



Council meeting

March 4, 2024

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Doug Koestel, Tommy Buchanan, Sally Brown, Eric Dailey and Sharon Johnson; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Brian Dempsey

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Scott Morgan, Sue Morgan, Paul Brown, Lea Clark, community forester, Andy Crawford, candidate for superior court judge in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Cole Reed Cooper, Bethlehem Elementary fifth grader and his family, Marilyn Osorio, Bethlehem Elementary second grader and her family

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked if the council had reviewed the February minutes. Sally Brown made a motion to approve, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the motion passed 4-1 with Tommy Buchanan opposed. The Mayor asked why he was opposed, and Buchanan said the minutes said tonight's agenda items were to be on a consent agenda. The Mayor said he wanted to pull the items out one by one in case any discussion was required.

The Mayor asked the council to amend the agenda to add an open discussion for public input with a 3-minutes limit. Sally Brown made the motion to amend the agenda, Eric Dailey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Community forester Lea Clark informed of the 160 essays which were submitted by Bethlehem elementary students on "Why we celebrate Arbor Day." She said the town celebrated Arbor Day by planting 2 redbud trees in the park. Clark said the winners were second grader, Marilyn Ossorio and fifth grader Cole Reed Cooper. Clark read Ossorio's essay and Cooper read his essay and the students were photographed with Clark and the Mayor. They also received a sapling Redbud to plant at their home.

The Financial Audit agreement was signed by the Mayor with a motion by Sally Brown, a second by Eric Dailey and a unanimous vote.

The Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement was also signed by the Mayor with a motion by Doug Koestel, a second by Sally Brown and a unanimous vote.

And finally, the purchasing policy was approved with a motion by Sharon Johnson, a second by Sally Brown and a unanimous vote.

The meeting was opened for public discussion and Suzanne and Scott Morgan of 904 Harrison Mill Road spoke.

Andy Crawford introduced himself as a candidate for superior court judge in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 with a motion by Sally Brown.