



Council meeting *Aug. 5, 2024*

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

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Don Lukes, Attorneys, Bubba and Jack Samuels

The meeting opened at 7:05 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the July minutes. Sally Brown made the motion to accept both the July 1 and July 25 minutes and Doug Koestel seconded. The Mayor asked that the July 25 minutes show that the Carl Mayor attended. Brown made the motion to approve both minutes with the change, Eric Dailey seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak during the public forum time. Doug Lukes of 88 Nativity Cove (the new subdivision off Corinth Church Road) had a stormwater complaint. He said the retaining pond behind his house was full, so the water filled up his back yard. The mayor said he would get back with Mr. Lukes later about the problem.

The business license for Star Nutrition was next on the agenda. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the license and with a second by Sally Brown, the vote was unanimous.

The pressure washing business license for Devil Dog Pro Wash LLC (Jason Morris of 812 Christmas Ave.) was next. This was a home occupation license and Jason is a disabled veteran with the state affidavit granting him an exemption from paying the fee. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the license, Eric Dailey seconded, Doug Koestel voted yes, and Tommy Buchanan voted no. The motion passed.

The council discussed the procedure for having a 'No engine braking' sign placed on Highway 11. The state would have to approve, and the town would have to write an ordinance. The Mayor said he would speak with DOT reps about the procedure.

Next on the agenda was updating the Bethlehem Future Land Use Map. The Mayor had spoken with Mark Beatty of the NE Georgia Regional Commission who offered 3 options of assistance from the agency. Option 1 was assistance with one public meeting, one required public hearing, writing services and document update for \$6,000. Option 2 was assistance with writing services for character area descriptions, map updates and document updates for \$3,000. The Town would

perform any public meetings or hearings. Option 3 was for assistance with document updates, reference images and public hearing documentation at no cost.

The Mayor recommended Option 1. He said it would be a 4–6-month process. Sally Brown made the motion to approve option 1, Eric Dailey seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The sewer service resolution was next on the agenda. The resolution would allow for the county to provide sewer service, but the developer would pay for the infrastructure and connect with county approval. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve, Sally Brown seconded, Eric Dailey voted yes, and Tommy Buchanan voted no. The motion passed.

The council next discussed the town code marshal job description provided by the clerk and edited by Sharon Johnson and Sally Brown. Brown made the motion to approve the description, Eric Dailey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Mayor was to speak with the Sheriff about the job.

Next on the agenda was the Samuels Law Firm introduction. Bubba Samuels and his son, Jack introduced themselves and told a bit about their firm. They had sent a resume to the town for the job of Town attorney. The Mayor told them he would get back with them later.

The liability insurance for the town's newly purchased property (16 Angel Street and 742 Manger Ave.) was discussed next. The council agreed to a building limit of \$350,000; a contents limit of \$5,000; the future plans of a possible rental space and museum with a 6mo-1 year execution plan. The town plans to have both buildings inspected before turning on the utilities and agreed that the town's maintenance person would keep up the lawns. Security cameras were also planned.

At 8:15 Eric Dailey made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended.