



## *Council workshop meeting April 29, 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, Sherri Bailey with GMA, Beth McIntyre, Piedmont Regional Library Director, Scott Morgan, Jerry Johnson

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

The Mayor asked for a review of the April 8 minutes. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the minutes, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The Mayor asked for the Marshall's resignation letter to be added to the agenda. Sharon Johnson made the motion to amend the agenda by adding the Marshall's resignation letter, Sally Brown seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda-the holiday décor company-had a scheduling conflict the Mayor explained. He moved to the second item-the LMIG funds. After discussion the council decided to act on the application at the May meeting.

The Title VI discrimination agreement was also added---- to the May agenda.

Sherri Bailey, the Georgia Municipal Association's member services consultant for District 5 spoke about the City of Civility program and the City of Ethics designation. The City of Ethics designation had a deadline coming up-the end of April and its purpose was to raise awareness of ethics issues. It required a city to adopt a resolution espousing 5 principals and pay an \$85 fee.

The City of Civility program required adopting a resolution with 9 pillars of civility and also had an \$85 fee.

Councilman Doug Koestel suggested participating in both. Attorney Brian Dempsey suggested waiting on applying for the City of Ethics for 2025. He could download the Civility resolution and present it at the May meeting. This would give the town more time to work on the City of Ethics resolution.

Beth McIntyre, the Piedmont Regional Library system director spoke next presenting statistics on library usage and also presenting a new library cost estimate for Bethlehem. The

state would pay \$1,800,000 for a 5,000 square foot facility with Bethlehem's portion at \$200,000. She also worked up a budget for a Bethlehem Library of \$190,000 (1 year). She said most new libraries had the land donated.

The Mayor presented the letter of resignation from Town Marshall Stacy Taylor who suggested a replacement-a Walton County Sheriff's office employee-Mike Baldwin who lives just outside the city limits of Bethlehem. Lelle said he would also check with the Barrow County Sheriff's Office on a replacement.

Sharon Johnson said she would be absent from the May 6 meeting and at 8:20 p.m. she made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended.