



Council meeting July 1, 2024

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

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Jerry Johnson, Sarah McQuade with CPL; Jason Vaughn with Lights all year; Scott Morgan

The meeting opened at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sally Brown made the motion to approve the June minutes and with a second by Sharon Johnson, the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor asked to amend the agenda to add item 10-an update on the title report. Eric Dailey made the motion to amend the agenda, Sally Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak during the public forum time and got no response.

The Timber Construction, Inc. business license was next on the agenda. The owner lives in Barrow County with a Winder address but was told by Barrow County to get a business license in Bethlehem because she was using a Bethlehem post office box. The home occupation business is an office for the construction company. Doug Koestel made the motion to table the item in order to get more information, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Cross Country Mortgage, LLC business license was approved with a motion by Sally Brown, a second by Eric Dailey and a unanimous vote.

The Mayor explained the next item-Nicole Roper asked to rent the community room for an after-school program for a yearly period from 2 -6:30 daily. The clerk had quoted her the \$325 a day rental fee. The Mayor said more information was needed from Roper before a decision could be made.

The Mayor said the town was waiting for more responses on the town attorney position. The Samuels firm out of Buford had submitted a resume. Lelle said he would interview applicants, then ask the council for a vote.

The council moved on to the hiring of the town marshall. Sally Brown and Sharon Johnson said they would assist the clerk in writing an appropriate job description.

The CPL Firm representative, Sarah McQuade, spoke next about her firm and the services they offered. They proposed an on-call contract and had submitted a contract with their fees.

The representative with Lights all Year, Jason Vaughn, spoke next about his business and the services they offered-Christmas decorations. Doug Koestel volunteered to coordinate with Vaughn on what the town did for Christmas decorations so a bid could be submitted.

The updated title reports were discussed next. Sharon Johnson said she thought the price of \$700 per parcel (2 parcels) was high. Attorney Karen Thomas said her firm uses a different firm for title searches. Johnson offered to get more bids as quickly as possible.

Sally Brown made the motion to add the road repair bids to the agenda and with a second by Eric Dailey, the motion passed unanimously. Southern Premier Contractors, Inc. had submitted proposals for 6 jobs- Holly Lane-\$11,925.40; West Star-31,673.60; Joseph Street 1-\$40,144.80; Joseph Street 2-\$78,254.80; 106 King Ave-\$39,731.90; and 931 Monroe Hwy (at McElhannon)-\$12,997.80. The Mayor said he had more bids coming.

The council will meet for a work session on July 29.

Eric Dailey made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.