thomas

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Jerry Johnson, Jack Samuels, attorney, Sarah McQuade with CPL, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, Morgan Ervin with the Barrow Journal

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sally Brown made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss council/mayor compensation and with a second by Doug Koestel the vote passed unanimously. The Mayor asked if the council had reviewed the minutes. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the Sept. 30 minutes with the typo 'sustain' changed to 'abstain.' Sharon Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

First up on the agenda was the business license for Dynasty Auto Creations. Sharon Johnson made the motion to approve the license, Sally Brown seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Next the contract with the CPL group for zoning and planning was discussed. Sharon Johnson made the motion to enter into a contract with CPL, Dough Koestel seconded, Sally Brown voted yes, and Tommy Buchanan voted no. The zoning fees resolution was approved with a motion by Sally Brown, a second by Sharon Johnson and a unanimous vote.

The Christmas lights installation estimates were discussed. Doug Koestel said it was insane to use taxpayer money to do the job when volunteers (Jerry Johnson) and the town's maintenance employee, Jerome Morton, were willing. The matter was tabled until the town's insurance was researched. Sharon Johnson made the motion to table, Sally Brown seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The business license for Elite Cleaning Service was approved with a motion by Sharon Johnson, a second by Doug Koestel and a unanimous vote.

The council looked over the budget and agreed it was ready to advertise.

Next the contract with the new attorneys, The Samuels Firm, was approved with a motion by Sharon Johnson, a second by Doug Koestel and a unanimous vote.

The Mayor said the road improvements pricing was not ready to share.

The council approved the new business and alcohol license for the Citgo convenience store with a motion by Sally Brown, a second by Doug Koestel and a unanimous vote.

The council looked over the mayor/council compensations' comparisons that Koestel had pulled off the Georgia Municipal Association website. Koestel suggested doubling the current salaries- the Mayor would get \$250 per meeting and the council \$100. The change would be enacted after the 2025 election (to begin in 2026). Sally Brown made the motion to advertise a public hearing on the matter for the Nov. 4 council meeting, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.